

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON 27th
FEBRUARY 2025, IN HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Present : Cllrs E. Faulks, B. Howard, J. Keyte, A. Kirsopp, C. Morshead, A. Sharp, T. Simmonds, J. Thompson and D. Thornhill ; C. McGivern (mins.).

1. Public participation –

- a) Carole Price said that 3 years ago Wefibre were signing people up for fast fibre internet and she was told they would be able to supply Chesterwood. In January this year they said they would not. They reached part of Heugh House Lane and then stopped. Cllr Sharp said that Wefibre had let people down, but there should be more government money available shortly to cover harder to reach areas.
- b) Carole Price had come along to a PC meeting just over two years ago to raise the idea of a circular walk around the village, taking in the two bridges. It has taken two years to find a potential source of funding. She had spoken to the Highways Department and they'd met on site to discuss seats and planters on the old bridge. They were happy for it to go ahead but said that the group must speak to Historic England. In their response Historic England had said that they didn't think it was appropriate to put things on the bridge as it would change the appearance of it. Carole said that all the seats and planters would be made of wood and would be below the level of the parapets, so that they would only be seen if standing at the end of the bridge, so she hoped they would be able to get approval. Marcus Byron has been asked to create a London Underground type plan showing various locations around the village. Cllr Thornhill asked if Carole was aware of the Heritage Plaques scheme as they are also seeking to develop a trail and it would be good to have them combined. The Chair praised the existing planters around the village.
- c) Gavin Foster said that he was from Allendale and he was thinking of joining the PC there, so he had come along to see how things were done in Haydon Bridge.

2. Update from the Handyman, James Brown -

James asked about the supply of bin bags and the Clerk explained that if he purchased what was needed, he would be refunded following the next PC meeting. He went on to explain that he has weeded the old bridge and has a lot heavy bin bags to get rid of. The Clerk will contact David Hunt at NCC to see if they would be willing to collect this rubbish.

James had also passed on concerns over the steps from the old bridge to the underpass, which are crumbling. The Clerk had reported this to NCC and it is being investigated. He asked about painting the bus shelter at the Eastern end of the village, and was told that Steven Arnup will be painting this shortly. James had done a litter pick at Greenwich and Langley Gardens and asked what needed to be done in Langley. Cllr Simmonds said that the laybys could do with litter picks.

James also asked about the strimmer, and was told that he should have it serviced and the invoice sent to the PC. He has repaired the seat at the war memorial and will eventually clean and revarnish them. Cllrs commented on what an asset James was to the village.

3. Apologies – were received from Cllrs D. Robson and A. Suddes.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting** – having been circulated were agreed and signed with the following alteration – The minutes stated that Cllr Thornhill had visited people on Shaftoe/John Martin Street and told them about the new keep clear markings. It was Claire Hunter who had praised the PC for this.

5. Report from Northumberland County Council –

Cllr Sharp reported that the scheme for additional white lines at the Showfield had been issued for implementation and should be done in the next week. The Ratcliffe Road scheme is awaiting another design. It should be treated as a priority once the scheme has been agreed.

Cllr Sharp had asked for a letter to be sent to residents of Shaftoe Street about new road signage, and he was very unhappy to have waited two months for this. Regarding EV charging points he said that other villages did not have charging points at present and they would take priority, but NCC will be looking at adding additional points in future.

Regarding planning applications the Langley Brickworks plans had been deemed invalid, and there was nothing new to add. A decision had not yet been made on Marshall's Yard. An enforcement order has been issued at the land at High Meadows.

The new bins have now been installed on Church Street. Cllr Sharp had spoken to Tim Fish about the Spa Well and now hoped that work could be completed there in 2026 or the following year.

Cllr Sharp had met with James Walmsley at Belmont Gardens, who was pleased with the work done so far, however there were still concerns about 2 or 3 trees at the far end of the lane as they were making turning there difficult. Cllr Sharp will raise this with the Head Mr Nisbett and the Clerk will write to him. Some temporary road repairs have been done and Cllr Sharp will push for further work to be done in the next year.

