

# **HAYDON BRIDGE AND HAYDON PARISH DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022**

### **Present**

Mark l'Anson (Chair), Will Rutherford (Vice Chair), Esmond Faulks, Ian Foster, Siobhan Stephenson, Christina Taylor, Phil Hartley, Michael Sadgrove, Peter Fletcher, Kate Minto

### **22.01 Apologies** Eileen Charlton, Henry Swaddle

Michael Sadgrove was welcomed to the meeting.

### **22.02 Declarations of interest** None

### **22.03 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021**

The minutes were agreed.

### **22.04 Matters arising not already on the agenda**

MI confirmed that at the last meeting it had been agreed that Members of the NP Community Actions Co-ordinating Group would be co-opted onto the DT Board for an initial 12 month period.

KM confirmed that the Mem and Arts for the DT allowed for secondment of additional members onto the Board between AGMs.

KM also confirmed that she had talked to MS following the last meeting and he had confirmed that he was also happy to join the DT for the next 12 months.

### **22.05 Neighbourhood Plan and Community Actions update**

PF reported that he had talked to Sarah Brannigan from NCC and Jo-Anne Garrick the PC's NP planning consultant about progress on the plan.

- The County Council has completed its 8 week consultation on the submission draft
- An Independent Examiner has been appointed and is starting work

The next step for the plan is for Jo-Anne to produce a table setting out all the comments on the Submission draft and recommending how we might respond about these to the Independent Examiner in terms of whether we should support the suggested changes or not. A further meeting of the NP Steering Group will be held on 8 February to review the comments document, review progress on the community actions, and to plan the PR for the referendum which will be held in May. It was hoped that the plan will come

into force in June, but it already had some weight in planning decisions as the Submission Draft. DT directors noted and welcomed the progress on the draft plan work.

The submission draft of the Community Actions had been circulated before the meeting for discussion. They were set out under the 7 NP objectives

- Sustainability and climate change (objective 1)
- Built and historic environment (objective 2)
- Natural environment: (objective 3)
- Housing (objective 4)
- Vibrant and thriving communities: (objective 5)
- Local Economy: (objective 6)
- Accessibility and transport: (objective 7)

Key areas discussed and action agreed were:

1b carbon reduction: The parish is now a member of the NCC climate change group. It was agreed that there is an urgent need to address fuel poverty and to promote information and advice, given the imminent steep rise in prices of fuel to heat the home. NCC is looking at develop a toolkit for PCs on energy efficiencies.

**Action agreed:**

**Parish Council to consider appointing a climate champion.**

**PF to contact CAN about possible grants available and how best to get information on energy efficiency and energy grants out to the community, including possibly a 'drop in' event at the community centre**

**SS linking with NCC climate change group**

3a village enhancement: the gardening group under Carole P is making great progress and has secured grants for planting from the PC and Alan Sharp.

3b smallholding development: SS is talking to Lydia Coulson from Low Hall who is interested is using some land she owns for a Community Interest Company for growing produce. An approach could also be considered to the Shaftoe Charities about using the field to the South of Shaftoe Terrace as a smallholding initiative. **SS and CT to follow up**

3c habitat creation: 90 trees have been secured from NCC, as well as 100 hedge bushes from the Woodland Trust for planting round the cemetery. There is a need to follow up offers of land from the NP household survey for tree planting. Smaller initiatives could also be considered such as bee bombs **SS and CT to follow up**

4b Community led social housing: PF reported that Strutt & Parker had been asked by Greenwich Hospital to market the Strawberry Field site to developers with a view to selling the site and getting it developed. **PF to liaise with CAN to set up a presentation and discussion at the Community**

**Centre in early May led by CAN, about developing community led housing on the strawberry field site as part of the housing mix there.**

**5. Vibrant and thriving communities:** It was noted that a number of these items are for action by the Parish Council. **PF and EF to meet to discuss issues for PC action and how to take them forward**

**5a. Access to High School facilities:** No progress had been made at the meeting with the headmaster last summer, although the staff car park was used as parking for for the HH event in June. **It was agreed to keep trying to build links between the parish and High School. MS to liaise with the Headteacher to arrange for him to come to a PC meeting**

**5b/5c. Services for the community.** SS reported that she has been talking to Stomping Ground who are interested in running mental health related outdoor activities, and possibly also after school activities for Shaftoe School pupils, perhaps in Geeswood. **SS to follow up**

