

## Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council

Meeting held on Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 @ 7.15 pm at Gayle Institute

### Minutes

#### Those present at the meeting -

##### Parish Councillors:

Cllr John Blackie (Chairman), Cllr Sheila Alderson, Cllr Debbie Allen, Cllr Tony Fawcett, Cllr Ben Fawcett, Cllr Stuart Hunter, Cllr Abbie Rhodes, Cllr Albert Sunter, Cllr Ian Woolley.

##### Parish Clerk:

Ian King

##### Members of the public:

Jill McMullon (Acting Clerk for the October Meeting), Graham Di Duca, Walter Head, Nigel Lawson and Stan Roorcroft (all representing the Market House Trustees), Steve Bloom (Bookseller in the Market House), and 8 members of the public

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr Andrea Caygill

2. **Hawes second-hand Bookshop** - Mr Bloom its proprietor often but not consistently charges a 50p admission fee to his Bookshop. This has engendered 20 serious complaints to the Parish Council. Graham Di Duca, Chairman of the Market House Trustees, explained that Mr Bloom has been in business for at least 10 years, employs 2 local people and makes a profit. The Trustees have implored him on many occasions not to make the admission charge, but get no response. They have no legal powers to stop this practice.

Mr Bloom was invited to speak by the Chairman and said he found the meeting rather intimidating. He accepted that he possibly may be offensive at times. He realises that the problem arises from the admission charge which can cause anger. Confirming he called a customer a "*pain in the arse*" he admitted it was a loss of control on his part.

Addressing him directly, the Chairman said that he was glad that Mr Bloom was present, and asked him if he would be prepared to either drop the charge or advertise it properly. Mr Bloom responded he did not necessarily charge the 50p, but he wanted his customers to be willing to pay it if they just wanted to browse. He admitted that the shop's income is very similar whether he or his staff charge the fee or not. He agreed to a personal meeting with the Chairman.

Walter Head added that the Market House Trustees have commissioned a professional sign which will explain to visitors that admission is free in all areas except to the Bookshop.

Cllr Albert Sunter argued that the charge should either be made, or not. The Parish Council was unhappy about the inconsistency in applying the admission fee.

Mr Bloom left the meeting.

3. **Exchange of e-mails between Mr Graham Di Duca and The Chairman / Approval of the Minutes of the October meeting.** Two emails had been sent by Mr Di Duca to all the Councillors. Cllr Blackie had responded with a single reply. Mr Di Duca explained that the second letter (regarding the conduct of the October meeting) had been seen and agreed by the 4 Trustees present before he had sent it. Cllr Blackie said that this had only been signed by Mr Di Duca. Mr Di Duca claimed in this letter that the draft minutes of the October meeting did not reflect the tone or content of the meeting.

Cllr Blackie first dealt with the issue of the discretionary rate relief that Mr Di Duca had been raised in his e-mail. He said in 2002 as the Richmondshire District Councillor for the Parish he had argued strongly (and successfully) for the discretionary rate relief for the Market House against many arguments put by officers that it was a commercial operation. He has no intention ever to change this view, but that he would have to respond honestly to any questions put to him by the District Council on his views about whether there is now extra commercial business.

Mrs Jill McMullon, who had taken the Minutes of the October meeting, said that she had felt personally insulted by Mr Di Duca's letter and was very cross about the doubts cast on her honesty in recording the Minutes.

Mr Di Duca attempted to argue that the Minutes are always checked by the Chairman on completion and that they are therefore his version, not the Minute Taker's. Cllr Blackie corrected him by saying that he only offers minor amendments, such as names or if the Clerk has misheard or misunderstood a point that had been made.

Mrs McMullon said that she stood by the current version completely, and that it was very clear to her that Mr Di Duca had a personal gripe against the Parish Council and, in particular, one of its members.

She asked whether any other member of the public had questioned any other of the items in the Press Report or Minutes. The Chairman confirmed that this was the only part of the Minutes which had been questioned. She asked that her views should be recorded.

**The Minutes of the October meeting were approved as a true record by a show of hands without any amendment by the Parish Council.**

4. **RDC Proposals to replace 10 street lights in the Parish** – The Chairman advised that 4 heritage streetlights had been installed in 1998 in Hardraw and 6 in Gayle as a Millennium project in 2001. They are working perfectly well. Richmondshire District Council (RDC) is now proposing to replace them with inferior substitutes, unless the Parish Council pays £550 for each light if it wishes to purchase the new heritage version. Council felt that this was unaffordable.

After discussion the Parish Council wished to retain the heritage lights until they fail, then replace their bulbs with LED versions if possible, and that the street lights with concrete posts that are potentially dangerous should be replaced first. **Cllr Stuart Hunter proposed this response to RDC and it was unanimously agreed.**

#### **5. The new YDNPA Local Plan – Main provisions**

- a. **Barn Conversions** – The Parish Council and Cllr Blackie have argued strongly for roadside barn conversions to dwellings since 2003, so it was pleased to hear this is now official YDNPA policy, although it was disappointed that open market permissions would not be allowed. Whilst it welcomed local occupancy it considered that more local people would apply to convert their roadside barns if they were open market permissions because it was much easier to obtain a mortgage for them and less of a tie if events mean they have to move on.
  - b. **Tourism Development.** The YDNPA is inviting applications for Shepherd's huts, Camping pods, Yurts, and Camping coaches on railway lines.
  - c. **Village Boundaries.** It was felt that town and village boundaries are drawn too tightly, and that the YDNPA should come forward with revisions that might allow further development opportunities. The Chairman confirmed that there is to be a consultation on village boundaries in the near future.
6. **A second 24/7 Cash Machine for Hawes** - The Parish Council was very supportive of the Chairman's campaign to get a new 24/7 Cash Machine provided by HSBC.
  7. **The 2017 / 2018 precept for Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council** – Council resolved unanimously that the Precept should be increased by 5% in view of its increased responsibilities.

