

HAYDON BRIDGE AND HAYDON PARISH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2023

Present

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

23.26 Apologies

Christina Taylor

23.27 Declarations of interest – Michael Sadgrove declared an interested in agenda item 9 – John Martin Interpretation Panels – as he is a member of the Diocesan Advisory Board dealing with faculties.

23.28 Minutes of the meeting held in 29 March 2023 - The minutes were approved

23.29 Matters arising not already on the agenda

23.21: KM to check what the community centre charges for renting out space.

PF had circulated the insurance policy for the DT.

KM now has a list of key holders for The Bridge and will circulate this.

23.30 Haydon Hundred (HH)

MI reported that there had so far been 192 entries for the HH, which included a lot of recent entries. Directors were delighted with the level of entries and more were expected on the day. Jobs for the Marshalls and arrangements for the feed stations were agreed.

Action: PF to get bananas, and tables from the Community Centre

23.31 Current and future operation of The Bridge

KM had circulated a written report. Library leaders are meeting monthly, with KM co-ordinating the meetings. Andrea from Jackson from the NCC library service attends and has been very supportive IF and PF also attend when able. The slowness of the IT Has been a problem but Andrea has been trying to address this. The teams are interested in developing additional services at The Bridge, for example Knit and Natter now on a Tuesday, reading sessions for children, and a lego group. The main issue to address is building communication between the different teams. MS suggested setting up a WhatsApp group for all library volunteers.

Action:

KM, PF and IF to meet to discuss ways of developing and improving communication and joint working between the library volunteer teams

MI and KM to review security arrangements at The Bridge

KM to proceed with filling volunteer vacancy for the Saturday team

23.32 Neighbourhood Plan and Community Actions update

A written update had been circulated

SS updated the meeting on this:

1a. District Heating system energy survey analysis - Confirmation of funding is still awaited.

3a Village enhancement projects

Directors were delighted that CT had successfully applied for Bee Friendly Town status for Haydon Bridge. CT thanked the DT for funding seed bombs to provide 100 sqm of bee friendly plants.

The Gardening Group had raised £188.82 from plant sales and £29.60 for book sales on Northumberland day.

The planting at the station had been completed and directors thought the planters and planting were excellent.

3b Habitat creation

The planning application by the Nurture Project to develop a community garden is now live and there are an encouraging number of letters of support from both the public and statutory consultees such as the Parish Council. SS raised two areas of concern about the likely success of the planning application. Firstly, that the site sits just outside the settlement boundary. Secondly, the response from the highways department requesting further information might delay the application so that it has to be withdrawn and then re-submitted with the additional costs that would entail.

Action: PF to contact Sarah Brannigan, the head of the NCC NP team about the above two issues to see if there was anything she could do to facilitate the smooth path of the planning application

DT Directors to look for sources of large cardboard boxes to go under straw

4b Community led housing

PF reported that Gentoo Homes were now hoping to submit a planning application in July for the site west of Langley Gardens for 53 units of which 8 would be affordable, 3 of those for rent. He is still awaiting a formal response from NCC about funding available from the community housing fund, but this now seems unlikely. Tom Johnston from CAN has reported that Section 106 funds held by the county council can potentially be used by non housing associations but this has not been tested. It was likely that units funded from this source would have to use Homefinder for applicants, which would mean the community would not have local control of lettings.

The potential of working with the Shaftoe Educational Foundation was discussed and supported.

Action: PF to prepare a short discussion paper and to arrange meeting between MI, PF, EF, and John Drydon and Sheffield Exham from the Shaftoe Charities to pursue this option further.

Vibrant and thriving communities

5c Explore ideas to develop services for young people

The Nurture Project has done a number of activities with young people but ongoing funding from Shaftoe Trust is under threat. Discussions are ongoing to resolve this.

5e WeFibre

HS reported that the issues with VOIP phones have been largely resolved.

7a Haydon Bridge to Hexham cycle route

PH said that the South Tyne Valley parish Councils cycling group is now prioritising the Haydon Bridge to Hexham section of a S Tyne cycling route and representatives had recently cycled the proposed route and were very supportive. The next stage was to secure feasibility funding and there seemed to be a number of potential sources for this.

