

# HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSDIE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7.15pm at Gayle Institute

## MINUTES

**Present:** Parish Cllrs: Jill McMullon (Chair), Tony Fawcett (Vice), Sheila Alderson, Emma Blades, Peter Metcalfe, Stuart Hunter, Yurek Waluda

**In Attendance:** Francesca Cartwright - Parish Clerk

**Members of the public:** 25

### **The Parish Council held a minute silence in memory of the late John Blackie, The Parish Council's Former Chairman**

**1. The Parish Clerk, Francesca Cartwright, invited nominations for the Chairman of Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council for the next 2 Municipal Years to April 2021**

Cllr Alderson proposed Cllr McMullon as Chairperson, seconded by Cllr Hunter.

**Resolved unanimously** - *The Parish Council resolved unanimously Cllr McMullon as Chairperson.*

Cllr Fawcett to continue as Vice Chairman.

Cllr McMullon said that she was honoured to be elected to take on the role of Chairperson, though she wished John was here. There could never be another John, or anyone like him. She went on to say that everyone can work together and do their very best for Hawes and High Abbotside and continue John's legacy in his honour.

**2. Consideration of Apologies for Absence** - none

**3. Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

**4. Declaration of Interests** - none

**5. Matters arising from the last meeting** - none

**6. To consider the Recruitment 'Process' for Co-option / Casual Vacancy**

The Clerk summarised the confirmation of representation of the Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council which had been received from the Senior Electoral Services Office, Richmondshire District Council.

The Parish Council can have 11 members with 7 representing Hawes Parish and 4 representing High Abbotside.

At the election in May, there were 5 valid nominations for Hawes - Cllr Alderson, Cllr Blades, Cllr McMullon, Cllr Metcalfe and Cllr Waluda. There are therefore 2 vacancies which need to be filled by co-option.

There were 3 valid nominations for High Abbotside - Cllr Blackie, Cllr Fawcett and Cllr Hunter. There was 1 vacancy which needs to be filled by co-option.

The passing of Cllr Blackie triggered a Casual Vacancy for High Abbotside. 10 electors have until 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to request for an election to fill the vacancy. If the Returning Officer does not receive a request, they will advise the Parish Council Clerk that the vacancy can be filled by co-option.

The Parish Clerk clarified the criteria as to who can be a Councillor. To be eligible for election/co-option a person must be over 18 years, be a British subject, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union. In addition the person must be an elector for the area or, during the whole 12 months before nomination as a candidate, must have occupied land as a tenant or owner in the Parish (or within 3 miles of it) or have his or her principal or only place of work in the parish.

The applications received to date were confirmed as David Stephenson, Marion Lloyd, Chris Dunn, Andrew Fagg, Barry Wilcox and Jake Dinsdale.

The Chairperson proposed that as there are 6 applicants, the Parish Council should hold one separate private meeting to meet, greet and interview the applicants separately with the same set of questions. Interview questions should be e mailed to the Clerk. After the interviews, a secret ballot would be held. In the event of a tie the Chairperson would have the casting vote.

The Application close dates were confirmed as 12<sup>th</sup> August for the Co-option Vacancies and 19<sup>th</sup> August for the Casual Vacancy.

**Resolved unanimously** - *The Parish Council agreed the Recruitment Process.*

## **7. To consider any items relating to Highways**

A local resident complained that the Main Street through Hawes is getting very worn, where you bear left by the Holme road is torn to pieces and lots of people use it to cross by Café Curva and this is a dangerous situation. It was suggested that this could be dealt with as part of the Safer Roads Project. It was hoped that the consultation would commence soon.

Jake Dinsdale asked whether the Parish Council could request flood markers for the recently flooded areas in Appersett and Haylands Bridge. **Action - Clerk to report this request to Area 1 Highways.**

## **8. Financial Matters**

**Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council HSBC Bank Account Statements** (*Circulated to Parish Councillors*)  
To approve the Accounts paid and note the Income received since the May 2019 Parish Council meeting

The Clerk confirmed that the bank account balance as at 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019 was **£4,202.49**.

**Resolved unanimously** - *The Parish Council approved of all the payments and income paid/received.*

## **9. Discussion Items**

a) **B4RN Broadband** - Griff Thomas of GTEC to explain proposals to extend the roll out of hyper-fast B4RN Broadband to the Upper Dales

Griff Thomas of GTEC was welcomed to the meeting. Griff distributed a B4RN (Broadband for the Rural North Ltd) Price List March 2017 and Map to the meeting.