Amy Farrier had attended the last PC meeting to talk about the food truck business she hoped to start. The Highways team have given permission for this, and Amy is now trying to get funding to buy a van. The official opening of the Nurture Project will take place on the 22nd of March. Cllr Sharp will open it and he hoped that Parish Cllrs would be there too.

Results of camera surveys are still awaited. Since the last meeting Cllr Sharp had paid for a new boiler and dish washer at the Community Centre. Cllr Sharp said that a review of the premises licence for the Anchor Hotel was ongoing. 17 new conditions would be attached to the licence, relating to public order. White line at Park Style have not yet been done.

Cllr Morshead said that a sign had fallen down on the Langley road, near the old telephone box. He suspected the post had become rotten.

6. Highways –

- a) NCC said that drains above the High School were now fixed.
- b) Cllr Simmonds said that someone was camping at the edge of Haydon Spa. Cllr Sharp will investigate.
- c) Fly tipping on the Langley bends was reported and Cllr Sharp will report this to NCC.

7. Lighting –

- a) Lesley Burrowes had written to the PC about a failed streetlight at the end of Belmont Gardens. She said that the school had claimed that they could not get the parts to repair it. The Clerk will write to the High School.

8. Planning applications –

25/00190/FUL : Demolish the existing former lecture building and build a self build annex to the main dwelling, change of use of land to become residential curtilage (As Amended 11.02). at the annex at Waite Farm – NO OBJECTIONS.

9. Correspondence –

- a) Derek Todhunter had written to the PC to request that work is done on the trees overhanging the road at Douglas Gardens. Cllr Sharp said that NCC is hoping to get the work done and force the developer to pay. Cllr Sharp will have a chat with residents.
- b) The PC had received an email about cemetery inspections from NCC. They had contacted Haltwhistle Town Council and they had said they were reviewing their procedures and had passed on a checklist. Cllr Thornhill and Howard agreed to carry out checks at the cemetery.
- c) PC Steph Calf had held a successful meeting recently, where residents had been able to raise issues with her.
- d) The Clerk had received further information about forthcoming elections. The Chair announced that it was his intention to stand down and therefore he would not stand in the election.
- e) Lesley Burrowes had also written regarding the lack of a shelter at the bus stop opposite Innerhaugh Mews. Cllrs will look at the site before the next meeting. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- f) Connor Sproston had written to the PC to say that he hoped one of the new bins on Church Street could be moved as it was directly in front of his house, adding to parking problems. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Sproston to explain the reason for the position of the bin.

10. Accounts – as in budget.

11. Internal audit –

The Internal Auditors report was accepted and 4 points for action were noted -

- The updating of the Clerk's contract.
- Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- Review of insurance levels and asset register.
- Query with External Auditor how playground accounts are recorded.

12. Parish projects –

- a) **Development Trust** – Cllr Suddes had provided information about the planning fees for the heritage plaques. It was agreed that the PC would pay £200 toward this.

13. Any other business –

- a) Cllr Keyte said that the cycleway project was moving forward. There had been a meeting with the landowner, Roderica Straker, and she had made some useful suggestions. There will now be meetings with local farmers, who are her tenants.
- b) Cllr Howard said that he had attended the Licensing Hearing regarding the Anchor Hotel and he said that previously Fran Fuller had been the PC link with the Community Police Officer. He said that local residents had told him that they did not feel that if they reported things they would be taken forward. However, he said that any reports went on the data log and this matters.
- c) Cllr Kirsopp said that there had recently been some trouble at Claire's shop on Church Street. The PC confirmed that all incidents must be reported to the Police.
- d) Cllr Simmonds asked that the PC be kept up to date with plans that True North have for land North and West of Lipwood. Cllr Sharp has asked for a public meeting, and the Chair suggested that Haydon, Bardon Mill and Henshaw PC's are all involved.
- e) Cllr Sharp said that he was sorry to hear that this year will be the last for the Haydon Festival.