

## Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council

Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 @ 7.15 pm at The National School House

### Minutes

#### Those present at the meeting -

##### Parish Councillors:

Cllr John Blackie (in the Chair), Cllr Abbie Rhodes, Cllr Andrea Caygill, Cllr Sheila Alderson, Cllr Ian Woolley

##### Parish Clerk:

Mrs Jill McMullon acting as a temporary deputy for Ian King, who was away on holiday

##### Invited attendees:

Colin Dales, Director of Operational Services at Richmondshire District Council (RDC)

Lee Robinson, RDC Street lighting adviser

##### Member of the public:

There were 23 members of the public present

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Tony Fawcett, Cllr Debbie Allen, Cllr Ben Fawcett, Cllr Stuart Hunter, Cllr Albert Sunter

#### 2. Minutes – To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016

*Decision: Approved*

#### 3. Matters arising if not on the Agenda below

*Decision: No matters arising*

#### 4. Chairman's Key Discussion Items

a) **Cutbacks in services provided by Richmondshire District Council (RDC) to Hawes & High Abbotside / RDC Proposals to replace 10 street lights in the Parish / The future for Affordable Housing in the Upper Dales**

b) **Proposals to increase by 50% the charge for car parking for 1 hour in the RDC Gayle Lane car park from £1.00 to £1.50, and the remaining time charges by between 12.5 % and 25%**

#### Street-lights

The Chairman expressed disappointment at the proposal to replace the 10 heritage street lights with modern LED versions he described as more suitable for a motorway service station and he pointed out that street scene was very important in Hawes given it is also in the YD National Park.

Councillors agreed, and several suggested the proposed replacement versions were of an inferior design, and they considered it unnecessary to replace them when the existing street lights were in perfectly good working order. Members of the audience also thought the new design was inappropriate for a deeply rural area within the National Park.

Concern was also raised that if the local community wanted to have the 10 lights replaced with a new light fitting akin to the original heritage design then the Parish Council would be asked to contribute £550 for each new light, at a total cost of £5,500, a cost it could not afford.

Colin Dales informed the meeting that the lights were now obsolete, and it was intended to replace them before they failed. He said the spend on the existing lights on energy was £50 annually on each, whereas the new proposed LED lights would only cost £15 a year in electricity. He agreed there had been no consultation with the Parish Council, but considered that as it was an operational matter, there was no need to consult the Parish Council. The Chairman strongly challenged Mr. Dales on his interpretation, and said it was a matter of huge interest and concern as to what was visible 24/7 around the year in the street scene in a local community.

The Chairman also corrected Colin Dales when he tried to suggest the practice had been for many years that a Parish Council paid a premium for a heritage light fitting. Cllr Blackie told him that the Parish Council had not paid a surcharge for any of the 10 heritage lights on the list, and as recently as 2009 some street lights in Aysgarth had been changed for the heritage version at no cost to its Parish Council.

Cllr Mrs Rhodes asked if there was a middle ground as it was obvious that there was no enthusiasm for the LED version. Mr. Lee Robinson said a cheaper version of the heritage light was available, and although he did not think it was a durable product, he would send details on to the Chairman.

The Chairman also asked Colin Dales about the Turfy Top lamp which had taken 18 months to replace, lights at Town Foot that had taken 8 months to repair, and what the standard time for repairs was. Colin Dales responded that involving Northern Electric at Turfy Top took a long time but agreed the new pole needed to fix the replacement light to, had lain in the adjoining field for one year. He reported that a new Service Level agreement had deadlines attached to it - 5 working days to replace a bulb or effect a simple repair, and 10 weeks to replace a column. Councillors were sceptical these deadlines would be met and going forward resolved to monitor whether they were being achieved.

***Resolved – The Parish Council asked for the replacement of the 10 street lights to be delayed until further discussion can take place, and to allow time for the YDNPA to be approached for any opportunity for grant funding towards the cost of the heritage street lights. Colin Dales agreed to postpone the programme whilst this took place.***

### **Cleaning of the RDC toilets in the Penny Garth**

The Chairman and Parish Councillors reported that a great many complaints have been received about the cleanliness of the toilets. Cllr Blackie had contacted Amanda Dyson, in charge of the Waste and Street Scene section at RDC to register these concerns. Hawes has the greatest use of the 14 public toilets in the District with just under 200,000 people a year using the facilities, and at the height of the season when the Chairman was Leader of RDC they were cleaned 3 times a day.

