

**HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE INSTITUTE, GAYLE  
ON MONDAY 28th MARCH 2022**

**Present:**

Cllr Jill McMullon (Chair)	Cllr Sheila Alderson
Cllr Peter Metcalfe	Cllr David Cockett
Cllr Yurek Waluda	Cllr Emma Blades
Cllr David Stephenson	Cllr Marion Lloyd
Cllr Barry Wilcox	Karen Prudden (Clerk)

**Members of the Public:-**

Cllr Yvonne Peacock (NYCC & RDC)	Jack Sutton
Liz Lawson	

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which started at 7.00 pm.

**1. Recording of the Meeting**

The Clerk informed those present that the meeting was not being recorded by the Council. No-one else indicated an intention to record the proceedings.

**2. Consideration of Apologies for Absence**

Cllr David Colley had offered his apologies for not attending the meeting and these were accepted. Ruth Annison had also offered her apologies.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr McMullon expressed a personal and pecuniary interest and Cllrs Stephenson, Cockett and Metcalfe all declared a personal interest in item 6.4 regarding the proposed community ownership of Dale Head Garage.

**4. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2022 had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Metcalfe proposed that they be adopted as an accurate record of proceedings and this was seconded by Cllr Alderson. All those present were in agreement and the Minutes were therefore signed by the Chair.

**5. Presentation by PC Gary Hankin of the Neighbourhood Policing Team**

PC Hankin had been invited to attend the meeting to meet members of the Council and to discuss issues relevant to the parish. Unfortunately, he had offered his apologies to the Clerk as he has tested positive for Covid and was therefore unable to attend. **RESOLVED: CLERK to invite PC Hankin to the next meeting of the Council.**

**6. Ongoing Matters**

6.1 Sedbusk Village Green - Cllr McMullon reported that she had contacted Richmondshire District Council seeking information on the ownership of the green land in front of the property under renovation. She is still awaiting information from RDC on the ownership and legal status of the land. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to follow-up with RDC.**

- 6.2 HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Cllr McMullon had held two meetings in the Parish to discuss celebrations to mark this event. It has been agreed that there will be a street party on Saturday 4th June at 2.00 pm, to be held on Pennygarth Car Park, to which everyone will be welcome. Permission has been obtained from the owners of the car park. Music will be provided by Alison and there will be face painting for children. Gazeobos will be erected in case of poor weather. This will be a simple party, as it would have been in the early days of the Queen's reign. Sandwiches will be prepared by volunteers and guests will be invited to bring along cake. The Market Hall Trustees will be co-ordinating the grant application.

Cllr Blades asked if there was to be a beacon lit as part of the beacon trail on Thursday 2nd June. Cllr McMullon advised that Revd Dave Clark is looking into this. There is to be a further meeting on 12th April when all arrangements will be discussed in more detail.

- 6.3 Dales Bus 856 - At the last meeting, Ruth Annison had been asked to provide information on the usage figures for the bus to assist councillors in making a decision on whether to offer financial support for the service. A report had been received by the Clerk shortly before this meeting which was read out to those present. This indicated that on the last Sunday in February there were 70 passengers using the service. Unfortunately, councillors felt that there was insufficient information to indicate how many of those passengers actually visited parts of the parish and contributed to businesses there. They did acknowledge that it was a useful service and appreciated that it was used by both locals and visitors. However, it was not clear exactly what benefit it provided to the parish. After discussion, Cllr McMullon proposed that the Council would be unable to offer financial support to the service due to its limited funds and the lack of evidence of a clear benefit to the parish. This was seconded by Cllr Alderson and everyone was in agreement. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Annison for her hard work in sustaining and promoting the service.  
**RESOLVED: CLERK to advise Mrs Annison of the Council's decision.**

- 6.4 Dale Head Garage - In the absence of Cllr Colley, Cllr Metcalfe gave a brief update on the situation relating to the proposed community ownership of the garage. Within two weeks of the information being released to the community there had been a significant expression of interest with the proposal well subscribed. Two meetings were held last week which were well attended. Cllr Metcalfe did not wish to go into detail but reported that signs were very positive that the proposed community ownership of the garage would be able to go ahead. Everyone was pleased to hear of the success of this scheme and awaited further information in due course.

## 7. Planning Applications

The following applications had been passed to councillors for their consideration, as they had been received by the Clerk. No comments had been submitted.

- 7.1 R/48/68M/LB - Listed Building Consent for use of garage as an office and replacement of garage door - set with timber glazed door-set and installation of raised floor to match house floor level at Rigg House, Hawes.