Griff gave some background that B4RN is an initiative which started in Lancashire and is now a non-profit community benefit society. The broadband speeds in Hawes & High Abbotside are not ahead of the curve. He likened the situation to motorway congestion.

He explained proposals to extend the roll-out of hyper-fast fibre optic broadband under the B4RN Project. This offers 1 GB of dedicated fibre to each property, with speeds at least 40 times faster than so-called Superfast Broadband, as well as unlimited bandwidth, no contention issues with neighbours, and speeds were guaranteed 100 per cent of the time.

To date cables had been rolled out to the Moorcock and Newby Hall Farm which had the fastest broadband speed of any rural community in the country and Griff was now confident the simple wayleaves would be signed to allow the cables to be laid for the extension into Hawes and High Abbotside, wherever the demand takes it.

The cost to implement in Hawes and High Abbotside would be in the region of £700k. There is government funding /new voucher scheme for businesses and commercial premises, which included individuals working from home. Businesses would attract between £2,500 and £3,000 funding and domestic properties between £500 and £1,500 per property. Schools would get a free service and there would be concessions for places of worship and holiday lets, etc. The YDNPA was Griff said, "completely on board" and had offered £10,000 towards the central cabinet. Connection fees are estimated as £1,500 irrespective of domestic or business so commercial will cover the cost of the domestics who don't sign up.

The ongoing monthly cost for the consumer would be less than £25 + VAT per household which Griff felt was good value for money and he encouraged people to register their interest at [www.B4RN.co.uk](http://www.B4RN.co.uk). 240 expressions saying yes, we want it or maybe when our existing contract runs out, had been received to date.

Barry Wilcox asked if the Project is completely separate from BT. Griff confirmed that it was.

Griff said that one of the next things that needs to be done is to blow up the map, approach landowners and check whether they will engage re the simple wayleaves (for digging 2ft underground, etc.), walk the route and draw on fresh maps taking into account steep hills, trees, rocks, etc. Griff would like to access the map facility via the Parish Council Portal (as it is based on OS mapping, magic mapping which is very useful). It costs £30 which GTech is happy to pay for. Cllr Hunter proposed the Parish Council supported the initiative and pay the £30.

**Resolved** - *The Parish Council agreed to pay the £30 fee.*

**b) Preparations for the World Road Racing Cycling Championship passing through Hawes & High Abbotside on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019** - Final call to see if there is interest for a working group of local residents and local businesses to be established to organise a welcome for the Race and the spectators on the day

Cllr Blades confirmed that the Football Club have secured a grant from RDC for £2,000 and are arranging a Family Fun Community Day to celebrate the UCI World Road Cycling Championship. The event will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019 10am - 6pm at the Hawes Community Fields, £5 Entry (Under 16's Free), with proceeds towards the Johnny Walker Community Pavilion. There will be attractions such as tombola, stalls for children, craft stalls, bouncy castle, to name but a few.

Cllr Blades advised that the Pavilion Committee are willing to put some bunting up to welcome the Race. It was agreed that Cllr Blades should approach the Gala Committee for the supply of the bunting.

Marion Lloyd offered to help do some artwork with the Brownies, an offer which was gratefully received.

**c) New Trustees for The Upper Wensleydale Sports & Recreation Association (UWSRA)**

The Chairperson confirmed that the new Trustees are:- Emma Blades, Ben Adams, Donna Peacock, Stephanie Bland, Lindsay Whaley, Gordon Sleightholme, Andrew Fagg, Katie Iveson, Nigel Chapman. The Chairman wished them good luck for the future.

## **10. YDNPA Planning Applications:**

### **New Applications**

**R/48/12P/LB at Shepherds Cottage, Longshaw, Hawes, DL8 3PZ** - Listed building consent to change the existing wooden windows in the end part of the cottage with Heritage Aluminium windows to match those in the main cottage

The Parish Council had no comment to make.

**R/56/510/AA at Highway Verge, B6255, Gearstones** - Consent to display 1 No. post mounted 'Craven' boundary sign

The Parish Council had no comment to make.