Colin Dales admitted it had now been reduced to once a day and agreed there had been absolutely no consultation with the Parish Council about this severe reduction in the cleaning regime. Parish Councillors considered this was totally inadequate, especially as the local economy heavily depended on tourism, and very often whether a tourist returned for follow up visits will be judged by the cleanliness of its public toilets.

They added that as there is to be a charge to use the RDC toilets in future, another issue on which there had been absolutely no consultation with the Parish Council on, people would quite rightly expect the facilities to be spotlessly clean.

Colin Dales said that the Waste and Street Scene section were going through changes and were short of staff but he suggested they were doing their best. He apologised for the difficulties but stated there were 14 other toilets to clean in the District and they were trying to get the right balance as they had savings to make. The Chairman suggested if that was the case then the toilet that had the greatest footfall should receive the greatest attention rather than have the cleaning reduced from 3 times to once a day.

Colin Dales also said this was why the street caretaker in Hawes had much less time to spend on keeping the town tidy. He asked to be informed if the toilets or the streets in the town were below an acceptable standard. The Chairman requested that complaints be brought to either his attention or reported to the Upper Wensleydale Community Office, or both.

***Resolved – Parish Councillors recorded that whilst they had listened to Mr. Dales response, they were extremely disappointed with what they had heard and the complete lack of engagement by RDC with the Parish Council on key issues that impacted detrimentally on the town and its local economy.***

### **RDC Car parking charges**

The Chairman reported that the Conservative political administration led by Cllr Yvonne Peacock from Bainbridge had voted through a proposed increase of 50% (from £1.00 to £1.50) in the charge for one hour's car parking at car parks throughout the District including the Gayle Lane car park. There were other substantial increases in the tariff for longer periods of car parking time. Cllr Blackie reported he had proposed at the Corporate Board meeting held in

Richmond that if there was to be an increase, which he was in any case against, and knowing the car park pay machines could accommodate 10p's and 20p's, then an increase to £1.10 or £1.20 was appropriate. This proposal had been voted down by the Conservatives on the Corporate Board.

Parish Councillors were aghast at this news and the huge increase in car parking charge for 1 hours car parking, which they considered would put local residents off coming to Hawes to shop and instead encourage them to go online instead, and deter visitors from returning again, or find them moving on to another tourist town where car parking was cheaper or there were no charges.

Cllr Abbie Rhodes reflected on the situation that in essence people were coming to Hawes, paying exorbitant charges to park their car, soon having to pay to go to the toilet, and the reward was to experience dirty toilets and walk along unswept streets. Cllr Blackie added on pavements decorated with street lights more suitable for a builder's yard.

Mr Dales said he understood the concerns. He stated all the car parks in the District were subject to the increased charges.

***Resolved - Councillors expressed great concern at the huge increases in car parking charges at the RDC Gayle Lane car park, and were highly critical of the total lack of consultation by RDC on these increases.***

### **Cut in RDC financial support for the Upper Wensleydale Community Office (UWCO)**

Walter Head who works at the UWCO was present and described the figures produced by RDC showing that only 20 people a week had come to the Community Office to undertake RDC business were completely ludicrous, factually incorrect and did not reflect the truth. He considered they were manufactured by RDC to justify a cut in the Service Level Agreement of 25%, from £15,500 to £11,000 a year.

The District Council (and its customers) was being provided with an UWCO open for 46 hours a week, including Saturday mornings, 52 weeks a year, for just under one third the cost (at £32,000 with on costs) of one full time RDC Customer Assistant, who would only work for 37.5 hours, 5 days a week, and would have 5 weeks holiday annually.

Walter Head said that RDC was receiving an absolutely first class service at the UWCO on the cheap, especially as the footfall at the Community Office was likely to increase from 85,000 to over 100,000 with the closure of the HSBC Bank. This will increase the footfall at the RDC desk as many people come in to the UWCO with one intention in mind, and then undertake other business, including RDC business, because they notice the range of services on offer.

He added that the staff at the UWCO were very unhappy at the cut in the financial support from RDC, and angry at the way false statistics had been used to defend it.

Colin Dales said he had little to say as it was not within his sphere of responsibility. Parish Councillors could see no reason why the financial support should have been cut and indeed given the increased footfall, consideration should have been given to increasing the current SLA. A number of the members of the audience agreed, and commented on the brilliant service the UWCO offers to the town.

### **Right to Buy / Sell off of high value Council houses**

The Chairman informed the Council that the emerging housing policy from the Government would extend the Right to Buy to Housing Associations, and require Councils to sell off their high value Council housing stock. This placed in jeopardy the thriving affordable social housing for rent sector in Hawes, which consists of around 50 houses and flats rented by the Council or Housing Associations, as they are all likely to be sold off under this new Government policy.

The Chairman wanted to make absolutely clear that no blame could be put on tenants (or their close relatives) wanting to buy their homes as it was perfectly understandable. After all a 3 bedroomed house in Hawes for £72,000 was a bargain – who in the right mind would want to look this Governmental gift house in the mouth, he asked.

Colin Dales, who is the Director of Housing at RDC, shared fully the concerns of the Parish Council and as it was Government policy, could offer no guarantees that the scenario the Chairman painted of no social affordable housing for rent would not eventually be the reality in the Parish. He was very concerned that deeply rural communities like the Upper Dales would be the most detrimentally impacted by the new policies.

He did say that very many Housing Associations have agreed a voluntary deal with the Government which might make them reluctant to offer Right to Buy to tenants in deeply rural areas. However it was voluntary and thus up to individual Housing Associations how this is taken forward, if at all, and it was not yet known what would happen in our area.

A question was asked about whether the Section 106 agreement limiting occupancy to local people would still apply under Right to Buy but Colin Dales said this remain in doubt as well. Cllr. John Amsden from Carperby told the meeting he had asked to see the local MP, Rishi Sunak, about the new housing policy, and to ask this very question, but he had been denied the opportunity.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that 3 Parish Councillors had met the MP and asked the same question. The eventual reply indicated the MP thought there was no Right to Buy in deeply rural areas, so plainly he was not up to speed with his own Government's housing policy. It was a matter of conjecture as to whether this was a deliberate ploy or not.

The Chairman thanked Colin Dales and Lee Robinson for attending the meeting.

***Resolved – The Parish Council agreed that the Right to Buy of Housing Association property and the sell off of high value Council dwellings in Hawes and Gayle posed the greatest threat to the future viability and sustainability of deeply rural communities as the lack of affordable housing to rent would be a further encouragement for young families desperate to find housing to have to leave the Upper Dales***

**c) The closure of the Brownmoor Caravan Club site in Hawes (and its Upper Wharfedale site) for 6 months from January to early July 2017**

Parish Councillors had received the trail of correspondence which clearly showed that the Caravan Club had been duplicitous in replying to the Parish Council's concerns expressed when replying to a statutory planning consultation to the YDNPA.

The concerns the Parish Council had raised then was that there was a suggestion that the site would be closed for 6 months, including part of the high season, which would have a detrimental effect on trade for shops and services within the local community, and a letter was written to the YDNPA Planning Department and asked for clarification. Their response was read out at the meeting stating that the Caravan Club "had no intention of closing the site for 6 months as it would not be in their own interests to do so". However the Chairman then showed the meeting a Caravan Club Development Update showing clearly that the site was to be closed from January – July 2017.

A Caravan Club member of staff had without advance notice rung the Chairman today. Cllr Blackie reported on a direct conversation in which the person (he said his name was 'Phil') was clearly unaware of the correspondence between the Caravan Club and the YDNPA, and also it appeared he was trying to send some strangely mixed messages denying it would be closed. When the Chairman challenged the person about the Caravan Club's own recent publication advising the exact opposite, 'Phil' promptly put the phone down.

Dr. Malcolm Hamer described the Caravan Club's denials as 'lies' to cover for an untenable position it had placed itself in. A member of the public asked if the planning permission could be rescinded to which the Chairman said this was not possible.

***Resolved – Parish Councillors were dismayed by the behaviour of The Caravan Club especially as the Parish Council had always given it wholehearted support for its developments on Brown Moor and the residents and businesses in the town have always extended a very warm welcome to its members who visited the site. It was unanimously supported that a letter be sent by the Chairman to the Caravan Club asking for an explanation.***

**Post meeting note from the Chairman –**

- The Head of Estates at the Caravan Club, Paul Barnes, has been in contact with the Chairman and met him on site in early December. He has apologised for the train of events involving the Caravan Club, and is promising a greater level of engagement with the Parish Council in the future. He admitted that the closure of Brown Moor site and the Caravan Club site in Upper Wharfedale at the same time was a mistake.

- Paul Barnes advised the Chairman that the Caravan Club has reacted to the pressure from the Parish Council, other individuals in the community, many of its customers, and media coverage on the Richmondshire Today website and 55 pitches on the Brown Moor site will be open from April 10<sup>th</sup>, the week before Easter, with the remainder open no later than June 26<sup>th</sup>. All pitches will be able to be booked when the Caravan Club opens its UK booking schedules in December. There will be an addendum indicating this in the Development Update issued ahead of this date.

**d) Business signage in Hawes Town Centre and the letter received from Michelle Clowes, Principal Planning Officer (North) for the YDNPA**

The meeting discussed the proposal Ms Clowes had put forward for an informal protocol involving the Parish Council to avoid official YDNPA enforcement action against a large number of local businesses displaying unauthorised signs. She stated there had been a number of complaints regarding the siting of signs either outside existing businesses or on nearby land, often Highway land, and was asking the Parish Council to help resolve the situation.

The Chairman was aware of 11 complaints received by the YDNPA, put forward it appeared on a tit for tat basis by rival or competing businesses. He asked for opinions on the proposal Ms Clowes was putting forward from the Parish Council and several business proprietors who were present at the meeting.

A discussion took place and some thought the High Street was getting cluttered with too many signs and they could cause an obstruction, whilst some proprietors thought that not only was it vital for their business, it protected their shop frontage from poorly parked cars.

A business owner asked what would be the policy of the Parish Council and the Chairman replied it would be to apply common sense and take a reasonable approach to any complaints it receives or any requests for new signage involving land beyond the ownership of the business concerned.

***Resolved - There was total agreement in the meeting and amongst the Parish Councillors that the tit-for-tat complaining to the YDNPA must cease, otherwise enforcement of all unauthorised signs would follow, and that to avoid all businesses being in peril of this, the Parish Council would adopt an informal role in supervising the business signage in the town.***

**e) The potential removal of 24/7 Critical Care Services at the Darlington Memorial Hospital, including the 24/7 Accident & Emergency (A+E) Service and the 24/7 Consultant-led Maternity and Paediatrics Service**

The Chairman gave a short update and advised the Parish Council that he had put forward a Notice of Motion to the November meeting of the County Council demanding the NHS to retain the critical care services at the Darlington Memorial Hospital, and reminding the NHS that it expects the promise of these 24/7 services continuing at the DMH that was made when these services were removed from the Friarage Hospital in 2014 to be delivered. His proposal was seconded on the Order Paper by the Leader of NYCC, County Councillor Carl Les.

Dr Malcolm Hamer asked about the rationale behind the proposals which he described as unachievable as the James Cook University Hospital would be overwhelmed by the additional number of patients and expectant mothers diverted there if the DMH and the North Tees Hospital in Stockton lost their 24 / 7 critical care services. Dr. Hamer added that the JCUH, providing excellent care as it does, was already approaching unmanageable status with the current numbers attending it, and the proposals represented a recipe for disaster.

**f) To discuss proposed new play equipment for the 2 play areas in Gayle recently acquired by the Parish Council from RDC**

The meeting discussed 2 emerging schemes and a request for funding support from the Parish Council for one of them to help match other grants already secured by the Chairman. In introducing the item the Chairman said that the legalities in transferring the ownership of the 2 play areas to the Parish Council was very nearly complete.

The scheme at the Little Ings play area had been worked up by Hazel Thwaite and a number of young mothers in consultation with the Chairman. It was to take away the climbing frame which is well past its sell by date and replace it with a play cabin similar to the play cabin at Town Foot play park which has proved to be so successful with particularly younger children. The cost is estimated to be £2500.

The fund-raising that has taken place so far is £900 (approved) from County Councillor John Blackie's Upper Dales Locality Budget, £500 (approved) from the Richmondshire District Council Upper Dales Area Partnership which the Chairman had successfully applied for, and £200 from the Gayle Mothers Group, and this has already been partially secured.

***Resolved: This leaves £900 to find, which the Chairman proposed should be granted by Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council, and this was seconded by Cllr. Abbie Rhodes. There was unanimous support for this grant.***

The other scheme was for a zip wire of the same length as the zip wire on Bainbridge Village Green, to be sited on the triangular play area by Bealah Bank / the Creamery. Hazel Thwaite had at the suggestion of the Chairman enquired of the firm who had supplied the zip wire at Bainbridge, and had met one of their representatives on site. It would be possible to site the zip wire in such a way that the mini football pitch so heavily used by the older youngsters could still be used at the same time as youngsters using the zip wire.

Funding will have to come from two already identified key local organisations (not the Parish Council however) but before they are approached the Chairman suggested that there should be 2 surveys undertaken, one of the children at Hawes Primary School to see if they would like a zip wire, and one of householders living near the play park to ensure they were comfortable with the proposed project.

Cllr. Andrea Caygill said she expected there would be 100% support from the schoolchildren, and she advised the Parish Council that many in her class persuaded their parents to take them to Bainbridge to have a go on its zip wire.

***Resolved – The Parish Council agreed in principle to locating the zip wire at the triangular play area in Gayle Lane, subject to the results of the two surveys, a check with the Council's insurance company to ascertain the additional premium to cover its use, and subject to the funding being secured.***

**g) Consultation on BT proposals to remove the following public telephone boxes in the Parish - Simonstone [33] / Burtersett [Nil] / Sedbusk [5] / Appersett [Nil] / Lunds [3] / Widdale School [Nil] (Note the numbers in brackets are what BT claim has been the usage in the last 12 months for the individual boxes)**

Councillors distrusted the statistics of usage provided by BT and strongly felt that until mobile coverage of all the major networks was more robust than there was a strong case to retain telephone boxes in case of emergencies in such a deeply rural area so remote from emergency hospital services.

***Resolved: There was unanimous support to retain all these telephone boxes, except the box at Widdale School which the Parish Council had already agreed to have removed to facilitate its conversion into a house, and these works were in progress now.***

**h) To discuss a formal request to be made by the Parish Council to the Hawes Market House Trustees to remove the Bookseller at its premises following the recent receipt by the Chairman of several more very serious complaints from visitors to the town of the abusive behaviour of its proprietor**

The Chairman has received in excess of 20 serious complaints in the last 4 years about the abusive behaviour of the bookseller, some by letter, some by e-mail and text, and some by telephone. These complaints have been discussed at a number of Parish Council meetings, they have been passed on to the Chairman of Hawes Market House trustees, currently Mr Graham DiDuca, but nothing appears to have been done to address the problem.

4 more complaints have been received recently. The Parish Clerk read out a letter received from Dr Bates of Market Drayton, Shropshire, who had been on holiday in Hawes and wrote that he found the behaviour of the bookseller totally unacceptable and considered he was a discredit to the town and its other traders. Unfortunately despite enjoying their holiday, Dr. Bates and his two friends from Holland had taken the memory of a very unsatisfactory experience in Hawes home with them.

The Chairman agreed the bookseller was a discredit to the good reputation of the town, he was letting the Market House Trustees down time and again, and the Parish Council was being negatively implicated in events over which it had no control over. Members of the audience described some of the unfortunate experiences they had endured as customers in the bookshop and several of the proprietors of tea rooms who were present spoke of the number of customers who had told them of the bookseller's rudeness. Some of these people said they would never return to Hawes again.

Mr DiDuca (a member of the public) stated that he had only found out about this today and thought he should have known before. He sought clarification from the Parish Clerk, who advised him that the letter had been addressed to the Parish Council Chairman and the item had been placed on the Agenda within the correct time for public view.

The Chairman advised Mr DiDuca he had had no intention of officially inviting representatives of the Hawes Market House trustees specifically to the meeting as the complaints continue to arrive at his door, addressed to the Parish Council. Previous complaints had been passed on to the Hawes Market House trustees but no action had been forthcoming.

