

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> OF  
OCTOBER 2023 AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

**Present :** Cllrs E. Faulks (Chair) , B. Howard, K. Richardson, D. Robson D. Thornhill and T. Simmonds; members of the public and C. McGivern (mins.).

**1. Public participation –**

- a) Fran Fuller said that she and her husband had walked down from the Showfield and the streetlighting was very poor between there and Shaftoe Street. Cllr Sharp replied that he had asked for a survey for a new street light in this area, and he was prepared to fund it in full if necessary.
- b) Mr Fuller said that he regularly walked the same stretch of road and he had never seen a driver sticking to the speed limit. He was informed that this was a matter for the Police.

**2. Apologies –** were received from Cllrs J. Keyte, A. Kirsopp, and J. Thompson.

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

**4. Minutes of previous meeting –** having been circulated were approved and signed.

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

The re-surfacing of the A686 between Esp Hill and Light Birks will commence on the 6 November 2023.

The signs for the picnic site have now been installed.

The work on the road at Pagecroft has been completed.

The planning application for the change of use for the land at Low Hall from agricultural land to garden land has now been approved for Lydia Coulson.

Cllr Sharp had still not an update from Neil Snowdon regarding the roundabout and Ratcliffe Road and when he had spoken to him earlier in the week he had said that he was still awaiting the design plans.

**6. Highways –**

- a) NCC had replied to a request for an update on the proposed Charlton way road naming, saying “We are just undertaking statutory consultations before we can proceed further in this matter.”
- b) Cllr Simmonds raised the issue of the high wall running between Station Yard and the lane to the Old Vicarage which is in danger of collapse, as it is being pushed over by large trees in station yard. No one claims ownership of it. Cllr Thornhill confirmed that the land belonging to the church was beyond another wall. This was not an issue that the PC could take up.

7. **Lighting** – nothing to report.

8. **Planning applications** –

**23/03055/FUL** : Change of use and conversion of outbuilding to guest bedroom ancillary to main dwelling at Pagecroft – No objections.

**23/03766/FUL** : Proposal to convert former chapel into a family home with installation of conservation style roof lights, extending existing window openings, new window and door openings to east and west elevations; parking to the east of Chapel House at Langley former Methodist Chapel – No objections.

**23/03238/FUL** : Installation of new roller shutters at 9-11 Church Street - The Parish Council would prefer internal shutters as this business is within the conservation area and they feel that external shutters would detract from the appearance of the shop front. They are also concerned about the noise associated with opening and closing external shutters in a residential area.

**23/03239/ADE** : Advertisement consent for replacement signage with illumination – No objections.

9. **Accounts – as in the budget.**

10. **External audit** –

The audit for 2022-23 has been concluded and the statement of accounts has been published. The rights of inspection conferred on local government electors by section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 will be adhered to and details can be found on the parish noticeboard and our website.

In undertaking the review of the 2022/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return the external auditors said that

*“ the Council has not met the requirements of the 2015 Accounts and Audit Regulations to start the period of 30 working days for the public to inspect the accounts the day after the AGAR was published and to do so as soon as possible after it was approved. The Council should ensure that in 2023/24 they comply with the Regulations.*

*The bank reconciliation initially provided by the Council did not include cash book figures to reconcile to the bank statements. In future the Council should use the standard proforma provided in our guidance or in the Practitioner’s Guide when preparing the bank reconciliation.”*

Cllr Sharp said that Haltwhistle Town Council had received similar comments from the new auditors. The Clerk said that she would make sure that the period for inspection would fall within the correct dates next year, and she would check with the auditors so that the bank reconciliation follows the new rules.

11. **Correspondence** –

a) The PC had received an invitation from Michael Sadgrove to join a morning’s guided walk round the Conservation Area to help [all taking part] understand and

appreciate [the] built heritage and some of the people and stories associated with it. This will be led by Hugh Dixon, a local historian from Hexham and will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

- b) Cllr Steve Richmond of Carnforth Town Council had been in touch to explain that they were “thinking of is a simple exchange of wreaths next year to mark our centenary as an acknowledgement from the "band of brothers" [ie war memorials]. The PC agreed to this, but requested information on how this would be carried out.
- c) The EA had been in touch to say that they “understand that a council member has possibly received some concerns regarding the works [on the riverbank]...it has come to light that there is a misconception from the public that a public right of way is present down the residential street of Brigwood leading to the floodwall we are currently altering, unfortunately this is not correct. It is clear from information that NCC provided that the PROW is along the riverside path parallel to the river South Tyne only ... we would be grateful if you could pass this information on to any members of the public that may query this detail, which the contractor may not have been aware of at the time of questioning, to ensure clarity and transparency going forward”. This was discussed and Cllr Howard said that the EA had previously admitted that the area around the flood defence was worn away because so many people crossed it at this point. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the PC to point out that there were already styles to allow residents to cross this wall at certain points.

(Cllr Keyte joined the meeting).

## **12. Parish projects –**

- a) Cllr Keyte explained that he had attended a meeting of the group working on the proposed cycle route through the Tyne valley. Guy Opperman had suggested that a good initial step would be to begin clearing/tidying the beginning of the route (on the old A69) The PC supported this idea. Cllr Keyte said that there was not a lot of work to needed, but either machinery or a team of volunteers would be needed. Phil Hartley said that it would help with the application for funding for a feasibility study, and it would also help if this part of the route was advertised and there was some signage, although of course it is not a route through to Hexham at this stage. It would demonstrate intent, and would also stimulate debate in the village. Cllr Robson wondered whether a local firm would be willing to help and Cllr Keyte said that they were only looking for a 2 metre wide strip to be cleared of grass. Initially, a litter pick and clearance of a strip of grass would be sufficient. Cllr Sharp said that they would need permission from National Highways. Cllr Keyte said that the Bicycle Major had attended the meeting and was currently reaching out to local schools.
- b) Development Trust – Cllr Faulks said that a new website was being considered, and this included the PC section.
- c) Cllr Robson said that there was a very successful Whatsapp group for flood wardens, whenever there was particularly high river they all talk to each other and the river is watched until it has peaked. It was suggested that this might be enlarged to include people in the village at risk of flooding. Cllr Thornhill said that a new flood response co-ordinator was needed, and that he was carrying out this role

himself at present. Cllr Robson, who had previously been involved and has a lot of knowledge, promised to meet Cllr Thornhill to discuss this.

- d) Cllr Richardson said a tree stump still had not been removed from the green, near the disabled bungalow. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Karbon Homes again.
- e) Cllr Robson had passed on an email from Wefibre, offering a free internet connection to community centres. Cllr Faulks said that the community centre and the library had been alerted to this. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Langley village hall to make them aware too.
- f) The Clerk had circulated an email from Northern Powergrid about power outages and Cllr Robson said that it would be useful to have this information on the website too.
- g) Cllr Thornhill said that the bid for funding for a Resilience Hub at the cricket pavilion had not been successful. The first round of funding had been missed, but there was nothing the group could do about it as all bids had to go through Guy Opperman's office.