**R/56/124P at Blackburn Farm, Gayle Hawes** - Full planning permission for change of use of field to enable extension of existing campsite to provide 6 no. touring caravan pitches and 5 no. tent pitches with a new vehicular access and conversion/extension of garden store to form toilet and washing facilities

A local resident, John Lumley spoke at the meeting and said "The report from the Senior Historic Environment Officer for the National Park Authority has stated that the site in question is of considerable historic and archaeological importance and on those grounds he recommends refusal. I understand, and I would stress, that the site dates from the Bronze, Viking and Anglo Saxon ages. I would also refer you to the geographical survey that clearly shows the extent of the archaeological remains and if this application were to be allowed it would set a precedent for future extension applications on this site. We as residents in the Hawes and Gayle area indeed fortunate to have such an important site in our midst. Surely we would wish to protect our heritage as other communities and organisations do in other parts of the UK. I feel that in the future any decision seen to have allowed such a development would be considered as having had a complete disregard for those who follow us".

**Resolved** - *The Parish Council supports this application providing due consideration is given to the historical archaeological and geographical importance of the site.*

**R/56/327B at Access to Field No. 668 Land off B6255, Hawes** - Full planning permission for new access track from B6255 to OS Field 668 (retrospective)

The Parish Council had no comment to make.

### **Planning Committee**

**R/56/501 at Greens Farm, Snaizeholme** - Full planning permission for i) alterations to existing dwelling and conversion of adjacent outbuilding to additional living space; ii) change of use of land to rear to form flagged area with new boundary wall and erection of rear utility room for dwelling and iii) change of use of other outbuilding into a holiday cottage - **to be considered by the Planning Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

The Parish Council had no comment to make.

**R/48/13E at West End Barn, Lunds, Garsdale Head** - Full planning permission for conversion of barn to form 1 No. local occupancy dwelling or holiday let, and installation of package treatment plant - **to be considered by the Planning Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

This application was previously considered at the May 2019 Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council supported this application.

### **Pending**

**R/56/141S/TLB at Cocketts Hotel, Market Place, Hawes** - Full planning permission for sub-division of existing hotel to create 2 No. two bedroom dwellings for holiday rental, and a six-bedroom hotel - **Part approved, part Not Yet Decided.**

A local resident said that one part of the application is Not Yet Decided due to the private road access issue.

**R/48/165 at Cotterdale Farm Barn, Cotterdale** - Full planning permission for conversion of a barn to form a one-bedroom holiday cottage / local occupancy dwelling - amended plans, consultation of 14 days - **Approved section 106 after the agenda was issued.**

### **Other Issues**

**R/56/10H at Bainbridge Ings Caravan Site** - Part retrospective application to change the design of the Camping Pods permitted under the recently approved planning application

A local resident queried what was happening regarding the above, as the pods do not appear to have been removed. The Parish Council previously refused this application and the Parish Council's understanding is that it was refused at the February Planning Committee meeting.

**Fossdale House, Simonstone** - A local resident asked that the Parish Council report an ongoing issue at Fossdale House, Simonstone where allegedly a farmhouse next to Fossdale Priory is being extended into the barn without planning consent.

**Action - The Clerk to e mail YDNPA with the above Parish Council responses / queries.**

## 11. Correspondence

a) Suggestions received for memorials in memory of Councillor John Blackie

The Clerk had received a suggestion from Richard Noble re a plaque on the bench outside the Community Office which the Parish Council had funded.

The Chairperson thought that this was a lovely idea and the Community Office would also like to do something in memory of Ian Wattlely who recently passed away. Lots of other ideas had also been received at the Community Office regarding a memorial for John Blackie.

Rob Ward said that the craftsman who had created the Shepherd at Town Foot had offered to create a piece in memory of John Blackie. There was a general consensus that John Blackie's memorial should be situated near to the Community Garage which John had set up as a Community Venture. Richard Noble kindly offered to landscape the space to accommodate the memorial once the design had been approved by the Parish Council.

**Action - Cllr McMullon to arrange a Suggestion Box at the Community Office.**

b) Request to purchase a bench with a plaque in memory of a family member

The Clerk had been contacted by a Mrs. Blackham who had asked if she could arrange a bench with a plaque on in memory of her father. The Parish Council thought this was a lovely idea. Richard Noble suggested that the Clerk pass on his contact details as he could source the bench, suggest suitable location, etc. Ruth Annison of Hawes Ropemakers mentioned that they have installed a recycled plastic bench. Richard confirmed that he has looked into these, but they are subject to people stubbing cigarettes out on them, etc. The benches Richard sources are high quality teak hardwood from a sustainable source.

