

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023**

### **Present**

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

Carole Price also attended up to item 6.

### **23.01 Apologies and in memoriam**

There were no apologies.

MI spoke about the sad loss of Eileen Charlton, both to the Development Trust and to the Parish more widely. He wished to record the enormous thanks of the Development Trust for the enormous contribution that Eileen has made to the community over many decades and how she will be very sadly missed.

HS reported that there have been a lot of lovely posts about Eileen on Facebook.

The funeral is at 11am on Friday 3 February 2023 in the Methodist Chapel.

The Bridge will be closed that day and notices will be put on the door and on Haydon Bridge Matters.

### **23.02 Declarations of interest** None

### **23.03 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2022**

The minutes were approved subject to the following changes:

Henry Swaddle and Ian Foster's names to be removed from the list of people present. Their names are already listed as Apologies.

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

22.41 Meeting with the PCC. PF reported that Gill Alexander has just come back with possible dates, and clarified that the focus of the meeting is on a new vision of the church as a resource for the community and a wish to understand Development Trust priorities and how we can collaborate together.

**Decision: it was agreed that MS and PF would represent the DT at this meeting and that we should include moving the John Martin panel near the Old Church into the churchyard, and the potential of having interpretation panels in the Church (including the John Martin exhibition currently in the Community Centre) in the discussion**

22.45 checklist for one-off hiring of The Bridge – item deferred

22.47 Risk Management Policy – deferred

22.48 Christmas gift initiative. It was reported that this item did not take place

### **23.05 Current and future operation of The Bridge**

KM reported that a meeting had been held between Library Leaders and some DT Directors – MI, IF, KM and PF – on 10 January and the notes of the meeting had been circulated. A further meeting had been held on Monday 16 January which had also been attended by Andrea Jackson from the NCC library service. Andrea had agreed to come to future meetings when she could and when appropriate. She was also going to come to the library for full days on 19 and 23 January to work with the volunteers on issues such as computer log-in passwords.

The Library Leaders were very positive about continuing to provide the library service and to grow and develop the role of the library going forward and wished to meet on a regular basis, fortnightly to start with and then monthly when the action list had been worked through. Carole Price reinforced the fact that the mood had been very positive.

KM, as a DT Director and library volunteer, is convening the meetings and IF will also attend on a regular basis to cover IT and building type issues. The second meeting had focused on the future role of libraries, what should be included in a grant application to upgrade the building and equipment, and re-thinking use of space in the building.

Carole Price talked about the ideas for layout changes at The Bridge, based on discussions between library volunteers. The overall aim was to create as much floor space in the middle of the library and move books, magazines, large print books and audio items from the racks in the middle on to new shelves on the walls. A second aim was to create distinct zones for different types of activities:

- A comfortable seating area to relax and have coffee – this would be where the table and chairs currently are
- A children's area, where it currently is
- A work area with the PCs and printers. The DT printer could also in the future provide an office services function (e.g. photocopying and scanning) marketed to local residents and businesses

In addition, there would be a sales area so that all items for sale could be in one place (apart from paintings which would be on the walls).

There was also a need:

- For an additional storage cupboard which could store the trestle tables etc – depending on how much space would be created by the cupboard and shelves sorting exercise which Mark and Kate were leading
- To create more space by stopping keeping: some materials which could be accessed online – e.g, old copies of the Haydon News; and some items for sale e.g. jigsaws, that were rarely sold and did not raise much money
- To re-think the foyer space as fewer tourism materials were being published now, leaving room for other uses (e.g. books for sale)

The next stage was a session on 19 January to test out what would work by doing a measurement exercise to check for space and then have a further meeting on 23 January to discuss what would be possible, based on that.

New equipment would include: domestic type bean to cup coffee; separate frother; new DT library computer; and new scanner printer. This last item might be colour laser/large scale inkjet to allow for copies to be made and sold to the public who want photocopying done,

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

### *1a. District Heating system energy survey*

SS reported that there have been 177 completed household and 7 business surveys submitted. A session will be held with Re-heat to discuss the analysis as soon as the funding is confirmed, which will hopefully be by the end of January.

**Action: paper copies of completed survey forms to be returned to PF by SS, IF and KM**

### *1b. CAN energy drop in on 5 November at Community Centre*

The event went well and CAN were happy with the level of interest and advice they could offer.

### *3a. Village enhancement projects*

Carole Price reported that she had met with two highways officers from NCC who felt that putting benches and planters on the spine of the Old Bridge would work well. The key to getting approval is to have reversible rather than permanent changes to what is a listed historic monument. The next stage is to discuss the ideas with the NCC conservation officer and English Heritage. The aim was also to build in CT's idea of Haydon Bridge as a Bee Friendly village.

Carole has also met with Network Rail and the local rail user group representatives about planting at the station. The latter organisation would hopefully pay for self watering planters and there could be a water bowser to provide the water for this.

MI thanked Carole for positive progress on this long-term project.

### *3b. Habitat creation*

SS reported that around 170 trees had recently been planted at the cemetery and there were 120 left to plant elsewhere. More trees are available and both MI and WR said they were interested in planting on their land.

The plans for the Forest Food Garden were going well.

CT also reported that she had met with and advised the Tyne Rivers Trust about a number of sites in the parish where they wanted to do habitat work

### *3c. Smallholding*

SS reported that she is talking with Go Local Food about the possibility of bringing bags of fresh food to a HB drop off point.