- 7.2 R/56/522B - Full Planning Permission and relevant demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area in respect of conversion and alterations of a domestic outbuilding to a dwelling and garage at Scarr View, The Gaits, Gayle.
- 7.3 R/48/162A - Full Planning Permission for the erection of a cattle shed, general purpose building, construction of yard and associated highway access and track at The Cragg & Carr, Land at East Birkrigg, Appersett. Referred to the Planning Committee on 22nd February.
- 7.4 R/56/518 - Full Planning Permission for conversion of a barn into a four bedroom dwelling (Local Occupancy/Short Term Holiday Let) along with formalisation of existing access and associated development at Barn North of Old Gayle Lane, Hawes. Decision refused and taken to Appeal under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. Subsequently passed.
- 7.5 R/48/101D - Full Planning Permission for installation of 30m high lattice tower supporting six antennas, four transmission dishes, two equipment cabinets, one meter cabinet and ancillary development, including generator and associated fuel tank, fenced compound, hardstanding, access and track for Shared Rural Network at land at Cobbles Plantation, Garsdale.

## 8. Planning Decisions

The following applications had been concluded since the last meeting:-

- 8.1 R/56/256B - Section 73 application for variation of condition 2 of R/56/256A for demolition of existing porch and utility room and erection of new porch and sun room, in respect of sun room construction method at East End Cottage, Mire Bank Lane, Burtersett. Approved conditionally - 4th February 2022.
- 8.2 R/56/204F/LB & R/56/204E - Listed Building Consent and Full Planning Permission for installation of timer gates to courtyard access (retrospective) at White Hart Inn, Hawes. Approved conditionally - 9th February 2022.
- 8.3 R/48/68L/LB - Listed Building Consent for replacement of 3 No windows at Rigg House, Hawes. Approved conditionally - 4th March 2022.
- 8.4 R/48/71B - Householder Planning Permission for erection of single storey rear extension at Fell View, Cotterdale. Withdrawn - 18th March 2022.

Cllr Blades enquired if there had been any progress on the planning application relating to the conversion of the old Chapel in Hawes. Cllr McMullon reported that she had discussed this with the Planning Officer recently but matters were no further forward and there were still numerous questions to be answered.

## 9. Highways Matters

- 9.1 Traffic Survey in Burtersett - Cllr Peacock advised that she had been sent data from the survey but this had been rather difficult to interpret and not possible to print for councillors. Councillors said that the data needed to be compared with previous or subsequent data in order to be of any relevance. **RESOLVED: CLLR PEACOCK to forward data to the Clerk for circulation to councillors. CLLR PEACOCK will ask for a further survey to be undertaken during August to allow councillors to compare.**
- 9.2 Vehicles Speeding in The Holme, Hawes - Cllr Peacock confirmed that the matter had been passed to Inspector Mark Gee who had subsequently referred it to a new

sergeant. **RESOLVED: CLLR PEACOCK will follow-up on this matter and report back to the Council.**

9.3 Land Adjacent to Bear Cottage Interiors, Hawes - Cllr Peacock confirmed that the land from Bear Cottage Interiors, fronting all properties along to Cafe Curva, was in the ownership of the Lords Trustees of the Manor of Bainbridge. As such, NYCC Highways are not responsible for its maintenance. Cllr Peacock has researched archive documents but there appears to be nothing indicating who is responsible for the maintenance. It is hoped that the area will still be resurfaced by NYCC Highways as part of the Safer Roads resurfacing project in the town. The Clerk confirmed that she had recently received a map from NYCC indicating areas of land in the parish under the ownership of the Lords Trustees and this also confirmed ownership of this particular area. Cllr McMullon advised that the Clerk to the Lords Trustees is adamant that responsibility for the area has been passed to NYCC Highways.

9.4 Repairs & Maintenance - Cllr Peacock confirmed that six new flagstones had been ordered for placement outside the White Hart Inn. She had made enquiries relating to the steps up to The Hill which, according to NYCC Highways, are a right of way. As such, it is likely that they fall under the responsibility of the National Park Authority. Cllr McMullon reported that, historically, there has been confusion over the ownership and responsibility of land at The Hill and she believed that there were parts falling under the District Council and others falling under the County Council responsibility. **RESOLVED: CLLR PEACOCK to ask the Highways Department to undertake some research to confirm the situation.**

Cllr McMullon advised that she had received three telephone calls concerning significant potholes in Gayle. Cllr Lloyd advised of a broken kerb opposite The Forge which is protruding into the road and Cllr Alderson reported a hole in Chapel Street. **RESOLVED: CLERK to report these issues on the Parish Portal and keep Cllr Peacock advised.**