**5e. High speed broadband:** We Fibre has now installed the communications box to the north of Foundry Court and is aiming to roll out connections in the summer/autumn. It was noted that they are not including everyone in their updates. **PF to forward their latest update email to DT Directors**

**6.a. Supporting local business.** IF reported that progress on this initiative has stalled. Only 4 businesses had attended the buy local meeting at Langley Castle with the Rural Design Centre (RDC) and since then no other businesses had shown any interest in getting involved and none of the 4 had completed the application to the RDC for free consultancy support. It was difficult for Vanessa for Murray Farmcare to make progress without support and interest from other businesses.

**6.b. Promoting tourism:** (see discussion under agenda item 6)

**7a. Cycle route to Hexham:** NCC are working on large town initiatives and the Borderlandsgrowth partnership are working on Hadrian's Wall initiatives. But the Tyne Rivers Trust are identifying landowners on the route to talk to and Active Travel Tynedale are promoting a cycle/walk along the proposed route on 7 or 8 May to promote the concept more widely. The Haydon, Hexham and Corbridge PCs/TC are also discussing working together on the initiative. **PH to continue to push this on behalf of the parish**

**7b. electric car charging points:** The 2 charging points behind the community centre are now operational. **PF to liaise with Charge My Street about promoting and marketing them.**

**7c. cycling:** A funding application has been submitted to the lottery for an ebike hire initiative. **The Directors agreed to submit a further application for this to the post Cop26 NE and Yorkshire fund and to underwrite the bid up to a maximum of £2000 matching funding, with volunteer time on top of that. PH would work with PF and MI on the funding application which has to be in by 11 February.**

7d. Footpaths initiative: All the paths have been adopted by a volunteer and all but one have been walked and surveyed. 2 meetings have been held with Tim Fish from NCC and NCC will feedback what action they can take on improvements needed and what will be left for the community to action. It was noted that parts of the JM trail were in a bad state.

A new walking group had also been set up.

NP Community Actions Co-ordinating Group

**The Group will hold a meeting to agree how to report back to the DT at future meetings and how best to drive the community actions forward**

## **22.06 Tourism and other village projects**

*Haydon Hundred (HH):* MI reported that the 2022 HH will be on Saturday 11 June and that we have had 52 entries so far

*Village leaflet:* IF reported that the DT still has 1500 copies of the current leaflet. There was a discussion as to whether or not we need such a leaflet going forward or whether the focus should be online promotion of the village as a tourism destination. The idea of shifting the focus of the leaflet going forward from promoting local businesses to attracting visitors to Haydon parish was supported. This opened up opportunities to re-work the leaflet.

**Given the lack of progress by the buy local initiative it was agreed to progress slowly on this and to use existing leaflet stock for this year.**

The opportunity to link into the Hadrian's Wall 1900 anniversary programme was discussed and agreed. **CT to discuss with the NNPA about how the Parish can get engaged and publicise village events as part of the anniversary programme**

*Northumberland days Out Leaflet:* IF reported that NCC are now going to produce a 2022 version of this. **It was agreed that the DT would fund an advert at a cost of £300**

*John Martin Information panels:* EF confirmed that the PC did not hold any JM funds as they had all been distributed. HS has provided costings for replacement panels.

**Action: It was agreed to fund the cost of new panels up to a cost of £1280 + VAT, to be funded by £1000 from the PC and the balance from the DT.**

## **22.07 The Bridge**

*Re-opening date:* EC had been unable to attend the meeting. The Bridge had opened two days a week in the autumn but was currently closed due to training needed for potential new volunteers and the existing teams having Covid concerns. It was hoped that the library would re-open in February or

March. It was agreed that MI would talk to EC about what help the Directors could offer to support the re-opening of the library.

#### **22.08 Communication**

HS had circulated the website usage figures.

#### **22.09 Governance matters**

The Directors agreed the Co-option of Siobhan Stephenson, Phil Hartley, Christina Taylor and Michael Sadgrove as Directors for an initial 12 month period.

#### **22.10 Finance and grants**

There was nothing to report

#### **22.11 Any other business (notified to the chair before the meeting)**

There was no other business

#### **22.12 Date of next meeting**

Thursday 21 April 2022 at **7pm**. As PF would be away KM offered to liaise with MI on the agenda and papers for the meeting.