

**HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING
HELD AT THE INSTITUTE, GAYLE
ON MONDAY 16th MAY 2022**

Present:

Cllr Jill McMullon (Chair)
Cllr Peter Metcalfe
Cllr Sheila Alderson
Cllr David Stephenson
Cllr David Cockett
Karen Prudden (Clerk)

Cllr Yurek Waluda
Cllr David Colley
Cllr Emma Blades
Cllr Marion Lloyd
Cllr Barry Wilcox

Mr Jack Sutton

Mrs Pip Pointon (Press)

1. *Minutes of the Last Annual Residents Meeting*

Minutes of the last Annual Residents Meeting, held on 29th June 2021, via 'Zoom' had been issued to all councillors. Cllr P Metcalfe proposed that they be adopted as an accurate record of proceedings. This was seconded by Cllr M Lloyd and agreed by all. The Chair signed the Minutes.

2. *Chairman's Review of the Year 2021/22*

Cllr McMullon began her report by saying that never before had she written a report where the first thing needing to be mentioned was a pandemic. However, the Covid-19 pandemic had had a significant effect not only on our area but also on the Parish Council, as the negative impact had been the inability to hold open meetings where, unlike many others, we are lucky to have a high attendance from the very people we are here to represent.

However, all business was conducted, and until the latter part of the year it was via 'Zoom' which, whilst easier for councillors, lacked that connection which is so important.

On that note, Cllr McMullon thanked her fellow councillors for their support and perseverance, especially when it had been necessary to hold three meetings, one after the other.

Cllr McMullon could not avoid reporting the horrendous debacle with the HSBC Bank. We needed to change banks because we were unable to access funds due to various circumstances surrounding signatories. Opening a new account with another bank was easy, but closing an account with HSBC, who were holding public money, was a nightmare. After several months of attempts, we were saved by Sheila (an original signatory), who 'stormed' the bank and refused to leave until they handed over the cash! A huge thank you to Sheila for a great job.

On a more positive note, the Parish now has two new pieces of play equipment in the play parks; one at Town Foot and the other at Little Ings, thanks to a grant from Richmondshire District Council. Thanks go to Robin, Ian and Mark (a new volunteer) for all their hard work in removing the existing base at short notice. Robin and Ian have worked so hard, looking after the play parks and Mark, who is reasonably new to the town, has now joined this great team. We owe a debt of gratitude to Robin for his continued hard work in presenting detailed reports on the parks.

There are so many people to thank - John Banks for the grass cutting and Richard Noble and his wonderful team for the amazing flower displays for 'Hawes in Bloom'. We are incredibly lucky to have such wonderful people here in Hawes; many are unseen but incredibly valuable, and I thank each and every one for making our Town a great place to live.

Thanks must go to Peter Metcalfe for his support as Vice-Chairman - I am sure when he sees it is me calling him, his heart sinks! He has done a great job, so 'thank you'.

Finally, but definitely not least, I must wholeheartedly thank Karen, our Clerk, for her hard work, Karen hasn't been in the best of health but has done an amazing job. No Chair can do their job without the friendship of their Clerk and I know I couldn't have done it without her, so my personal heartfelt thanks to Karen.

If I have missed anyone, I apologise, but each and every one of you make Hawes and High Abbotside the great place it is.

3. ***Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2021 Meeting and Any Other Issues of Concern to the Residents***

There were none raised.

4. ***Date of the Next Annual Residents Meeting***

The next Annual Residents Meeting is due to take place in May 2023 - a date to be decided nearer the time.