

HAYDON BRIDGE AND HAYDON PARISH DEVELOPMENT TRUST
Minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2022

Present

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

22.13 Apologies

Eileen Charlton, Peter Fletcher, Ian Foster

22.14 Declarations of interest

None

22.15 Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2022

The minutes were agreed.

22.16 Matters arising not already on the agenda

Climate Champions: the Parish Council have appointed two people to take on this role. They will be meeting with SS to progress matters.

Energy saving drop in: this free event, run by CAN (Community Action Northumberland), is scheduled for the morning of 23rd April at the Community Centre. There was brief discussion about advertising this event.

Community led housing: PF has arranged a meeting for members of the Parish Council; HBDT and the NP Steering Group to learn more about community led housing at 6pm on Wednesday 18 May at the Community Centre. This is being led by CAN.

Links with the High School: EF said that the Head has been to a PC meeting and made it clear that, regardless of their wish to work with and for the community, the school were limited in what they could do by regulations and the requirements of Ofsted. HS said that access through the school grounds had now been locked, causing difficulty for some local groups,

Publicity regarding WeFibre: PF has had no response to his request for this.

No information was available on the Days Out leaflet.

22.17 Neighbourhood Plan Community Actions Update - report and matters for discussion

V10 of the Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Plan – Community Actions document, update on 22.04.2022 had been circulated before the meeting. SS talked through the key points:

- 1b Carbon reduction: the Rural Design Centre has invited the NP Community Actions Group to be part of a pilot for renewable energy. The Net Zero group will be discussing this and PH will respond. NCC is getting more involved in Community Climate Action Plans and is setting up a fund to encourage local businesses to get involved too
- 3a Village enhancement: a plant swap/sale has been arranged for 28th May at The Bridge, to coincide with a planned second hand book sale. Funds raised from the plant sale will go to the gardening group.

- 3c Habitat creation: a project to increase pollinators by reducing mowing and encouraging wild gardens is being developed and details will be published in the May Haydon News after which a meeting of interested parties will be organised. There was discussion about wildlife corridors when it was suggested that the old cemetery on Alexander Terrace would be a good place for wildlife gardening as would a small section of Shaftoe Green. Tyne Rivers Trust has suggested a joint event on August 13th on habitat creation
- 6a Support for local businesses: not really progressing although PF and/or IF may know more
- 7a Cycle route to Hexham: a bid for grant funding for this has also been unsuccessful. Sustrans have decided to relocate National Route 72 into the valley from the Stanegate
- 7d Footpath initiative: the walking group had recently walked the John Martin Trail raising issues dealt with in Agenda Item 6
- Bid the RHS for grant funding: SS reported that the the bid for the proposed project at Low Hall has been unsuccessful

22.18 Tourism and other existing projects

John Martin Trail and information panels: PH reported that signage for the trail in Allenbanks and other parts of the Trail is very poor. He is working with the National Trust Ranger to try to improve this at Allenbanks. PH is happy to install way markers if they are available. HS felt sure there are some and will investigate.

HS had previously circulated mock ups of the revised information plaques which include a bigger map and have a more modern feel to them. HS will email details of the 6 panels in final format for comment and agreement. Once the panels are available, Marcus Byron will install them.

Action: HS to locate waymarkers and pass them on to PH for installation

HS to circulate details of the finalised updated panels for the John Martin Trail for comment and approval

Haydon Hundred: there have been 88 entries to date which is better than previous 'normal' years, 2021 entries being exceptionally high as events were not run during Covid lockdowns. MI said that the route is in the best condition it has ever been. Another event, not publicised through the British Cycling website, is running on the same route on the same day but MI has been in touch with the organisers and does not feel this will be a problem. The hog roast is being provided at the same costs as last year. MI said that in general 200 HH entries clears £1000 and every 100 entries after that make £1800 for the DT.

Village leaflets: No movement on this to date

22.19 The Bridge

Use of The Bridge by external groups: members had all been in favour of St Cuthbert's Sunday School using The Bridge when emailed about it earlier in the year. MI said that a short policy is needed for use of the premises outlining the expectations of HBDT Trustees of the hiring organisation and stating policies that must be produced before hiring. MI referred to the policy used by Hexham Community Church (??) of not charging churches and charities for use of the premises but of charging groups that charge a membership fee and businesses.

MS questioned whether the HBDT Public Liability Insurance covered hire of premises the also the use of other premises by groups hosted by HBDT. The principle was agreed.

Action: KM to produce short policy and checklist for documentation to be seen before premises can be hired.

PF to check Public Liability Insurance when he returns to UK

22.20 Communications

HS had previously circulated the latest analytical data for the Haydon Bridge website

22.21 Governance

MI referred to a previously circulated email from KM regarding the relationship between HBDT and the groups that it hosts and how this affects both policies that DT develops and, potentially, the charitable status of HBDT. He recognised that this was an issue that needed to be dealt with and asked KM to expand on her email. She spoke about:

- the fact the the Charity Commission does not produce a list of required policies and that such a list could not be found on the internet
- the need to understand the relationship between HBDT and its hosted group
- the need to decide how and if hosted groups would be covered by HBDT policies and whether or not all hosted groups could be managed in the same way
- the need for the HBDT Trustees to be sure that policy coverage of hosted groups and their compliance with DT policies are properly managed to ensure that there are no consequences for HBDT and it's Trustees

She said that all this can be done without a heavy hand but it must be thought through before work arising from the Neighbourhood Plan increases.

There was some discussion, including how both HBDT's rental agreement with Arch and the agreement with the NCC Library Service could affect this issue.

MI said that there needs to be a basic set of policies and that this may ultimately lead to a decision on the future charitable status of HBDT. He asked KM to explain HBDT's current charitable status as a charitable company limited by guarantee which reports annually to both the Charity Commission and Companies House and the potential for change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). CIOs were set up by the Charity Commission in 2018 to try to relieve the complicated relationship caused by charities filing to two separate organisations. A CIO gives all the benefits of a charitable company limited by guarantee, including owning property, without the need to file twice each year and give the opportunity to revise and update the governing document and to produce this in plain English.

Action: MI, PF & KM to review HBDT policies

KM to provide a sample CIO governing document to compare with the current HBDT governing document

22.22 Finance and grants

There have been no successful grant applications to date.

MI is awaiting a bank statement and as soon as this is available he will circulate the draft year end accounts. He estimates the year end position to be break even or slightly better.

22.23 Any other business (notified to the Chair before the meeting)

There was none.

22.24 Date of next meeting

7pm, Wednesday 24th August 2022 at The Bridge