

**MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2019.**

**Present :** J. Bates, I. Burrows, E. Charlton, E. Faulks (Chair), A. Kirsopp, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, J. Thompson and D. Thornhill; Members of the public, C. McGivern (mins.).

**1. Public participation –**

- a) Vicky Lott said that she, like other residents who live on North Bank, had received a letter about parking on the road. She wondered whether a piece of land to the right as you turn off North Bank toward Peelwell could be used for this purpose. She suggested that webbing could be used to stop the ground getting too muddy. This was thought to be a good idea and Cllr Sharp will investigate who owns the land.
- b) Mrs Armstrong asked if it was possible to get something done about leaves on the pavements on Church Street and North Bank.
- c) Mrs Brown asked if planned work at the cemetery North side was going ahead, as she wondered if the work could be put out to tender. It was confirmed that the work had started and Mr Macdonald was carrying it out. Mrs Brown also asked why full size graves could not be put in this area, but she was informed that David Smith had measured depths in this part of the cemetery, and there was not sufficient depth for full burials.

2. **Apologies** – were received from Cllrs. Howard, Keyte and Snowdon.

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

4. **Declarations of interest** – Cllr Bates declared an interest in the planning application for East Lands End Farm.

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

Cllr Sharp said that the consultation on granite strips to slow traffic at the Showfield had been carried out. Of those who responded 7 people were in favour and 2 against. People suggested having them closer to the play area. It had also been suggested that road humps might be preferable at this location. It was agreed that road humps would be a better option. Cllr Kirsopp asked why there were no 20 mph signs on the road at the Showfield, and Cllr Sharp confirmed that this would be done. The Ratcliffe Road project requires another safety audit and will then proceed, after any issues that arise have been addressed. Drains at Strother Close have been looked at again. They are now better, but not completely sorted. A camera survey of drains at Martin's Close has been done and further work is needed. There is still flooding on John Martin Street where the drain is not working. Also behind the Methodist Church problems with drains continue. Flood Warden Craig Tulip had drawn up a full list and this had been passed to Cllr Sharp to deal with. Drainage work at New Alston has been completed, although

there was concern that the water pipe is still not large enough. A kerb stone at Whittis Crescent has now been looked at and will be repaired. The hedge here has been cut. Cllr Sharp was disappointed that the bus stop signs at Innerhaugh had not yet been sorted out, but they will be done. A proposed new street light between the Haydonian Club and the Showfield was discussed. Cllr Sharp is willing to fund this, and the Clerk is waiting to hear from the Council Officer concerned. Cllr Bates had looked at the lights in this area and wondered whether trees simply needed to be cut back around an existing light. It was agreed that Parish Cllrs would visit the site before taking further action. The removal of a wall behind the garages at Greenwich Gardens was discussed. When questioned about the fact that the flood report had not yet been received NCC had said that the planning condition was that it should be completed “before the houses are lived in”. The PC wondered whether they would be prepared to knock down new houses if it proved that they would exacerbate flooding issues. Cllr Charlton said that every stage in the process local residents had been told that the wall would be retained. It was agreed that the PC would write to Karbon Homes to ask for assistance in addressing the concerns of residents. This will be copied to NCC.

The problem of insufficient time at normal PC meetings to discuss planning applications fully was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would leave new plans at the library and if Cllrs felt that they needed additional time to look at them fully, then they would hold a separate meeting to allow this.

## **6. Highways –**

- a) A request for a new bin outside the Co-op was discussed. The Clerk said that this would cost around 350.00 plus installation costs. It was agreed that the Clerk would request a quotation for installing a new bin from NCC, and for moving the existing bin to the war memorial, and removing the old bins at the war memorial.
- b) The seats in front of the Community Centre were discussed. Neither of them are under shelter. It was felt that they should not be moved as they would block the windows. The Clerk said that the bus had recently been 30 minutes late, and this is a long time for people to stand if it is raining and they are trying to keep dry. It was agreed that Cllrs would look at this.
- c) Mr Hines has started work on the steps at Shaftoe Green. Unfortunately some of the wood for this job had been stolen.
- d) The Clerk said that Cllr Snowdon had reported little progress regarding the noisy road surface on the A69. He noted that in the planning application for East Lands End spoke of the need to address noise from the same road. Cllr Thornhill said that the bodies concerned were not consistent. There is a new road surface near Corbridge which is the quieter smooth surface. Cllr Charlton wondered how long the contract Roadlink held had to run. Cllr Bates asked if it was possible to see what specifications were put on this contract. Cllr Sharp will try to see if he can get hold of the contract.

