

HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of 4th February 2019

Commencing at Gayle Institute at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs J Blackie (Chairman), Mrs S Alderson, S Hunter, Mrs A Rhodes, A Sunter, I Woolley

In Attendance: Mrs F Cartwright (Clerk), 11 members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs A Caygill, A Fawcett, Y Waluda

1. **The Minutes of the Special Meeting of 5th November 2018 were accepted as a true record, signed by the Chairman.**
 2. **Matters arising** - no matters arising.
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3. Chairman's Reports (CR) / Latest News (LN) / Progress updates (PU)

Safer Roads (A684) (PU)

The Chairman recapped to the meeting that Government Funding has been made available to the County Council under the Safer Roads Government Funding Scheme. The first idea was 2-way traffic in The Holme which was strongly opposed by the local community and will not be going ahead. There is now a proposal being drawn up to build a footpath from Penny Garth, along the Cattle Market and via Kiln Hill to Café Curva. There is a second scheme to make a formal T junction out of the Mire Lane exit coming out of Burtersett. We have also asked for consideration for a footpath between Hawes and Appersett. Other ideas include 20mph speed limits in Hawes and improvements to make it safer for people to cross in the Market Place. The Parish Council and the local community will be fully consulted on how the funding is spent.

BT Paint A Pay-Phone Project (PU)

Confirmation was sought as to whether work had commenced on the Sedbusk Payphone. None was forthcoming. Perhaps, it was said, the volunteers will be waiting for better weather before starting on the task.

NHS Issues (LN)

The future of the Friary Community Hospital, Richmond

The Chairman updated the meeting that he has raised the clouds at both Richmondshire DC and North Yorkshire CC over the future of the Friary Community Hospital in Richmond. The Chairman expressed concerns about the lease renewal arrangements for 2023 and whether the local NHS management considered there was value for money in continuing it. There will be a new Medical Centre in Catterick Garrison but there will not be in-patient beds at this facility. Recently more reassuring NHS messages have been given in the public domain that it is not under threat. All agreed that the Friary Community Hospital is far too precious a facility to lose, especially for our local community located so far away from the Friarage, the Darlington Memorial Hospital and the James Cook.

The closure of the Mental Health Wards in The Friarage

People with mental health problems who require in-patient stay will have to go to a facility in Darlington but there is currently no capacity, The Roseberry facility at Middlesbrough is still being built, and the Scarborough facility whilst excellent is an impractical 180-mile round trip. Sadly a local person requiring continuing in-patient care and one of the last two patients in the Friarage facility as it was closing was offered only Scarborough as a transfer, and instead was forced to come home where their recovery was bound to be slower. **All Councillors agreed this was a thoroughly unacceptable situation.**

Late emerging and tabled issues

There were no late emerging and tabled issues

4. Play-parks Update

The Chairman thanked Robin Peters and Ian Fraser for giving up their time to carry out excellent work on the three Play Parks at Town Foot, Bealah Bank and Little Ings.

Robin addressed the meeting. The Annual Condition Report has been submitted to the Parish Council (as circulated). Last year they tried to update the maintenance. Richmondshire District Council carried out their periodic inspections and the Play Park Supervisors take on board their feedback. Maintenance has been carried out on the Castle Slide, Swing Bearings, Wendy House, new Goal Nets, painting, fixing gates, etc.

The main outstanding issue is the surfacing which is a significant job costing in the region of circa £11,500 which will need to be carried out via grant funding. There are some smaller jobs outstanding such as Jet Washing which needs to be repeated particularly around the Wendy House. Robin would like to obtain quotes for a self-contained Jet Washer. A professional paint job is required at Town Foot as the previous work last year was hampered by bad weather. Repairs to a couple of picnic benches are also required.

The Chairman said that he had not yet submitted the Sports Lottery Award Application for the Surfacing Work due to ill health. This would be done in due course and in the meantime there was budget available for the straightforward items of day to day maintenance.

5. NYCC Highways

Cllr Rhodes reported that there are pot holes on the road at the West End of Gayle and the Garris had pot holes which were mended a year or two ago and are in need of repairing again. Cllr Hunter reported that there are pot holes outside Gayle Institute, Old Gayle Lane. It was also reported that grit is required in a grit bin outside Japper Bills. In addition, the 'No Entry' sign by the Doctor's Surgery needs renewing.

The Chairman advised the meeting that Richard Marr, the Richmondshire Area Highways Manager has moved on to a new role in Pickering. A great shame, said the Chairman, as Richard had been a strong advocate for the Upper Dales, and his style was beginning to resemble the legendary Mike Woodford, our Area Highways Manager for 30 years. The replacement for Richard's position is not yet known.

