

HAYDON BRIDGE AND HAYDON PARISH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021

Present

Mark l'Anson (Chair), Will Rutherford (Vice Chair), Eileen Charlton, Esmond Faulks, Ian Foster, Kate Minto, Henry Swaddle and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Community Action Co-ordinating Group (NPCAG): Phil Hartley, Siobhan Stephenson, Tina Taylor

21.41 Apologies

Peter Fletcher, Michael Sadgrove (NPCAG)

21.42 Discussion with the NPCA Co-ordinating Group

MI welcomed members of the NPCA Co-ordinating Group and introductions were made. He then went on to give a brief history of the Development Trust (DT) since it was set up to deliver some of the outcomes of the 2008-2018 Haydon Parish Plan. The work of the DT had mainly focused on keeping the library open and developing the service it provided to include tourist information and internet café at The Bridge. The highly successful annual Haydon Hundred Cycle Sportive event raises a significant part of the funding for The Bridge each year, along with fund raising in the library and the PC paying our Rent. Other aspects of the DT's work covered local economy and business support; tourism; village entrance signs; riverside renovation and acting as host charity/facilitator for other groups in the village including the Flood Relief Fund; the lunch club and the gardening group. The DT has a strong and mutually supportive relationship with the Haydon Parish Council (PC) which was something many other Development Trusts didn't experience. He ended by saying that that the DT had become stable and needed new blood. Comments from the NPCAG on the potential relationship between the two groups included acknowledgement :

- that some Community Actions were self sustaining and others would need management and fundraising support eg. community energy and electric care charging
- of the experience of DT especially in fundraising; of a potential monitoring & advice role for DT and of the need for a charity to apply for charitable funding on behalf of the various groups within the NPCAG

MI also reported that a bid had been made on the day of the joint meeting to the National Lottery Fund for funding for 3 electric bikes. The bid had needed to be made quickly as the deadline was that day.

SS summarised work on Community Actions to date. Some groups were up and running eg.

- Haydon Bridge Net Zero which covers bike paths, electric bikes and community energy;
- Your Haydon Bridge, the local business support group that also encourages buy local;
- Haydon Action for Nature & Diversity that covers all the green objectives within Community Actions including tree planting, habitat creation and working with Tyne Rivers Trust; Adopt a Footpath and Enhance the Village Through Gardening.

- Most of the community actions fall within the remit of these groups
- Housing, led by PF and Heritage, led by MS had also started work
- Some Community Actions, such as adult learning, do not as yet have anyone taking them forward

In terms of the ongoing relationship between the groups, WR suggested that the 2 groups amalgamate for 12 months to enable growth and development and that, during that time, the four members of the NPCAG not already a DT Board member would be co-opted to the DT Board. Those NPCAG members present agreed to this.

Action: KM to a) check the numbers of Co-opted Members permitted by the DT memorandum and Articles of Association and b) discuss co-option with Michael Sadgrove

The joint meeting of HBDT and NPCAG concluded and the NPCAG members present accepted the invitation to stay for the remainder of the HBDT Board meeting.

Present: Mark l'Anson (Chair), Will Rutherford (Vice Chair), Eileen Charlton, Esmond Faulks, Ian Foster, Kate Minto, Henry Swaddle

In attendance: Phil Hartley, Siobhan Stephenson, Tina Taylor

21.43 Apologies

Peter Fletcher

21.44 Declarations of interest

None

21.45 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2021

These were accepted as a correct record

21.46 Matters arising not already on the agenda

21.36 - MI reported that the Annual Report and Accounts had been submitted to both the Charity Commission and Companies House

21.39 - EF reported that Janice Cumberland had taken on the role of Co-ordinator of the HB Oil Buying Co-op on the retirement of Ann Rook

21.47 Parish Plan

Tourism

Haydon Hundred (HH): IF has started the annual email campaign and MI asked everyone present for help and ideas for the local and historical facts and stories that are so important

in these emails. The 2022 HH will be held on Saturday 11 June, the same day as a music event being held on the football field and it had been suggested that the two events could be promoted together with the hope of attracting tourists to stay for the weekend. A group from Wylam has been in touch with the HH steering group with a view to setting up a cycling event modelled on the HH. This event would not encroach on the HH route and would be held in September.

Village leaflet: IF said that he had made little progress on the leaflet since the last meeting but he did suggest making the leaflet an A3 trifold which would double the overall print area and allow for larger font which was very positively received. He suggested that the village leaflet and the children's village trail could be combined in the proposed larger size leaflet. It was also suggested that the leaflet could be linked to the website through QR codes which was also well received. As mentioned at the joint meeting, a local group of businesses has begun meeting for mutual support and to promote 'Buy local' and members of the group had asked IF about the village leaflet. There was some discussion on this.

Action: IF to attend the next meeting of Your Haydon Bridge to discuss what is needed in by local businesses in terms of updating the village leaflet

John Martin Information panels: HS had circulated plans and costs for renewing and updating these panels to DT Board members on 19 October. New durable, laminated panels would be glued on top of the existing panels and costs for this would be £140 per panel, plus £90 for the artwork retrieval and liaison with the manufacturer. A timely redesign of the panels, especially to add a better/clearer map is appropriate and would be an additional £350 (a lot less cost than the time it would involve as Marcus says he is keen to do this). QR codes could be added to link to the HBDT website. EF said that the PC would purchase the panels so that VAT can be reclaimed and that there was still some money in the PC John Martin fund. This could be topped up by DT if necessary.

The Bridge:

Library: EC said that a number of volunteers had retired after lockdown and that, although others had stepped forward, they needed training in library tasks before they could start work. This is a particular issue for the Saturday team. The library is currently open from 1-4pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Friday being the next day likely to open. The Bridge page in the Haydon News would start again as soon as possible.

Telephone and alarm contracts: The phone contract has moved from BT to a cheaper provider who includes free standard rate calls in the cost. IF is still trying to recover an outstanding account balance of over £200 on The Bridge account from the previous alarm service provider.

Communication: HS had previously circulated analysis of the Haydon Bridge website usage from August to November 2021. He is continuing to update the website on the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was noted that a volunteer is needed to take on the Village Notes in the Hexham Courant for Haydon Bridge as this is important to maintain a high profile for events in the parish. It

was suggested that this need could be mentioned in the Courant itself and also on the Haydon Bridge Matters Facebook page.

21.48 Governance

The revised Financial Controls had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved.

21.49 Finance and grants

MI said that the number of restricted funds within the DT accounts is growing, making managing the accounts more complicated than it needed to be. He suggested amalgamating some of these funds under umbrella headings to make things easier for the Treasurer. He stressed that this is merely an accounting protocol and that funds for each group whose monies were hosted by the DT would still be identified separately and could only be used for the activities of that group.

Action: DT Directors agreed this internal change to the accounting process

21.50 Date of next meeting

7pm, Monday 24th January at The Bridge