

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL ON ZOOM  
AT 7.30PM ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2020.**

**Present :** Cllrs. J. Bates, E. Charlton, E. Faulks, B. Howard, J. Keyte, A. Kirsopp, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, J. Thompson and D. Thornhill; C. McGivern (mins.).

1. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllrs I. Burrows and K Richardson.
2. **Declaration of interest in items on the agenda** – none were received.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting** – having been circulated the minutes were approved and signed.
4. **Northumberland County Council** –

Castle Farm, Langley. Resurfacing works to be carried out this summer with dates to be confirmed. Shaftoe School access. Resurfacing to be carried out with dates to be confirmed. B6319. East and West accesses into the village off the A69. Resurfacing of both these areas is planned with dates to confirm.

Lowgate to A69. Structural patching is planned on this road with dates to be confirmed. At Elrington junction drainage investigation works will take place next week with CCTV works to establish any issues, prior to any further required work.

The finger post and bins are programmed to be installed early next week.

Some re-surfacing work has been carried out at Langley over the past few weeks and that further works are going to be carried out on the A686 road.

A new sign has been ordered for Tynedale Cottages and hopefully this will be provided soon.

Cllr Sharp had not yet heard from Neil Snowdon regarding the Ratcliffe Road improvement scheme and said he would provide a further update on this very shortly. He was also pushing for the signage and road markings to be installed in the Showfield as soon as possible regarding the 20mph speed restriction.

On the 4 June 2020 Cllr Sharp reported to all members that the problems with the drains at Martin's Close have hopefully now been resolved, but there is still some work required in the Langley Burn which will require Environment Agency approval.

Following a report from Avril regarding the footpath opposite the A686 junction just above Esp Hill, Tim Fish the Footpaths Officer has met with the landowner and agreed to install kissing-gates and hopefully this will stop motorbikes using this footpath.

Cllr Sharp had also told Tim Fish once again that we need the footpath at Haydon Spa sorted once and for all.

As mentioned in last month's report Cllr Sharp had been chasing up the planning department regarding the planning application at Haydon Bridge High School. He has now been informed that the fencing around the school was included in the planning application which was approved about ten months ago. This was included as part of the landscaping works. The planning application will not be approved until a meeting can take place following the lockdown.

With regards to the problem with the rats on the estate Cllr Sharp had arranged for the gardens to be inspected by the pest control department at NCC and the problem would appear mainly to be due to one or two householders who are feeding the bird. There is

also a lot of soil blocking the drains and open holes in the stone work of one of the properties. Strictly speaking the feeders should cease to be used for at least fourteen days according to the Pest Control Officer and Cllr Sharp said that he intended to raise this issue with Karbon Homes as I believe they could have investigated this issue before now. Unfortunately, this is a chargeable service from Northumberland County Council and they charge £55.00 per property and £27.50 if the occupier of the property is in receipt of benefit. The author of the recent letter has had a visit from the Pest Control Officer and Cllr Sharp will also follow it up.

There had been reports of some anti-social behaviour from a residential property. The village halls have recently received a grant from the County Council toward the loss of income during the Covid lockdown and some other organisations have also benefitted from this funding.

## **5. Highways –**

- a) A dangerous tree branch at the riverside picnic area was reported by Brian Juffs and this information was passed to Savills who sent out a tree surgeon to remove it on the 11<sup>th</sup> June.
- b) A request for a street sign for Tynedale Cottages was received from Marcus Byron and passed to NCC.
- c) Cllr Kirsopp had received a report of a damaged street sign at Hordley Acres. The Clerk has passed this to NCC.
- d) Fly-tipping on a lane near Willow Gap was reported to NCC, along with a request to keep the track open for pedestrians, but closed to vehicles.
- e) Trees branches which were blocking the path near Shaftoe Academy were reported to Wise Academies by Cllr Richardson and action will be taken.
- f) Cllr Kirsopp said that a sign at the West end of the village had been covered over. It was thought that this might be a 30mph sign that had been superseded by the 20mph signs.

## **6. Lighting –**

- a) Cllr Charlton said that there was still an orange light on at Crook Hill, this is the one which does not yet have a number.

## **7. Planning –**

**20/01554/FUL** - Change of use from redundant kennels to a single dwelling. Land North East of Threepwood Hall – no objections.

**20/01554/LBC** – Listed building consent to convert redundant kennels to 3 bedroom dwelling for holiday accommodation – no objections.

**20/01712/FUL** - Proposed greenhouse to the side of the dwelling house, replace an existing fence dividing the back garden from the drive with a stonefaced wall and wooden gate, Maresfield – The Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to this application, but from an environmental point of view they do in principle object to grassed areas being replaced by stone paving. This has a negative effect on carbon capture and creates flood issues, and as the County Council is aware flooding is a major issue further down North Bank. Can we suggest that the stone paved area remains as grass.

8. **Accounts** – as in budget.

## 10. Annual Return

- I. The Internal Audit was received.
- II. The Statement of Assurance was approved and signed.
- III. The Statement of Accounts was approved and signed.

## 9. Correspondence –

- a) An email from Helen Brooks regarding cycling on the pavements on Ratcliffe Road. Parish Cllrs who lived nearby had not noted a particular problem with this. However they sympathised with this ladies concerns and hoped that when the Ratcliffe Road scheme went ahead it would lead to traffic calming.
- b) An email had been received from NCC saying that they planned to re-open the public toilets in HB. The PC supported this but asked for details of the cleaning regime. These had been received.
- c) Cllr Richardson had reported that the bottle bins are full again and this had been passed on to NCC.
- d) A letter had been received from Derek Wilson regarding a caravan on his neighbour's land. The PC had replied to say that this was not a matter they could get involved in.
- e) An email had been received from Carole McGivern in praise of the many verges which are currently full of wildflowers and grasses, she requested that they are not cut until it is essential, perhaps after they have flowered. The PC supported this suggestion and Cllr Sharp promised to take it back to NCC.

## 11. Parish Projects –

- a) **Development Trust** – Cllr Charlton said that she had been contacted by someone from NCC who explained that the public libraries were to re-open and asking about Haydon Bridge library. Cllr Charlton had explained that many of the volunteers are over 70 and are reluctant to put themselves in a vulnerable position. Since then the volunteers had discussed only opening for 2 sessions per week, with a one-way system and only 1 person in the library at a time. She explained that most people can get hold of a book if they want to, the big problem is those who do not have a computer at home and use the computer at the library to carry out job searches etc. Cllr Faulks said that the library had got a grant of £10,000 from NCC which would help to tide them over until more normal times returned. The Clerk said that the Lit and Phil Library was re-opening soon and she would report back to Cllr Charlton on how procedures worked when they did.
- b) **Hanging baskets** – Cllr Kirsopp said that the hanging baskets could be delivered to Cllr Thompson the following day. Cllr Thompsons said that she and her husband were happy to distribute them, and she commented on how beautiful the baskets had been last year.
- c) **Flooding** –Cllr Snowdon asked if anyone else would be willing to take over the role of lead on flooding issues as he was so frustrated by the intransigence of the EA and other parties. The PC had met with the EA, NCC and NW in February and things seemed to be moving in the right direction. However, since then Cllr Snowdon had received emails from contacts at the EA asking him to remove them

from his contacts list. An approach to the Dept. of the Environment was discussed, with a first step of contacting Guy Opperman MP to get his support. Cllr Bates said that at the last meeting with them the EA had made it clear that they would not support further removal of gravel. Although the gravel was a very visual thing in the river, drains and infrastructure are probably more of an issue. The Clerk said that she had been in contact with NW and they had said they would be able to update the PC on possible options for addressing problems in these areas in September. It was agreed that she should invite someone from NW to meet with the PC in September. Cllr Snowdon agreed that NW had been helpful and had been very proactive during the flood. It was agreed that the PC would wait until September, to see what could be done Cllr Charlton reminded everyone that the new houses at Greenwich Gardens could not be let until after the flood report was received, but despite this the houses are available to let on the website. Cllr Sharp promised to ask about the flood report.

## **12. Any other business –**

The Chair said that he hoped that the PC could meet at the Community Centre in July, but Cllr Charlton informed him that the Community Centre would not be reopening until September. The Community Association had decided that it would be too difficult and too costly to open before then.