

HAYDON BRIDGE AND HAYDON PARISH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2021

Present

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

21.01 Apologies None

21.02 Declarations of interest None

21.03 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2020

These were accepted as a correct record.

21.04 Matters arising not already on the agenda

Car Parking at Riverside

EF had contacted Thompsons of Prudhoe about actioning the work to create extra car parking spaces down at the Riverside, but had not received a response. It was agreed that further follow up should wait till things have opened up more in relation to Covid19.

Cost of alarm

The current costly system through ADT of 24 hour link to redcare followed by contacting one or more nominated Directors was inherited from the time when the DT took over the library from NCC. The High School and Fire Station were also connected to the same system. Do we still need such a high tech alarm response, and could we get a cheaper option?

Action: Peter to check original arrangements and contract with ADT and talk to the alarm providers in the Industrial Estate about other potential options

BT

We no longer have broadband through BT but are paying £35 a month for the line and an average of £5 a month for calls and 20-30p a minute for calls to mobiles.

Action: Mark to assess if cheaper landline telephone option is available

Rent

EF said that the rent for The Bridge which the DT reclaims as a grant from the Parish Council, seems very high for such a small building. It is now c.£4500 a year, + £112pa for property insurance, which is also through Arch.

The rent framework was set when the lease was signed with Network Rail. The latest annual inflation increase was 1.7% and there is a rent review every 4 or 5 years.

Action: Peter to check the lease for when the next rent review comes round and it was agreed that before the next review we should get professional advice to assess what rent we should be paying and to help the DT negotiate the next rent level with Arch

21.05 Parish Plan

Tourism

Haydon Hundred (HH): MI reported that some costs incurred for last year's cancelled event could not be recoverable. The DT has paid £50 to reserve Saturday 12 June 2021 with British Cycling as a date for a possible HH this year, although the British Cycling website is not taking bookings on any 2021 events at the moment.

MI said that he has done some work on running a socially distanced event and it should be possible. We need to keep a watching brief.

It was noted that we might not be able to run it if British Cycling do not sanction it as they provide the insurance.

Action: Ian to put out some publicity about the date

Village leaflet: IF reported that the new village leaflets for 2020 had been designed and printed but never distributed because of Covid19. It was agreed to keep and distribute the leaflets for the 2021 tourist season.

Action: IF, PF and WR to distribute and collect the £20 donations when allowed; the one business that paid for 2020 to be refunded

Northumberland days Out Leaflet: IF reported that we had indicated to NCC that we wanted to be included. They have taken no action to print yet because of Covid uncertainty.

Action: agreed we have a watching brief but pay to be in if the leaflet goes ahead for 2021

The Bridge:

WR and PF reported that the branches overhanging the roof at The Bridge had been cut back. Since then the trees at the front have also been pollarded.

IF reported that Jim Coombes had been to deal with the leak, but that there was a very small leakage still.

Action: IF to ask Jim Coombes to take another look

EC reported that the bonus ball licence had been renewed.

MI asked for the latest electricity meter reading. **Action: IF to provide**

Communication:

HS has circulated the website usage figures – interesting take-up from China.

Action: IF will pay the bill to Graeme Sutton for website hosting from October 2020.

HS reported that additions to the website included: the updated accessibility statement; direct links to the county council Covid19 statistics and to the Environment Agency's flood level information.

HS has also added information on Neighbourhood Plan work and will add the reports of the recent household and business surveys when provided by PF.

21.06 Governance matters

PF reported that following approval at the last meeting, the DT annual report and accounts for 2019-20 had been submitted to Companies House and the Charity Commission.

Action: it was agreed that PF changes the DT's registered address with Companies House and the Charity Commission from PF's home address now he has moved, to The Bridge

21.07 Finance and grants

Financial controls

MI thanked KM for leading the work with him, EC, IF and PF on reviewing the financial controls. All Directors agreed that the revised version was a great improvement and reflected how things work within the DT

Decision: Directors approved the revised financial controls

Financial report and grants: MI reported on the latest financial figures that had been circulated. Running costs were c.£13-14k pa. Income this financial year was the £10k Covid grant and rent grant from the PC. Currently there was a surplus of c.£3.5k but there was likely to be only a small surplus by the end of the financial year.

PF reported that Arch would only possibly provide a rent holiday if we cannot pay the rent, which we can because of the PC grant. He has looked on the NCC website. There are no current grants available but there is notice of a new £4.6b government grant that might cover organisations such as the DT

Action: EC to ask Carole McGivern the Parish Clerk to check further on possible grants available for the DT, Community Centre and Langley Village Hall; PF and MI to make grant application when possible.

21.08 Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

PF reported that the household and business surveys circulated with the November Haydon News had gone well, and that there had been a good level of response. A summary of the findings will be in the February Haydon News.

Some directors had not seen the summary. **PF to circulate**

The Steering Group was now scoping the work on sustainability, employment, and further developing and finishing the work on the other 5 objective areas, with the aim of having a draft plan for community consultation by end March/April.

WR said there was a high level of response from retired people. PF explained that we also got a good level of response from younger age groups.

MI said that the interest in a cycling route to Hexham was encouraging.

PF said that there was a strong interest in renewable energy (but a lack of knowledge about options such as air source heat pumps), and other sustainability ideas such as tree planting.

EC said the surveys showed lack of knowledge from some residents about what was already available in the village. PF said he would try to do some feedback on that for the March Haydon News

Action: PF said that it was a little early to have a full discussion on possible implications for future DT action from the NP and it was agreed

to have a discussion at the next DT meeting or to have a separate meeting.

21.09 Any other business (notified to the chair before the meeting)

None

Action: WR & PF volunteered to prune the branches outside the library

21.01 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 23 March at **7pm**. A special meeting will be called at an earlier date if needed to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan