

**MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL ON 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM IN  
HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present :** Cllrs J. Bates, I. Burrows, E. Charlton (Chair), B. Howard, J. Keyte, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, J. Thompson and D. Thornhill; members of public and press; C. McGivern (mins.).

**1. Public participation –**

- a) Mr Parker said that during the recent storms the drains in the lane between Lands End Road and the river had overflowed. This was sewerage. This had already been reported to NWL.
- b) Mr Parker wondered where the boundaries for the road sweeper to work where. Cllr Sharp said he would look into this.

**2. Apologies –** were received from Cllrs Faulks and Kirsopp.

**3. Declarations of interest –** none were received.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting –** having been circulated, the minutes were agreed and signed.

**5. Report from Northumberland County Council –**

Cllr Sharp circulated the final plan for Ratcliffe Road. He said that the only significant change was the addition of double yellow lines for traffic travelling east, below the bus stop. The fingerpost should be installed in the next two weeks, depending on weather conditions. The installation of a new bin at the Co-op and moving of old bin will be done at the same time. Cllr Sharp had met with residents of Belmont Gardens to discuss concerns about site traffic and the use of the road between their homes and the school. He had confirmed to the residents that traffic to the sports hall will continue to go through the school. A sign at the end of Belmont Gardens saying no through route will be reinstated. The gate at the end will be shut and padlocked again. Anyone going to the sports hall will have to go through the school grounds. 20mph signs had been installed at the Showfield, but Cllr Sharp felt that there were not enough. More signs are needed particularly beside the play park. Cllr Kirsopp had also raised this issue. Gullies had been cleared out earlier in the week, but there were still problems in the area of Martin's Close/John Martin Street. It hadn't been possible to carry out a camera survey yet, due to the amount of water in the drains. Potholes at Threepwood are still to be repaired as workmen have been busy elsewhere. NCC have been given another £50 million for work on the highways, and Cllr Sharp said that rural roads were the real problem. Signs are to be installed at either end of New Alston, saying "Welcome to New Alston, please drive carefully." 20mph signs are needed on Church Street too. Cllr Sharp will allocate £2,000 from his Member's Allowance to safety measures at the Shaftoe Academy. He and Cllr Richardson had met with Wise

Academies. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Shaftoe Trust to request a meeting with them to discuss the proposed project.

**6. Highways –**

- a) Cllr Richardson passed on a complaint from Cllr Kirsopp about overhanging branches on the way up to the Showfield, on the right hand side. Water is also coming down the bank from the back gate of the school.

**7. Lighting –**

- a) Cllr Charlton said that there were still orange lights to sort out. One at the Showfield needs to be added to the map of adopted roads/lights.

**8. Planning applications – none were received.**

**9. Accounts -as agreed in budget.**

Request for a grant from the Lifespan charity – the Clerk had contacted the charity again and requested an idea of how many people within the parish had received help from them. They had replied to say they could not give details. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not give a grant to them.

**10. Correspondence –**

- a) NCC replied to a request for tree pruning at the library saying that “pruning would be carried out to remove any epicomic growth on the stem as well as to provide clearance from the roof and gutters.” Cllr Charlton said that these trees should continue to be pruned at the same time as the others on Church Street. Cllr Sharp will raise this again.

**11. Parish projects –**

- a) **Development Trust** – no meeting.
- b) **Neighbourhood Plan** – Separate groups are now tackling different areas such as the environment, employment etc. Cllrs Charlton and Thornhill are now the only parish Cllrs involved. Regarding a proposed cycle path from Haydon Bridge to Hexham Mr Hartley has taken this on board. Sustrans are also keen to include this in their routes. Mr Hartley is making links with Hexham Town Council as a small section of the route is outside the parish.
- c) **Public footpath** - Cllr Charlton said that a few years ago a group of people in the village had collected evidence for a public footpath to Limestone. There was an issue with fishing rights so this was put on hold. They have now been told that they can go ahead. They still have the evidence they gathered, but it would be useful to have some more

recent accounts. It would be good to have better access created close to the bottle bank where the path is very steep.

- d) **Tree planting** – Cllr Thornhill said that Cllr Keyte had raised this at the governors meeting at the High School. Marjorie Marsh is already working on a tree planting project and would be happy to receive the saplings that the PC have. She would also welcome help from volunteers for planting. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Thornhill to move the saplings.
- e) **Floodlighting at St. Cuthberts Church** – Cllr Thornhill said that this proposed project had been discussed for some time. NCC had now responded to say that they could remove the lights from the old bridge at a cost of £270. Cllr Thornhill had spoken to the Parochial Church Council, who were keen to go ahead and if necessary share cost. Cllr Keyte said that there was a power supply to the church tower and it should be possible to connect to this. The PCC will need to follow protocols such as consulting residents, bat surveys etc. The Vicar had requested a small working party of 1 person from the PCC and 1 from the PC and Cllr Howard volunteered on behalf of the PC. It was agreed that the PC were happy to pay for the removal of the lights.

## **12. Any other business –**

- a) Cllr Charlton said that people living on Alexandra Tce. had approached her about the footpath between them and the new homes on the fire station site. A fence has gone up which is not in keeping, as well as a new gate access. Property owners on Alexandra Tce pay for the upkeep of this lane and they had asked what boundary was shown on the planning application. The Clerk said that this information would be on the NCC planning portal.
- b) Cllr Thornhill said that a query had been raised about the position of a headstone at the cemetery. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to reassure the person who asked about this.
- c) Cllr Sharp said that he had asked the Planning Dept. about the new lights in the car park at the High School, and he had been told that they would be removed once the work is finished.
- d) Alex Kinsey informed Cllrs that he had recently taken over as editor of the Haydon News. He had just completed work on his 1<sup>st</sup> issue. It was noted that in the past there had sometimes been discrepancies between the notes in the HN and the actual minutes. At present the minutes produced by the Clerk are reproduced in full. For those who wish to read the minutes of the previous meeting before the next meeting, they can do so by visiting the PC website. Mr Kinsey wondered if he could also look at publishing stories, with photos, of PC projects.
- e) Cllr Charlton said that the Neighbourhood Plan group were trying to collate a list of local groups and businesses.