6. Chairman's Key Discussion Items

Emergency Item - Hawes Methodist Chapel

There is a meeting of the YDNPA Planning Committee scheduled on 12th February 2019 to consider the Planning Application at Hawes Methodist Chapel (which was the subject of 5th November 2018 Special Meeting). Two Parish Council members voted in favour of the application and are entitled to their view but the corporate view was that the Parish Council (4 votes to 2) should object to the Planning Application. The YDNPA Planning Officers Report recommends approval. In the view of the Chairman the Planning Office has dismissed concerns of the Parish Council and local residents, eight of whom have written in with letters.

Highways have made no recommendation to parking i.e. raising no objections. The question was asked as to how is this possible?? On the same agenda there is an application to convert the former the Rowan Tree and Shop in Askrigg into 3 affordable flats. Unrestricted Highway parking is available directly outside the building and in front of the Church in Askrigg, 10 paces away. The recommendation for this application is to refuse as for 3 flats there needs to be provision of 5 parking spaces. But for 5 Holiday Lets where there are no parking spaces, and the nearest parking is 300 metres away, no recommendation is made. How come ??

There is a petition in support of the Hawes Chapel Planning Application signed by 52 people. The Chairman has seen the Petition as he is entitled as a member of the Planning Committee but he cannot share this with the Parish Council as it is Private and Confidential. Many of the people have postcodes outside of the local area so he is not sure how they can be in a position to know the impact of the application.

Mr. Mike Webster commented that the pattern of Planning Office recommendations is very inconsistent.

The people who presented at the previous Parish Council meeting may not own the Chapel going forward which sheds a different light to the assurances they gave. The Chairman believes that the Parish Council on behalf of the local community needs to request a site visit.

Cllr Sunter said that he voted in favour of the application because as the building stands it is a disaster and conversion would create employment. Cllr Alderson reiterated her view that she feels the application is over developed i.e. 5 dwellings, in excess of 5 vehicles coming and going.

Mr. Jack Sutton commented that there are already too many holiday lets in Town Foot which outweighs the number of residents and balance is required. He would like to see it pulled down as it has no architectural significance and a Mews built or less development. There are parking issues as things stand. Vandalism has taken place at the Dales Countryside Museum so holiday visitors to the Chapel are unlikely to use the designated parking. As far as he was aware none of the residents of Town Foot were approached by the Applicants. Businesses were, but not residents. He felt that more consideration should have been given by the Church for Affordable Housing. Cllr Woolley replied that this was looked into, but it wasn't practical at that time.

Sarah Kirkbride felt that the Chapel site could be better utilised for conversion into Retirement Apartments as the clientele would likely have less vehicles.

The move to request a site visit at the Planning Committee was unanimous. Cllr. Blackie would put this forward at the YDNPA Planning Committee meeting.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council have the right to put forward a speaker at the YDNPA Planning Committee Meeting. The Chairman nominated Cllr Alderson to put forward the corporate view on behalf of the Parish Council. **Those Councillors present all agreed to this nomination.**

The Clerk read out a letter of complaint from Mr Belton, saying that the Parish Council in its written response to the YDNPA should not have said that the 2 business proprietors who spoke at the November Parish Council special meeting had their businesses up for sale. He said *“this was not a matter for planning”*. The Chairman asked Mr Belton if he had anything to add. Mr Belton said *“I am still a resident, I have been here for eight years, I am a first responder, my children wanted to stay here, prices are too high, houses selling for holiday cottages. The second business is not even up for sale any more, her house in Hawes is not up for sale. We feel that comments have been inappropriate and we want an apology.”*

The Chairman said that Parish Council meetings are Public Meetings and if people want to participate, they have to accept that their comments may be reported in the public domain. He added *“Both yourself, and The Mulberry Bush were identified by the Applicants as businesses who were supporting the Chapel Application. A member of the public noted that the 2 businesses were up for sale, as they were in November, and this was publicly reported. This may have flavoured your comments and we were entitled to mention this as facts at the time of our Special Meeting. Your complaint is unjustified, and there will be no apology from the Parish Council, as it would be attacking the principle of public participation at our meetings.”*

Barn Conversions in Hawes and the Upper Dales

Planning Applications for 3 Barn Conversion in the Upper Dales (including 2 in Hawes & High Abbotside) were refused at the YDNPA Planning Committee Meeting in December 2018 after initially receiving strong support at the October 2018 meeting. 2 of these proposed conversions were for young local farming families desperately wanting to stay in the Upper Dales for the rest of their life. In addition he knew of another proposed barn conversion, at Low Abbotside, again for a young family, coming forward in March which would be recommended for refusal.

The Chairman has written to the D+S Times, the Craven Herald and the Westmoreland Gazette saying the YDNPA has made a very hollow commitment to retaining / attracting young families to the Upper Dales, this their all - embracing theme for sustaining the local communities it broadcasts at every opportunity. Not every barn in the Upper Dales should be available for conversion, but those by the roadside, which these were, were eminently suitable. In the Chairman's view the way that it was done was outrageous. Those members, many of whom had voted for approval of all 3 planning applications in October at the Planning Committee meeting, voted for refusal but made no attempt to justify their change of mind. Actually they said nothing – they were all it appeared struck into silence.