Cllr McMullon suggested that works undertaken recently appeared to be 'very shoddy'. Cllr Peacock agreed that resurfacing work undertaken on Gayle Lane last summer was very poor and below standard. **RESOLVED: CLERK to report these concerns and add to the Agenda for the next meeting.**

Cllr Blades expressed concern at the state of 'birdcage walk' below the primary school which she said was very dirty and littered with weeds. In the past, a local resident has tidied and swept the area but this is the responsibility of the District Council. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to discuss with the District Council.**

Cllr Peacock confirmed that branches overhanging the road near Hardraw were due to be cut back shortly. Cllr Waluda asked what had been done about branches overhanging the footpath opposite the Pizza shop in Hawes. Cllr Peacock advised that if these were from bushes on private property, then it would be the responsibility of the owner to deal with them. However, the Highways Department could write to them to request the work is undertaken. Cllr Peacock also confirmed that the work was now

being undertaken to repair Haylands Bridge and Rains Hill. This was programmed to last two weeks and was currently on schedule.

9.5 Update on Works by Yorkshire Water - Cllr McMullon reported that the planned works had started well, but unfortunately over the course of the project, things had deteriorated. Towards the end there had been numerous issues causing concern to residents. Cllr Metcalfe believed it had been one of the most 'dysfunctional jobs' he had experienced. Fortunately, the work has now been completed, to the relief of all.

9.6 Update on Resurfacing Work in Hawes - A public meeting was held last Thursday to discuss the planned works and this had been very 'vocal'. It was acknowledged that there would never be a good time to undertake this work but clearly, after the problems of the past two years, undertaking it just as the new tourist season was about to start was a big issue causing a great deal of concern to many business-owners. It was noted that the delays had been caused by the Yorkshire Water work taking longer than expected. Following the meeting, the work has now been re-scheduled for the autumn and Cllr Peacock advised that the Highways Department were in discussions with the contractor to establish a start date. Cllr Blades expressed concern that this work could be interrupted by poor weather. Cllr McMullon suggested that, had there been public consultations earlier, some of the current issues may have been avoided. She requested that public meetings be arranged prior to the start of the work to allow residents to see the plans and discuss concerns they may have around parking etc. It was acknowledged that a lot of the concerns already raised related to the fear of threat to small local businesses who have endured a difficult couple of years through the pandemic. Keeping communication lines open would help to reassure people and avoid further problems. **RESOLVED: CLLR PEACOCK to contact Highways Department to request public meetings be arranged after the forthcoming Council elections but in advance of the work starting.**

## 10. Financial Matters

10.1 Councillors noted and approved the following payments:-

- ◆ RDC - £10,000 - Repayment of Advance of Precept (paid)
- ◆ Mrs K Prudden - £209.26 - February Salary (paid)
- ◆ Zurich Municipal - £616.79 - Renewal of Parish Council Insurance
- ◆ Mrs K Prudden - £209.06 - March Salary

10.2 No income had been received since the last meeting.

### 10.3 Bank Balances and Statements

The Clerk reported that the balance in the bank account as at today's date was £17,494.89.

The latest bank statements were passed to the Chairman for checking and signing.

## 11. Correspondence

11.1 Parish & County Elections - There are to be elections on 5th May for Parish and County Councillors. The Clerk had undertaken training and received all the paperwork.

Nomination forms had been passed to councillors for completion. It was noted that these were quite complicated and therefore they will be checked after the meeting before being returned to the District Council by 5th April.

11.2 Household Recycling & Waste - The Clerk advised councillors of the dates on which the mobile household waste recycling service will be in Hawes. They are 16th April, 18th June, 20th August, 15th October 2022 and 21st January 2023. The skip will be located in Charcoals Way, Upper Wensleydale Business Park.

11.3 Leak into Gayle Beck - Cllr McMullon reported that residents had been concerned by the recent leak of a substance into Gayle Beck. They had reported a smell like oil at the time. Cllr McMullon had contacted the Environment Agency but found them to be very unhelpful and difficult to deal with. There is, as yet, no evidence of where this substance may have originated, nor of what it is. The situation is of concern.