## 8: Chairman's Advisory Items / Latest News / Progress update

- a. **Proposals to remove the 24/7 Critical Care services at the Darlington Memorial Hospital.** The Chairman outlined the current state of play, where it is proposed that 2 out of the 4 local Hospitals should have emergency and critical care services. He is still campaigning hard that one of these should be the Darlington Memorial Hospital.
- b. **The Brown Moor Caravan Club site closure / refurbishment programme.** A senior manager of the Caravan Club had been to visit Cllr Blackie and Ms K Empsall. It was agreed that 50% of the site (some 50 pitches) would be opened in April, rather than July as originally planned. This is particularly important for local businesses, especially in the catering trade. The Caravan Club will be investing some £4million on this redevelopment.
- c. **BT Payphone removal consultation / BT Payphone repairs.** Richmondshire District Council have used their powers to instruct BT to keep all its Payphones available for use in the district. The one at Lunds will be repaired, and the one at Widdale may be moved as it is in the grounds of a private property.
- d. **New play equipment in the Little Ings and Gayle Lane playparks.** Sean Peacock is making a Play Cabin for the Gayle Play Park, to replace the somewhat decrepit climbing frame. It should be ready by May. A survey of Hawes schoolchildren and local residents will be undertaken to see if there is support for the installation of as zip wire on the small football/play area adjacent to the Gayle entrance to Bealah Bank.
- e. **YDNPA response – Business signage in Hawes.** The YDNPA is pleased that the Parish Council has agreed to monitor signage on its behalf.
- f. **Works to prevent the Town Foot highway flooding.** Attempts to clear the blockage of the culvert which has caused the flooding have led to the removal of 16.5 tons of stone, and a tarpaulin. Mr Rob Ward gave his opinion that the real blockage was higher up, in a garden. Cllr Blackie felt that it was better to wait and see if the problem has now been resolved. Cllr Woolley commented on the gullies on Burterset which need jetting. In particular, the one nearest the Auction Mart was being blocked by sawdust washed out from that site.
- g. **Car and minibus parking near the Youth Hostel in Hawes.** The Council's Police contact, Sgt Stuart Grainger, had agreed to discuss this problem with Mr N Linfoot from the Highways Department. However, this had not happened. The Chairman had attempted to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner, but again, without response. Mr Linfoot has agreed in the meantime to have the double yellow lines repainted.
- h. **The Gayle Green public meeting.** The Chairman is reluctant to hold this meeting until the weather is warmer. In the lack of any other Councillor volunteering he proposes to delay it until May.
- i. **War Memorial Event - DVD donated by Dr. Malcolm Hamer.** At the suggestion of the Clerk it was agreed that this should be housed in the Library in the Community Office and available for loan to the local community. Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Dr. Hamer.
- j. **Police issues.** No issues were raised, with a comment from the floor that to do so would be a "waste of time".

- 9: **NYCC Highways** - Mrs M Dinsdale raised the issue of new potholes near Low Field in Gayle. The Chairman to investigate and report them. He added that the reported issue of the road ditches in Cotterdale had been resolved.

- 10: YDNPA Planning Applications / Planning Committee Decisions**
- a) **R/56/272A Swineley Farm, Widdale.** Full planning permission for creation of new roof over feeding and handling area. **Strongly supported.**
  - b) **R56/486 Garris House, Gayle.** Full planning permission to renew cement render on west facing gable end and make good flashing to roofline. **Strongly supported.**
- 11: Correspondence received to note - unless any Councillor calls for a discussion**
- a. **Great North Air Ambulance – Appeal for a donation**  
***Agreed to donate £100.00***
  - b. **RDC – Permanent changes to waste collection and recycling rounds.**  
***Noted.***
  - c. **Town Foot play park inspection – RDC safety inspection report.**  
***The Chairman to investigate***
- 12: Financial Matters – Copies of the appropriate HSBC Bank Statements were available at the meeting**
- a. **Parish Council HSBC Bank Statements – Expenditure / Income to approve – 370 / 371 / 372- *Approved unanimously***
  - b. **Parish Council Bank Balance as at 30 December 2016 - £2581.28**
- 13. Date of the next meeting – In March, the exact date to be discussed at the meeting**
- 14. Any Other Business – From Parish Councillors and / or Members of the public**
- a. **Town Head Green.** Cllr Woolley asked for progress on naming the green on which the new War Memorial has been built. A survey has not been taken, but it was agreed that it has been called “Town Head Green” by local people for ages, and that this should remain the name.
  - b. **Street Cleaning.** A member of the public observed that his area of street had not been swept for a long time.

**Meeting closed at 8.50pm.**