

## RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre

**Present** Ernest Leach (Chairman) Cllrs James Richardson Alison Morris, Hilary Law  
and Alex Watts-Tobin  
Clerk, Chris Elphick  
County Councillor Libby Bateman

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Helen Shields, Paul Capstick and District  
Councillor Ian Torkington

**Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in any  
item on this agenda...

**Minutes of the meeting** held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 had been circulated and were signed by  
the chairman as a correct record.

#### **Fell End Broadband**

Installation of the 15km of underground duct is nearing completion. BT is progressing  
with the installation and connection of the fibre conductors.

Libby Bateman, Chris Elphick, Will Hamer and Harry Hutchinson had met the Prince  
of Wales at the George Hotel, Penrith. The Prince's Countryside Fund has been a  
major contributor to the project. Will Hamer and Harry Hutchinson represented two of  
the businesses that would benefit from the scheme.

#### **Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre**

No new activities to report this month.

#### **Planning Applications**

No. 14/0243	LB consent for the installation of a wood pellet boiler, hot water buffer tank, wood pellet hopper and flue
Type	Listed Building
Location	Tower House, Newbiggin-on-Lune CA17 4NX
Applicant	Mr & Mrs Wardrope
Parish Council	This proposal appears to require no structural or significant external alterations to the building. No objections.

#### **Finance**

The Hewetson Trust, from whom the Newbiggin-on-Lune play area is rented, has  
advised a change of Managing Agent. This will require a revised Standing Order  
instruction. It was resolved that the Clerk/RFO make the necessary arrangements.

#### Notice of Repeal of s150 of the Local Government Act 1972 (the two signatures rule) and proposal to adopt revised Financial Regulations.

This has now been approved by Parliament and a legislative reform order (LRO)  
repealing the statutory requirement for 2 elected members to sign cheques and other  
orders for payment is in place. This gives councils the opportunity to review how they  
control their money and if they wish can take advantage of new technology such as  
internet banking. Any council that wants to take advantage of it must follow "proper  
practices" in line with the Governance and Accountability Guide for Local Councils (2010).  
This has been updated in light of this change.

#### Safeguarding public money.

The guidance states that the two signature rule must not be abandoned until a council  
has put in place safe and efficient arrangements in accordance with the guidance. It is  
essential that councils "*maintain robust controls on payments as an integrated part of  
their overall financial control system*".

New draft Financial Regulations have been received from NALC which contain alternatives to be completed by the individual councils to suit their needs. The Clerk to insert appropriate sections and circulate to members for perusal before the next meeting. It was further proposed to implement full Internet Banking and a Debit Card for the RFO. This would obviate the necessity for the RFO travelling to get two signatures between meetings. Suitable checks and conditions of use to be implemented.

It was reported that the 2013-2014 Audit instructions had been received from BDO (Auditors).

Sums Received

HMRC – VAT	£ 3,603.00
RDPE/Defra	£ 8,882.50

Accounts for Payment

C J Elphick (Month 1)	£ 480.00
EDC Non-Domestic Rate Bill (High Chapel)	£ 00.00
CALC Subscription 2014-15	£ 152.00
TS Trenching (Final)	£ 26,676.00
C J Elphick (Admin Expenses to 21/03/14)	£ 226.88

The foregoing sums were approved for payment.

**Public Participation**

County Councillor Libby Bateman outlined the County's developing policies on reduction of public transport subsidies. Particular concerns were the provision of school transport for post 16 year olds plus the additional requirements for pupils to stay at school up to 18 years of age. Reduced services would also increase isolation for the elderly.

Libby also reported falling numbers of pupils at Ravenstonedale Primary School. Several children had been removed in a short period and relocated to Kirkby Stephen.

**Publications & Correspondence Received**

CALC Circular – April 2014  
Historic Towns Forum – April Newsletter.

**Date of next meeting (Annual Parish Meeting & AGM) Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Date 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014