**Action - Clerk to provide Richard's contact details to Mrs Blackham.**

c) Letter dated June 2019 received from the Charity Commission re The Poor's Close Charity (*Circulated to Parish Councillors*)

**Action - Clerk to write to The Charity Commission to explain the problems the Parish Council had experienced contacting the Trustees, obtaining up to date paperwork, and decision that the Parish Council would not be providing administrative support going forward.**

12. **Date of the next meeting** - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Gayle Institute at 7.15pm

## 13. Any Other Business

### **Inappropriate Comments levelled at John Blackie at YDNPA Planning Committee Meeting**

Pip Pointon who attends meetings of the YDNPA Planning Committee on behalf of the Association of Rural Communities (ARC), said she had been upset and disgusted at criticism levelled at John Blackie at the July Planning meeting. The ARC held John Blackie in very high regard and he pushed himself all the way to the very end. In June he had told the committee of his support for a domestic barn conversion near The Shearlings off Hardraw Road, which the Planning Committee had turned down. At the July meeting they then went through a list of items criticising John for standing up for his community, said Mrs Pointon. One member had stated that he hoped Mr Blackie will not be tempted to bully the staff. The meeting had been held the day after Cllr Blackie, a member of the Planning Committee, had been admitted to hospital, and four days before he died.

Hawes businesswoman Ruth Annison said the Planning Committee member in question had also stated that he hoped Hawes and High Abbotside parish council would call John to account.

Said Cllr McMullon If they assume that now John is no longer here, we will not stick up for our communities they can think again. The Parish Council would have had no intention of holding John to account, as we supported him. They seem to be trying to hold him up as some kind of renegade when all he was doing was supporting his community, she said. The Parish Council agreed.

Pip Pointon went on to say that ARC has tried to put forward a complaint and questions about the behaviour of the Planning Committee for the 13<sup>th</sup> August Planning meeting. This has been put off until 24<sup>th</sup> September. She said we have tried to honour John Blackie by getting this questioned. We were also disturbed that new chairman did not say she was a Trustee of The Friends of The Dales a lobby group, no one questioned her, we have asked if this is a conflict of interest. ARC is not a pressure group, it's a monitoring Watch Dog. I am sad we couldn't stand up more for John Blackie at the 13<sup>th</sup> August meeting.

**Action - Resolved - The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should send a holding e mail to YDNPA to say that the Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council are aware that complaints have been made regarding the inappropriate comments about Councillor John Blackie which took place at the July YDNPA Planning Committee Meeting (whilst John was seriously ill in the Friarage Hospital). As the Parish Council understand it, these complaints will not be considered at the Planning Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August. The Parish Council will contact the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority under separate cover at a later date regarding this serious matter.**

**Ian King (Former Parish Council Clerk) - The meeting was advised of the sad passing of Ian King. Action - The Clerk was asked to write to Ian's family expressing sincere condolences and reiterating their thanks for Ian's many years' service as Clerk to the Parish Council.**

**Street Lighting - A local resident complained that there is a long-standing problem since November 2018 with the Street Lighting adjacent to the first house at Woodburn. It was reported by various residents in December 2018 and January 2019. In March 2019 workmen arrived with a new bulb which didn't work and they thought it was a problem with the grey box. Three months later in June 2019 workmen came with a new grey box and said it had a rotten pole and needs replacing. At the end of July 2019 workmen came and said it needs a new pole and the road will need to be closed, traffic lights, cherry picker, etc. Nothing has happened since.**

An intermittent fault was also reported on the light on the house end of Garris House, Gayle.

**Action - Clerk to report to RDC via the website (Ref numbers 147948 & 147993 respectively)**

**Bins - Local residents complained that the litter bins on The Green near the Dale Head Garage and on the RDC Carpark on Gayle Lane needed to be replaced as they have been removed. Action - Clerk to report to RDC.**

## **John Blackie - Celebration of John's Life**

**The Chairperson confirmed that a 'Celebration of John Blackie's life' will be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Further details would be publicised in due course as careful consideration regarding the venue was needed given the number of people attending. Anyone wishing to say a few words, fond memories, funny stories, etc. were asked to speak to Jill McMullon at the Community Office.**

### **14. Items for next Agenda**

Play Parks

**Meeting closed 8.50pm**