## 12. Children's Play Parks

12.1 New Equipment Grant Funding Scheme - The Clerk reported that she had contacted Streetscape on 15th February to confirm acceptance of their quote for new equipment at the Little Ings and Town Foot play parks. Unfortunately, one of the items on the order is not a standard stock item and there will be a delay in sourcing it. As a consequence, and with the lead time for work being eight to ten weeks, it is unlikely that the work will start until early May. Streetscape have, however indicated that it may be possible to start a bit earlier at Little Ings, again dependent upon getting the equipment. As a consequence of this, the Clerk has contacted Richmondshire District Council to explain the problems and delays which will mean we are unable to claim our grant award until after the deadline date in April. The District Council were understanding and have agreed to extend our grant claim until May, when hopefully the project will be completed. The Clerk has asked Streetscape to provide sufficient notice of their start date to allow the park volunteers to remove the surface which they wish to re-use elsewhere. **RESOLVED: CLERK to continue to liaise with Streetscape and RDC to ensure completion of project and claim of grant funding.**

12.2 Inspection Reports - The Clerk had recently received the latest inspection report on the play parks from Robin Peters. This was very comprehensive and highlighted the many issues relating to maintenance and safety. A new volunteer has joined the Park Volunteers - Mark Murphy. Peter had thanked Ian Fraser for his help, particularly with the annual inspection. The report highlighted the following areas:-

- ◆ The tree over the junior slide at Town Foot should be inspected prior to the new equipment being installed.
- ◆ The boundary fence at the top of Town Foot park needs replacing as a matter of urgency.
- ◆ The playhouse and the sandpit at Town Foot require attention by the volunteers at an approximate cost for materials of £100.
- ◆ The old rubber mats will be removed prior to the new equipment being installed and these will be re-used by volunteers elsewhere in the parks. In order to do this, they will require timber edging and adhesive at an approximate cost of £200.

- ◆ The support issue with the slide at Little Ings will be undertaken at minimal cost.
- ◆ The zip wire needs a new seat at a cost of £60 plus VAT.
- ◆ The paintwork is looking a bit shabby and the Parish Council may wish to budget for a re-paint next year.

The Clerk asked councillors to consider these matters. Cllr Blades proposed that the cost of the repairs be agreed and met by the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Metcalfe and everyone was in agreement. Cllr McMullon proposed that at the next meeting annual budgets be set for known areas of expenditure, such as the play parks, and working parties of councillors be allocated to oversee specific areas of the Council's work. Cllr Waluda advised that he had been asked by Robin to look at the top stones at Town Foot play area. He therefore agreed to look at the boundary fence at the same time and seek a price for its replacement.

***RESOLVED: CLERK to advise Robin of the decisions made. CLERK to write a letter of thanks to Robin and his volunteers for the work they do. CLERK to add budgets and working parties to next Agenda. CLLR WALUDA to inspect boundary fence and obtain a quote for replacement.***

13. **Important Matters Raised by the Public for Inclusion on the Next Agenda**

- ◆ Highways issues including resurfacing and potholes
- ◆ Budget setting
- ◆ Working Parties/Sub-Committees
- ◆ Annual Meeting for Residents & Annual Report
- ◆ Review of Standing Orders
- ◆ Review of Asset Register

Cllr Lloyd pointed out that the benches outside the Market Hall are deteriorating. Cllr Blades explained that an appeal had been put out for someone to attend to them and a person came forward who is going to sand and repair them.

It was noted that there have been new benches and planters placed in Hawes which it is believed were funded as part of the Hawes in Bloom scheme.

Cllr Blades enquired about the recent press coverage of the YDNPA recommending the creation of a bridleway, cycle track and footpath along the route of the old Wensleydale railway line. Cllr McMullon confirmed that she had been interviewed about this proposal which it appears has come about following a consultation of landowners along the track. It is believed that the reinstatement of the railway line is no longer feasible and therefore an alternative use has to be sought. Cllr Peacock advised that the YDNPA would be discussing this matter at a meeting tomorrow but acknowledged that this was very early days for the proposal.

14. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the **Annual Meeting** of the Parish Council and will take place on **Monday 16th May**, starting at 7.00 pm. It will be preceded at **6.30 pm** by the **Annual Residents Meeting**. Both meetings will take place at **Gayle Institute**.

15. **Proposal to Move to Private Session**

Cllr McMullon proposed that the meeting now moved into private session. This was seconded by Cllr Metcalfe. All members of the public left the meeting.

16. **NALC 2021-2022 National Salary Award**

The Clerk was asked to introduce this item prior to leaving the room.

Discussion took place and is recorded in a Confidential Minute.

17. **Proposal to Move out of Private Session**

Cllr McMullon proposed that the meeting now moved out of private session. This was seconded by Cllr Metcalfe.

The meeting was closed at 8.05 pm.

Signed as a True Record: ..... Date: .....

Name: .....