A number of local residents had complained to the Chairman about the bookseller as well. A member of the public observed there was evidence that on tourist sites like Trip Advisor the bookseller was going out of his way to relish the appalling reputation his conduct was tarnishing the town with, to the extent he was now behaving very badly more frequently to attract even more adverse comment.

The Chairman suggested it was high time for the Parish Council unilaterally to do what it could to highlight what was a completely unacceptable situation in the hope that bringing the matter more firmly into the public domain might trigger some overdue action to deal with the blight on the reputation of the town, its businesses and the Parish Council.

The Chairman said Mr DiDuca was welcome to attend the Parish Council having seen the matter was to be debated in the public notices of the meeting, and in line with the usual protocols he invited him to speak if he wished. Mr DiDuca stated that the Hawes Market House Trustees understood the bookseller had a protected tenancy although he revealed the Trustees copy of the tenancy agreement had been lost, so they were taking the word of the bookseller's solicitor.

He also stated that the bookseller and one other tenant contributed 50% of the income to the Market House so the Trustees felt this steady source of income overcame the chorus of complaints he acknowledged were the price of his tenancy. If the bookseller was evicted from the Hawes Market House, the Trustees would have to raise charges to hire the facility from the many local organisations that use it.

He complained that the Parish Clerk had not passed on the complaints in the past, but the Chairman in the Clerk's absence advised he was certain they had been forwarded to the Market House Trustees, but he would double check when Ian King returned from holiday.

The Chairman said that although Mr DiDuca said the Trustees had consulted a solicitor, it was difficult to accept that a determined effort had been made to oust the Bookseller. A Notice to Quit served on the Bookseller would have forced the tenancy agreement his solicitor claimed he had a copy of into the open. He offered the assistance of the Parish Council to remove what in everybody's opinion is a rogue trader, should the Hawes Market House trustees wish to take it up.

Whilst no resolution was put to the meeting Councillors and members of the audience expressed serious concerns about the continuing flow of complaints to the Parish Council, and the feeling of the meeting was that the matter needs tackling once and for all now.

Dr Beal in his letter asked that his complaint be posted on public view in and that the trader should be reported to Trading Standards. There was a question whether Hawes Market House, a Charity, given its commercial reasoning behind retaining the Bookseller, was entitled to the discretionary rate relief for charities granted by Richmondshire District Council. One of the business proprietors said he paid business rates but his business was potentially in peril of being damaged by a tenant of a local Charity acting like a business but paying no business rates at all.

#### **i) Co-option of a Parish Councillor to replace Graham DiDuca who has resigned**

Nobody had come forward yet to either the Chairman of the Parish Clerk (Ian King) although the Chairman had a person in mind. If the person was interested he would circulate his / her name to other Parish Councillors to see what other Councillors thought. Otherwise if any Parish Councillor had any ideas on the suitability of a candidate, or they were approached by a person interested in serving as a Parish Councillor, the Chairman asked that the name should be forwarded in the first instance to him.

### **5. Chairman's Advisory Items / Latest News / Progress updates**

#### **a) Inconsiderate car and minibus parking near the Youth Hostel in Hawes**

Parish Councillors felt the response from the Police to the recent photograph of a car completely obstructing the pavement by the Youth Hostel completely inadequate and wondered whether it was worth reporting any incidents to the Police in the future. It was a half-hearted and lack lustre reply, containing ludicrous statements such as booking the driver would not prevent the incidents happening again, and would lead to a constant flow of unwanted requests for attendance by Police Officers to book other drivers who were also committing the same offence.

Parish Councillors concluded that the pathetic excuses offered in the letter were merely a fig leaf for the simple fact is that the Police could not be bothered to pursue these offences to their natural conclusion.

Meantime Parish Councillors observed that local residents including some with babies in push chairs or disabled people in wheelchairs were forced to compete for road space with 44 ton HGVs, speeding motor-cyclists leaving Hawes, and a generally busy traffic black-spot in the town.

The Chairman said that he was now receiving weekly complaints of parking on the pavement by the Youth Hostel and asked that people reporting them should take a picture on their mobile telephone. If they could forward the picture to his mobile phone or e-mail, he would then forward them to the Police for comment.

It was suggested that the Youth Hostel should put up a notice to advise that any car parked illegally will be booked.