A discussion followed, and all Councillors were in agreement with the Chairman.

Cllr Sunter commented that if these barns do not become assets, they become liabilities. Sarah Kirkbride said farmers cannot continue spending money repairing barns that are not being used. Myles Metcalfe said they are a national asset built by our ancestors and it is shameful that we cannot have a way of preserving them via planning permission for a fresh use as so very important as housing young families, who otherwise would be driven away by high house prices. Another member of the audience said that the policy of the YDNPA to preserve and enhance natural and manmade features in the landscape is not being upheld. **Resolved unanimously - The Parish Council agreed to make a representation of concerns about the way the planning applications were treated.**

Cutbacks in the provision of Yorkshire Ambulance Service Patient Transport without any consultation by the HRW Clinical Commissioning Group

The Chairman was pleased to report that the Notice of Motions he listed at Richmondshire District Council and North Yorkshire County Council raising concerns regarding the new criteria for Patient Transport journeys, were supported unanimously and success had been achieved.

The HRW Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who administer the Patient Transport Service set the criteria in the 17 questions they ask a patient or carer trying to book a PTS journey, they do not ask a single question about where the patient lives, distance from hospital, public transport services, the key issues of rurality. Only if you are refused do you get asked those questions in a 3-stage appeal. As a result of the campaign led by the Chairman and supported by others, the CCG have now agreed to consider distance, issues of public transport, rurality as part of the initial engagement before refusal.

The Chairman will be speaking again at the next County Council meeting.

*(Postscript – At this meeting in late February all the County Councillors present agreed unanimously to Cllr. Blackie’s proposal that these new considerations should be incorporated **immediately** into the criteria and to issue a demand to the HRW CCG that this should be implemented. Since then Cllr Blackie has not heard of any refusals for PTS journeys when these new criteria have been key factors).*

Setting the Hawes & High Abbotside Precept for 2019/20

The Chairman presented the recommendation (as circulated). A precept amounting to £16,485 in total would require an increase of £1.11 per year on a Band D tax charge over what was paid this 2018 / 2019 year. This would mean a Band D tax payer paying £25.81 this forthcoming year, just 50p per week for all Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council provides. Whilst the amount the Parish Council receive, £16,485, is 5% up on last year, the actual increase will be shown on the Council Tax bills as 4.5% because of the increase in the number of properties paying Council Tax in the last year.

It was considered that this was very good value for what we deliver from the Parish Council in the way of local services and facilities for our residents and businesses. The Parish Council also have a good track record in securing grants to work on their own account or with other organisations to facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of those the Parish Council serves.

Resolved unanimously - *The Parish Council agreed the Precept recommendation.*

Preparations for the World Road Racing Cycling Championship passing through Hawes & High Abbotside on 29th September 2019

The Clerk read out the undated letter from Mrs Belton. It was agreed that a separate Working Committee was required which should emerge from the local business community and the Parish Council would give it support.

A Community Pavilion for Hawes & High Abbotside on the Community Fields

The Chairman updated that an architect has been instructed to go to YDNPA for planning. The Chairman noted the huge generosity of Mr John Walker MBE who has offered a £50,000 donation to support this project. **He will write a thank you letter on behalf of the Parish Council and local community.**

The Chairman has been approached by the new owner (or tenant) of The Crown Public House as to whether the Parish Council would allow him to stage Car Boot Sales on a Sunday afternoon on the rough ground on the Community Fields in 2019, to raise money for the Community Pavilion. He pointed out that permission needed to be given by the Upper Wensleydale Sport and Recreation (UWSRA) Charity trustees but they would need to have the endorsement of the Parish Council to give the go-ahead to the proposal.

The Chairman asked if the Parish Council had any objections. Concern was expressed over clashes with the Table Top Sale for the School and Dales Play. It was agreed that the Chairman will feedback that Car Boot Sales can take place in the afternoon on Sundays but not when the Table Top Sales are scheduled.

7. Correspondence

The Chairman had received a request for financial support from Richard Noble, Hawes in Bloom for 2019. The Chairman proposed a contribution of £1,500 to be invoiced in two £750 parts. **Resolved unanimously.**

The Chairman thanked Richard for the wonderful difference his Hawes In Bloom initiative has made to the street scene in Hawes these last 5 years. Richard said that it is a team effort which is growing each year with volunteers for physical and financial help. They are planning to do a display on the mound opposite the school for Remembrance - Lest We Forget. Richard has also taken on board that we have the bike race coming through in September, so they will do displays to include that with a red, white and blue tasteful colour scheme.