7c Cycle racks

NCC is supplying racks for installation at the south end of the new bridge but they are still yet to arrive. PH is following this up with the NCC cycling officer.

There is no progress on the proposed racks opposite the Co-op and NCC would not go ahead because of objections by one home owner, even though others are supportive.

Decision and action: it was agreed that the DT and PC should share the cost of cycle racks outside the Railway Hotel. MI to action; SS to inform the Railway Hotel that this would proceed shortly; MI to progress the purchase of the racks.

7d Footpaths initiative

PH reported that he had met with Tim Fish from NCC and understood that the footpath at Harsondale Bridge should be re-built in the next two weeks.

23.33 Heritage Plaques proposal

MI and Anne Suddes had circulated a paper on this idea. PH noted that there were similar signs in Alston.

Decision: there was strong support from the DT to progressing this idea

23.34 Other existing projects – John Martin Trail Information Panels

MS reported that the church would require a faculty to move the JM panel from outside the Old Church to inside the Churchyard boundary. There would need to be an impact assessment from the church architect about both archaeological and environmental impact, which would cost the DT around £250.

Decision: it was agreed that the DT would pay this cost in order to get the signboard moved inside the churchyard and that MS and PF would progress this with the PCC.

23.35 Communications. Including website

HS had circulate details of website activity.

PF had circulated the 2008 brief for the development of the current DT website. This was still seen as a good basis for commissioning a new website as a lot of the 2008 brief is still relevant.

HS had also circulated a paper about website renewal and was thanked for all his work on this. Of the examples given Corbridge and the Glendale Trust websites seemed a good model to follow. It was agreed that we would need to pay for professional web design for the architecture of the website. A lot of the content remained valid though it is text heavy and the imagery needs changing. MS knew of a website designer in Bardon Mill.

Decision: It was agreed to proceed with the process of commissioning a new website and that it should be funded by the PC and DT. IF offered to lead the work on this, with HS, PF and MS also contributing and it was agreed we should get a volunteer from the PC to join

Action: PF to talk to NALC and CAN about possible funding sources for web design

MS reported that he had offered to develop a social media presence for The Bridge and had started with Twitter. It has been slow to take off but hopefully it will evolve as a wider range of activities develop at The Bridge. At the moment he was posting two or three times a day.

Decision: it was agreed that the social media presence should be about all the work and initiatives of the DT not just activities that take place in The Bridge. MS would like to get a broader group to post on the Bridge twitter feed.

23.36 Governance matters

Co-opted directors: MI reported that following his meetings with the 4 co-opted Directors they had agreed to become full Directors.

Action: PF to ensure that this was reflected in the annual report and accounts and on the companies house and charity commission websites

New Co-opted Director: EF said that in the early days of the DT, 2-3 Directors were also Parish Councillors and currently there was only one. This had been discussed at the last PC meeting and it had been recommended that Jo Bates was Co-opted as a DT Director.

Decision: it was agreed to Co-opt Jo Bates as a DT Director. PF would contact her and add her name to the list of Directors on the companies house and charity commission websites

Financial controls: MI said that he had reviewed the Financial Controls and that no changes were needed.

2022-2023 Draft Annual report and accounts

The draft 2022-23 Annual report and accounts had been circulated for comment. The annual accounts were agreed subject to two small amendments. PF had received comments on the annual report and would build these in.

Decision and approval: The 2022-23 Annual Report and accounts were approved subject to final changes being made.

MI reported that the final accounts for 22-23 showed a deficit of £2687, and that all but £20 of that related to depreciation.

23.37 Finance and grants

MI had reviewed the financial controls and confirmed that they were up to date and no changes were needed.

PF reported that the grant application for The Bridge was close to being ready for submission.

Decision: it was agreed to fund an outside tap at The Bridge so that plants in the station could be watered.

23.38 Any other business - None

23.39 Date and time of next meeting - Thursday 24th August 2023 at 7pm