

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON THE
19th DECEMBER 2024, IN HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Present : Cllrs E. Faulks, B. Howard, A. Kirsopp, K. Richardson, D. Robson, A. Sharp, T. Simmonds, A. Suddes, and D. Thornhill ; C. McGivern (mins.).

- 1. Public participation** – none.
- 2. Apologies** – were received from Cllrs J. Keyte and J. Thompson.
- 3. Budget for 2025-26** – the draft budget was considered and approved and a precept of £46,000 agreed.
- 4. Declarations of interest** – none were received.
- 5. Minutes of previous meeting** – having been circulated were agreed and signed with one alteration - Cllr Thornhill said that the new Cllr, when appointed, would like everyone already on the PC represent the entire parish. This was agreed by all.
- 6. Vacancy on Parish Council** – the vacancy was discussed and it was agreed to co-opt Charlie Morshead onto the PC.
- 7. Report from Northumberland County Council** –

Cllr Sharp said that there had been a meeting that morning to discuss road schemes. On the plans there had been no yellow road markings at the entrance to the Showfield, this will hopefully be included later after consultation. The PC agreed that they were happy with the scheme proposed.

Regarding the Ratcliffe Road scheme, a zebra crossing in front of the Co-op had been suggested. This was not possible, but it might be possible to have a red strip across the road to designate a crossing area. Dropped kerbs and blister paving will be installed in this area. Where an existing dropped kerb is to be removed, a loading bay for commercial vehicles will be installed. This deals with the safety issue regarding an inadequate line of sight. A layby opposite the Co-op, where the pavement is wider, was thought to be possible but not affordable at present. The roundabout will be domed, but will only be 4 inches high, to allow longer delivery vehicles and buses to turn safely.

Cllr Sharp said that parking problems around the Anchor Hotel had been discussed for the last year. To help with this keep clear markings will be painted outside nearby properties. It is hoped that this will avoid the use of double yellow lines. However, before proceeding Cllr Sharp will ask NCC to put notes through the letterboxes of neighbouring properties to allow them to comment.

No decision has been made yet about the planning application for Marshall's Yard. The planners now have all of the information that they required and will make a decision in due course.

Following a site meeting it had been agreed that the two new bins to go outside Claire's convenience store will go either side of the loading bay and will be installed after Christmas. Cllr Howard confirmed that blocked drains on North Bank had been attended to. Three potholes at the entrance to the bottle bank site were reported, and should be dealt with in a couple of days. White lines to be painted at Park Style will be done at the same time as road markings at the Showfield.

Cllr Sharp will probably fund an additional street light between the Showfield and the Club. Fly tipping on the Lowgate Road would be cleared in the next couple of days.

More work needs to be done regarding road repairs at Lipwood. Similarly, the graffitied sign still needs to be sorted out.

8. Highways –

- a) Cllr Thornhill said that at a recent meeting Cllr Richardson had raised concerns about traffic at the level crossing, and it had been proposed to have the yellow box and keep clear signs refreshed. It was noted that someone is parking outside the Old Chapel very close to the junction and this means that drivers cannot see what is coming as they emerge from Station Road. There are also cars parking outside the flats at Foundry Court, adding to the bottle neck. As no one should be parking so close to the junction, it was suggested that this could be enforced with road markings, making it easier for motorists to stay outside the yellow box. Cllr Sharp agreed to arrange a meeting with NCC, with Cllrs Thornhill and Richardson to be present.

9. Lighting – nothing to report.

10. Planning applications –

24/04114/FUL Demolition and rebuilding of unstable rear wall; Construction of single storey extension within rear yard; Demolition of prefabricated concrete panelled garage and construction of single storey extension to side of house, 1 Alexandra Terrace – **No objections.**

24/04171/LBC Listed building consent for installation of buttresses to garden wall at Threepwood Hall – **No objections.**

24/04055/FUL Change of use to C3 Dwelling Houses. Demolition of the existing buildings and construction of five new 1 - 2 storey dwellings including the construction of 2 detached garages. Construction of associated Landscaping and Access. Land East Of Langley Furniture Works - **Support : The Parish Council supports this application as the principle grounds for refusal of the previous application have been addressed by the applicant.**

- 11. Handyman vacancy –** it had been agreed to appoint James Brown, who would start work in January. Cllr Thornhill will liaise with him.

12. Accounts – as in budget.

13. Parish projects –

- a) Development Trust – Cllr Faulks said that the DT had met in the last week. They had requested that the PC stop cutting the grass alongside the road to provide more habitat for insects. It was noted that the grass had been cut in December, and all agreed that this should be avoided. It should only be cut from March to November. Cllr Howard said that it is normal to cut 1 metre from the kerb to allow good visibility for motorists and this was thought appropriate.
A query was also received about electric charging points. It was thought that this would be a good idea, but where to put them was the problem. A feasibility study is needed.

14. Any other business –

- a) Cllr Howard said that the pillar to the left of the entrance to Station Yard is now leaning, perhaps by 3 inches, toward the pavement. He also said that one of the base stones had shattered in recent frosts. Cllr Sharp will raise this at NCC, to see if they would be willing to take down the wall and not replace it. The Clerk will also write to the Highways Dept.
- b) Cllr Robson said that past Haydon Spa the path has been redone and now looks very good. Cllr Sharp said this had been done as part of the project to replace barriers.