

As most of the current Councillors were not present when Councillor Blackie was the Chairman you may not be aware of what happened in 2016.

We were approached by Councillor Blackie outside Newkin and he explained that the Culvert was in a state of repair, he told us not to worry and it was the responsibility of the Council to get the Culvert repaired and that no costs would be occurred to ourselves. He was only letting us know out of courtesy as we are the owners of the Playground.

If you look back on your minutes of the meeting on August 2016 you will see the Culvert mentioned and see that Councillor Blackie was dealing with this.

In your minutes of January 2017 you will also see that the works on the Culvert had been done and that a substantial amount of stone and a tarpaulin was removed.

At no time were we ever approached by the Council to pay for any of these works, as Councillor Blackie knew that the Culvert was covered under the lease agreement. At the meeting in the Newkin, Councillor Blackie did mention that it might be a idea to

change the lease and bring it up-to-date but we declined as it was done by my Grandfather and wanted to keep it that way.

You can imagine our surprise that eight years later we now received a email from the Council asking us to pay for repairs to the Culvert.

We feel that this is still not our responsibility as we are still on the original lease and nothing has changed.

As Councillor Blackie has now past, the only other councillor that may remember this is Councillor Alderson.

One thing i cant understand is that when these works were done in 2016 why wasn't a metal grid put at the entrance to the Culvert, this would of stopped alot of the problems that have now occurred.

On a personal note I do not take kindly to being told that if we do not pay that the residents of Hawes will have to pay more council tax. This could be construed as a form of Emotional Blackmail.

On another note, please can you refer to our solicitors letter dated 24th April 2014 where we ask to be informed on any playground matters whatsoever, and also at no point should the Roundabout be replaced without our consent as this is one of the original equipment.

I await your response.

Pauline Hayhurst

(Kit Calvert's Granddaughter)

Dear Mrs Hayhurst

I refer to previous correspondence regarding the above and our subsequent telephone conversation.

I advised the Parish Council of your viewpoint on the lease and they have taken some advise on it. They feel that the lease covers the land, perimeter walls etc but that it is not specific to underground channels such as the culvert.

It is unlikely that the Parish Council would be in a position to cover the full costs of this repair as it would take up most of our Income for the year and this would mean a huge increase in Council tax bills for our residents. They have asked me to ask you if you would consider making a contribution towards the repairs?

I look forward to hearing further from you.

Kind regards

Kate Kelly

Clerk

Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council