## **7. Lighting – nothing to report.**

## **8. Planning applications –**

**19/04170/FUL** – Proposed rear extension to provide more bedroom space; existing loft refurbishment at 8 John Martin Street. No objections.

**19/03810/CCD** - Construction of new track and widening of access onto highway at Land Strip between Waite Farm House and West Rattenraw Haydon Bridge No objections.

**19/04097/FUL**- The Parish Council believes that these applications are premature as the Council will very shortly be embarking on a Housing Needs Survey with expert professional help, as part of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish.

The Council notes that there are already 165 houses on the Showfield dependant on one single access on to a narrow road opposite the primary school. The Council has concerns about the effect of additional traffic through this access leading down to Shaftoe Street, which frequently gets blocked, as there is insufficient room for two vehicles to pass. We are concerned that emergency vehicles may have difficulty getting through Shaftoe Street and may be unable to turn round on the roads in the proposed new development.

We are concerned about water drainage and sewage. (In the 2015 floods there was a massive run of water from the Showfield which is likely to be exacerbated by further development.) Indeed some houses on the Showfield have recently experienced flooding.

The occupiers of the nearest Showfield site, (built in three stages), were led to believe that there would be no further development beyond the third stage. This proposal amounts to a fourth stage.

There are at the moment a number of properties vacant and for sale in Haydon Bridge and we wonder if there is a need for any further developments, particularly of the 3/4 bedroom type.

Finally we have concerns for the viability of the farm at East Land Ends, if, as proposed, all the tenant farmer's buildings are demolished.

**9. Accounts** – As in budget.

**10. Correspondence** –

a) A request had been received for a memorial bench to be sited on the riverside. A spot near the interpretive sign on the riverbank between the old bridge and the General Havelock was discussed. It was noted that the grass would need to be cut in this area.

**11. Parish projects** –

- a) Shaftoe Green – Cllr Faulks said that the annual play inspection had been carried out of all play areas. The latest report said that the life expectancy of the equipment at Shaftoe Green was 2020. He proposed that someone from the firm who manufacture the equipment come out to the site to advise.
- b) Showfield play area – Cllr Faulks said that someone had dug into the soft pour play surface and this damaged had now been repaired. This had cost the PC 1500.00. A sign has now been put up to ask people not to allow their children to do this.

- c) Development Trust – Cllr Charlton said that the DT oversees the children’s club, run in the school holidays. There had been successful Friday sessions over the summer. There had been visits from the Police, Blood Bikes, a fruit and veg show and a food event. It had been a constructive 6 weeks. It is hoped to run this club again. Numbers of entrants for the Haydon Hundred had remained high and this event brings in a large chunk of money for the library.
- d) Neighbourhood plan – A meeting had been held in the past week. The planning consultant that the Committee had appointed seems to be very good. At a successful meeting lists of things to do had been made and two new volunteers had come forward.
- e) Trees for schools – The saplings will be delivered in November to Mr Robson. Cllr Faulks will take responsibility for the project and Cllr Richardson will liaise with the school over tree planting. It was agreed to plant them on the edge of Shaftoe Green and Cllr Bates will seek permission for this.

## **12. Any other business –**

- a) Cllr Burrows reported a broken fence behind the Community Centre, and the Clerk will report this to Karbon Homes.
- b) Cllr. Thompson had spoken to Anna Coulson in the art department at the High School. She is very keen for the children to be involved in a project to improve the appearance of the old antique shop. Mr Harrison is also supportive of the project. It was agreed that the PC would provide 50.00 for art materials.
- c) Cllr Thompson said that hanging baskets had been beautiful, and lasted very well. Cllrs Kirsopp, Howard and Thompson will store the empty baskets over the winter and are happy to organize them again next year. The flower filled wellies around the village had been much admired too. Cllr Charlton said that the basket hooks at the cemetery meant that they were too high to water. It was agreed that they would have planters instead next year.
- d) Christmas trees & lights – Cllr Thompson said that the committee had met in the last week. A lot of the lights need to be replaced, as do all of the boxes for the trees and transformers. This will be looked at during the PC budget meeting. The Clerk will check that the trees and lights can be covered by the PC insurance.
- e) Blue plaque for John Martin – Someone had asked whether a blue plaque could be put up for John Martin, as it had been for Philip Larkin. The Clerk will look at the information needed to do this.