

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON 20th
MARCH 2025, IN HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

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

- 1. Public participation** – none.
- 2. Apologies** – were received from Cllr B. Howard.
- 3. Declarations of interest** – none were received.
- 4. Minutes of last meeting** – having been circulated were agreed and signed.
- 5. Report from Northumberland County Council –**

Cllr Sharp said that the subway steps had now been largely sorted out, there is a little more work to do over the summer. Haydon Park has now been sold. A faulty street light at the rear of Belmont Gardens has now been fixed. Cllr Sharp had spoken to the High School again and they have now received the results of a tree survey and the trees are okay. Some branches that were cut down are still to be cleared away, but the school did not think they were affecting anyone turning. Cllr Sharp had also been in touch with James Walmsley and hopes to get more done to the road surface, but it is passable at the moment.

There is no date yet for the remaining work on Ratcliffe Road and Cllr Sharp is chasing this up. He has now been told that keep clear markings for John Martin Street can only be marked where there is a dropped kerb or an entrance. The Highways Department had confirmed that they were happy to write a letter to residents, but requested that this should say that the PC has concerns about parking in this area. This was agreed. Cllrs were disappointed that the points regarding keep clear markings were not mentioned at the site meeting with NCC. Cllr Thornhill said that he had visited residents as promised.

Regarding planning issues there is nothing new to report about the Langley Brickworks site. An enforcement notice had been issued at West Meadows and the owner has now submitted a planning application for the caravan. Planning objections regarding noise, ecology etc have now been resolved regarding Marshall's Yard and a drainage/highways issue is the only matter to be resolved.

White lines have been painted at the Showfield and Cllr Kirsopp agreed that it had agreed that it had improved things.

The Community Centre has now received £4,500 for a new boiler and dishwasher from Cllr Sharp's Small Allowance fund.

- 6. Highways –**

- a) Cllr Richardson had reported dumped chairs and bins in the road at Foundry Court and Cllr Sharp will chase this issue up.
- b) Cllr Richardson said that the level crossing and junction on Church Street/Station Road continued to be a problem. A minibus parked near the yellow box at the station was blocking the view down the bank and had almost led to an accident. The owner will be asked to park further from the junction. Cllr Sharp suggested that Network Rail be approached to see if anything can be done regarding safety in this area.
- c) Fran Fuller had contacted the PC to ask if tree guards could now be removed on trees at the east end junction with the A69. They are no longer needed. It was agreed that Roadlink will be contacted to see if volunteers could remove them and to request litter picking.
- d) Cllr Simmonds said that the sign on the Langley Road had been defaced with graffiti again.

7. **Lighting** – nothing to report.

8. **Planning applications** –

25/00664/FUL: Conversion and extension of agricultural buildings to create a dwellinghouse at Vauce Farm – No objections.

(Cllr Thompson joined the meeting.)

9. **Accounts – as in budget.**

10. The following documents were reviewed and alterations agreed –
Clerk’s contract, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders as requested by the Internal Auditor.

11. **Correspondence** –

- a) Gemma Armstrong had contacted the PC about transport to school for a group of children attending schools in Hexham. The PC agreed that most parents were content to use local schools and they could not divert funds to those who had removed their children from them.

12. **Parish projects** –

- a) Development Trust – Cllr Faulks said that the Haydon Hundred would take place on the 7th of June. 67 entries have been received so far. There will be a new system for entries and timing everyone, which should save some expenditure. Good weather was needed as many people decided whether to take part close to the day, based on the weather forecast.
- b) Haydon Spa – Cllr Sharp said that work at Haydon Spa was programmed for 2025-26 and the following year.
- c) Bus stop at Innerhaugh – Cllrs had been asked to consider locating a new bus shelter at the stop opposite Innerhaugh. There is plenty of space on the grass for a shelter, and it is not in front of anyone’s property. The PC agreed to go ahead. Cllr Sharp promised to contribute £2,500 toward the cost of this if re-elected.

- d) Cllr Thompson said that the Nurture Project will hold it's opening event soon. Cllr Sharp will officially open the project, and it was hoped that Parish Cllrs would be able to attend too. The Clerk will contact NCC to ask if they have any objections and get quotes to send to Cllr Sharp.
- e) The Clerk had contacted the medical centre to ask about the possibility of having a defibrillator on the outside of the building. The Practice had replied saying that they were still waiting to hear from NHS estates and would be in touch when they had news. They also said that anyone wishing to join the Patient Participation Group would have to live in the parish and provide their contact details. Cllr Thornhill offered to take part. Cllr Richardson also suggested the school car park as a location and the Clerk will contact the school. Cllr Morshead asked about having one at Langley Village Hall. All agreed that this was a good idea and the Clerk will get in touch with them.
- f) Cllr Richardson suggested that the High School car park might also be a good location for EV charging points. The Clerk will contact the school.

13. Any other business –

- a) Cllrs were reminded of the upcoming nomination process for elections. A notice has been posted in the parish and will be posted on Facebook.
- b) Cllr Thompson asked for grass cutting at Strother Close for Northumberland Day on the 25th of May, when a picnic will be held.
- c) Cllr Thompson said that she had been contacted about a light at the rear of the Community Centre which was shining into a private property. Cllr Richardson will raise this to see if it can be altered slightly.
- d) Cllr Thompson said that she had received some sad news in her family and would not be standing again as a Parish Cllr.
- e) Cllr Faulks said that as he would be standing down too someone else would be needed to represent the PC on the Shaftoe Trust. Of the 11 trustees of the Shaftoe Trust 4 were appointed by the PC. One of these is Ed Brown and his time is about to lapse. He explained that Ed could stand again if the PC agreed. This was agreed.
- f) Cllr Suddes said that Chris Armstrong was disappointed that brown signs could not be installed alerting motorists to local facilities. The PC had requested new signs fairly recently and been informed that this would not be agreed. The cost if they had been able to go ahead was very high too.
- g) Cllr Morshead asked if it was possible to get the shelter were children wait for the school bus at Langley repaired. This will be discussed at the next meeting.