*The Chairman proposed a high commendation of the gratitude of the Parish Council and the local community for all of Richard Noble's efforts in his Hawes in Bloom initiative which was strongly supported **unanimously** by all present – Councillors and the members of the audience.*

An anonymous letter complaining about car parking in Hawes had been received by the Chairman. It was agreed that unless a person is prepared to put their name to a letter, or in confidence to the Parish Council, it cannot be considered by the Parish Council otherwise they would be inundated by letters.

8. YDNPA Planning - Planning Applications

R/56/10H - Bainbridge Ings Caravan Site

Part retrospective application to change the design of the Camping Pods permitted under the recently approved planning application

The Chairman recapped that the applicant had to be persuaded to accept a permission that had a reservation of 30 informal plus 10 formal tent pitches, plus a number of pods. It was this permission he now wanted to amend as the pods applied for are not the units that have appeared now the permission is being implemented.

Parish Councillors agreed that what had been installed on site were utterly appalling, completely out of keeping with the landscape and jarring with the country lane street scene that is Old Gayle Lane. The Planning Officer is recommending refusal. There was a general view that the reduction of camping for which Bainbridge Ings was famous for under the previous family ownership will be detrimental to the local economy in Hawes.

Resolved unanimously - *The Parish Council agreed to object the application and support the YDNPA.*

R/56/32 M/N/P/Q - Honeycott Caravan Park, Hawes

4 applications for full planning permission for extension of holiday season to 12 months a year for holiday purposes – **all supported by the Parish Council**

R/48/68H/LB - Rigg House, Appersett Shepherds Cottage (Longshaw), High Abbotside

Listed Building Consent to replace 2 external doors with new timber doors to match existing - **supported by the Parish Council**

YDNPA Planning Committee

Report of the items in Hawes & High Abbotside discussed by the Planning Committee

R/56/491 – Mike Barn, Larnacar Lane, Appersett

Full planning permission for conversion of barn to form a local occupancy dwelling

Parish Council : Strongly supported

Planning Officer Recommendation: Refuse

October Planning Committee: **Approved** subject to the reference back procedure

December Planning Committee: Reference back Report - **Refused** (Vote 7-7) on the casting vote of the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mrs. Caroline Thornton-Berry

R/56/491 - Pike Hill Barn, Ashes, Hawes

Full planning permission for conversion of barn to form a local occupancy dwelling or holiday cottage

Parish Council : Supported for use as a local occupancy dwelling

Planning Officer Recommendation: Refuse

October Planning Committee: **Approved** subject to the reference back procedure

December Planning Committee: Reference back Report - **Refused** (Vote 7-7) on the casting vote of the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mrs. Caroline Thornton-Berry

YDNPA Planning

Outcome of selected delegated decisions by planning officers after consultation with the Parish Council

R/56/185G at Thorney Mire Barn, Appersett

Full planning permission for siting of 1 No. shepherds hut within existing woodland to provide short stay self-catering visitor accommodation and provision of 2 car parking spaces

Parish Council: Very strongly supported

Planning Officer: Approved

9. Parish Council - Financial Matters

**** Proposal for the Parish Council to purchase 3 new public benches at The Memorial Green, by the Penny Garth Wall, and the Quaker Burial Ground at Town Foot**

The Chairman advised that arrangements have been made from his County Councillor North Yorkshire County Council Upper Dales Locality Fund to purchase a four-metre wide quality public bench to sit on the Memorial Green to replace the collapsed bench. A grant from NYCC (£2145.00 – received in April) to include an amount for this purchase, and for work to professionally paint the play park equipment in all 3 play parks the Parish Council owns is due to be received shortly.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will pay for the replacement bench at Penny Garth. The Bowes wish to pay for a bench in memory of their father and mother. Plaques will be transferred or replaced as required.

**** Ringway - Cherry picker for Hawes Christmas Lights**

Paid - Invoice total - £1,225.80 (including VAT £204.30)

Received - From Hawes Christmas Lights Committee - £1,021.50

****Defibrillator for Burtersett Institute**

Paid - Invoice Total - **£1,568.25** (including VAT £293.25)

Due to Receive from Burtersett Institute - £1,246.00

Grant from Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council - Maximum of £100.00

****VAT on these community projects to be reclaimed by Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council**

The Parish Clerk had circulated information on the bank account receipts and payments made. It was noted the Bank Balance was £4,220.28 as at 3rd February 2019. There were no outstanding invoices.

Resolved unanimously - *The Parish Council approved of all the payments that had been made.*

10. Any Other Business

It was noted that the Parish Council was elected in 2015 and concludes in May 2019 (4 years) when there may be an election on 2nd May 2019. There will be one final meeting in April 2019 which will conclude the 2015 - 2019 Parish Council.

Date of next Meeting - A date in April 2019 (TBC) commencing at 7.15pm at Gayle Institute

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.