**Resolved: The Parish Council was extremely disappointed by the reply from the Police, the failure to book the offending driver and the totally inadequate reasons given for not pursuing the offender. It unanimously supported the Chairman in whatever action he took to highlight the events in the public domain.**

**b) The Gayle Green public meeting**

**Decision: Referred to the January meeting**

**c) Chairman's aide-memoire – War Memorial Event / YDNPA Local Plan consultation**

**Not discussed**

**d) Police issues**

**None – Parish Councillors were left speechless by the comments in the letter about the parking at the YHA hostel.**

**e) Late emerging and tabled issues**

**None**

**6: NYCC Highways**

The Parish Clerk to follow up the letter received from Mavis Fawcett about Cotterdale and the report and pictures from Cllr. Abbie Rhodes about the potholes in Gayle potholes. The overgrown verges from Lancaster Terrace to Mossy Lane by the B6255 have been cut by Peter Iveson as a volunteer.

**Cattle grids at Faw Head:** It was reported that Mr Mark Burton wanted 2 cattle grids on the road to his farmhouse. The road was a NYCC green lane, consisting mainly of stoned and gravelled surfaces, was subject to acute drainage problems, and no work had been undertaken on it by the County Council in the last 10 years. Mark would pay himself for the cattle grids, and install them subject to the design specifications laid down by NYCC. .

However he was advised after waiting 8 months for official approval that NYCC Highways required a “commuted sum” of £30,000 per cattle grid, thus £60,000 in all for “future maintenance” of the cattle grids, this despite the complete lack of attention that road has been subject to in the last 10 years.

**Resolved: The Parish Council was aghast at the demands of the County Council which were likened to highway robbery and nothing short of a scam. The Chairman will raise the matter at the next County Council meeting.**

**7: YDNPA Planning Applications**

a) **R/56/418B JT Atkinsons Hawes.** Full planning permission for erection of a lean-to extension to form entrance lobby to Builders' Merchants.

**Resolved – Strongly supported**

b) **R/56/484LB Appersett Farm.** Listed Building Consent to strip and re-cover part of roof and replace defective timbers

**Resolved – Strongly supported**

**8: Correspondence received to note**

a. Nominations for a Parish Council member to serve on the YDNPA, replacing Harold Brown

**Resolved – The Parish Council unanimously supported the nomination of Cllr. Tony Fawcett**



- b. Request for a Parish Councillor to attend an external Review session of the performance of RDC

**Resolved – There were no takers.**

- c. Proposal to give a name for the War Memorial green

**Resolved - It was felt that it will naturally assume the name Memorial Green. A member of the public reported it has to date been called Town Head Green**

- d. Upper Dales Fireworks Committee – Request for a donation towards the 2016 Community Bonfire

**Resolved – The Parish Council will offer to pay for a skip to remove the remains of the bonfire, or contribute £150 to the UDFC in the event the skip is not required.**

- e. The Wensleydale Flyer – Request for a donation towards the winter Sunday service

**Resolved – The Parish Council will give a grant of £100 as long as the winter service operates this year.**

- f. **NOTED - YDNPA Young Ranger Groups** – Information on this new initiative

- g. **NOTED - Upper Dales Health Watch Minutes** (October 2016 meeting)

- h. **NOTED - Police and Crime Plan Consultation**

- i. **NOTED - Friends of Lady Anne’s Way** – Information and appeal for funds

- j. **NOTED - Town Foot play park inspection** – RDC safety inspection report

## **9: Financial Matters**

**Resolved -**

**- The Parish Council were in agreement that now the HSBC Bank has closed the Chairman would authorise payment of accounts online, and be held responsible for them. The Parish Council at each of its meetings would be presented with the Bank Statements in successive numerical order detailing the payments made. The paper invoices underpinning these payments would be available for inspection at each of the meetings.**

**- HSBC Bank Statements from 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016 numbered 367 / 368 / 369 were presented to the meeting and all payments shown on them were approved by the Parish Council.**

A refund of VAT paid out by the Parish Council, in the sum of £3012.03, applied for in early September, was well overdue, and the Parish Clerk was delegated to chase its payment up with HMRC.

## **10. Date of the next meeting**

Depending on maximising the availability of Parish Councillors, Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

## **11. Any Other Business – None**

**Meeting ended at 9.50 pm.**