### *4b. Community led housing*

PF reported that a funding application prepared by MI and PF with input from Tom Johnson and Gentoo Homes was submitted in November 2022 to the NCC Community Housing Fund for £200k (£50k each for 4 units of community led housing). We are awaiting a response. We were encouraged to submit the application and there is no commitment for the DT at this stage. We are awaiting a response. **Action: PF to follow up with NCC**

EF reported that Corbridge have had over 100 applicants for each of unit of community led housing that they are letting.

James Ritchie and PF have submitted a response on behalf of the PC to the Gentoo Homes December 14 consultation on their initial plans for the site west of Langley Gardens. DT Directors thought it was a robust and helpful response. **Action: PF to send copy of comments to NCC; PF to circulate timeline for the development; PF to get housing sub group together, probably in the second half of April**

6b. *Tourism* – see agenda item 7

7a. *Cycle route to Hexham*

PH reported that the North East Combined Authority (NECA) had designated a cycling super highway between Newcastle and Carlisle. DT Directors thought this was excellent progress. Guy Opperman MP is very supportive and PH is on a group of Parish Councils planning the route west of Hexham.

7c. *Possible funding application to the Community Foundation – bike racks*

PH and EF have met with the NCC cycling officer about possible locations for cycle racks north and south of the river. PH explained the options being considered. There has been some confusion over the respective roles of the DT and PC in relation to leading on cycle racks, and some strong views about the road outside Oddfellows Coffee as a possible location.

**It was agreed that there needs to be a rationale for the location of cycle racks that goes beyond the issue of car parking and takes account of the underpinning principles of sustainable transport and active travel set out in both the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan. It was also agreed that local neighbour consultation was needed in relation to the possible site outside Oddfellows Coffee.**

**Action: PF to go to PC meeting on 26 January to suggest that this work going forward is handled by a joint DT/PC Task Group to come up with final proposals. DT members would be PH and MI**

### **23.07 Tourism**

The tourism sub group of IF, KM, and MS have met and circulated a paper for discussion.

IF highlighted the need to build evidence through an online survey of visitors to the Parish, to be promoted by local accommodation and pub/food businesses that interact with visitors. The aim would be to find out more about how far we are a tourist village/parish, what is important to visitors and what more could we do to encourage visitors going forward

**Decision: this was strongly supported and the next step was to meet with local businesses to agree how to set this up**

Other potential actions were highlighted in the paper, with suggested level of priority, together with other actions that were not seen as within the tourism remit. **Action: PF to pick up EV charging points with the Parish Clerk and PC**

Areas for action supported in the discussion were:

- Developing the use of St Cuthbert's Church for John Martin and other interpretation panels – **Action: MS and PF to pick this up in the meeting with the PCC**
- Developing and marketing the archive initiative – **Action: IF to pick this up with library volunteers who have worked on the archive initiative**
- Branding – further work to be done by the tourism group
- The village website – **Action: it was agreed that the website needed updating and that a fuller discussion is needed at a future DT meeting**

The final area discussed by the tourism group related to the village leaflet, with various options presented. **Decision and action: it was agreed that the second option of re-purposing the leaflet to include the children's village trail and other information should be pursued, and the Shaftoe charities approached for funding**

### 23.08 Other existing projects

*John Martin Information panels:*

PF reported that the matter of re-locating the panel near the Old Church into the churchyard would be discussed at the meeting between the DT and PCC.

PH reported that he had been informed by the National Trust that the John Martin Trail has been closed at Harsondale as it is impassable and remedial work is needed. The likely re-opening time will be August 2023.

**Action: PH to provide information to HS so a notice can be put up on the website, with further information to be inserted in the JM leaflets and in the library**

### 23.09 The Bridge

*Arch visit*

It is not clear if the regular inspection by Arch has taken place.

**Action: KM to check if it has gone ahead and also to check that the inspection pack is up to date**

### 23.10 Communication

HS had circulated the website usage figures. There seems to be a lot of interest from China.

PF reported that he has talked to Pauline Wallis about the current situation with the Haydon News. 3 people have come forward as possible editors and Pauline is trying to arrange a meeting with them. It is not yet clear whether any of them have either the time or skills for the role. There is also currently no Treasurer.

### **23.11 Governance matters**

A draft safeguarding policy, procedures and packs for both child and adult safeguarding have been circulated by KM who consulted with two volunteers – Sonja and Barbara on the draft. Directors thanked Kate for all her hard work and thought the draft was excellent.

**Decision and Action: The draft policy was approved subject to KM asking CAN to check through it and putting the names of the Safeguarding Officer and Assistant on the Policy. She would then work with the volunteers to identify suitable training**

### **23.12 Finance and grants**

#### *Income/expenditure statement*

MI had circulated income expenditure statements covering the period 31 March 2022 to 31 December 2022. He explained what came under non restricted and restricted funds, and that some of the general funds related to depreciation and were not therefore cash reserves.

Directors said that they found the format very helpful.

**Action: MI to send a set of books to the DT admin email address to ensure that there is another copy available**

#### *Insurances*

WR reported that he had talked to Hiscox about the insurance renewal due on 25 December and they had confirmed that the DT already received the maximum discount on the policy. The policy was renewed for 22-23.

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

It had been agreed when SS, CT, PH and MS joined as Directors that there would be a review after a year to check with them how it was working.

**Action: MI to arrange discussions with each of them before the next meeting.**

**23.14 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 7pm.