

HAYDON BRIDGE AND HAYDON PARISH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2025

Present

Mark l'Anson (Chair), Will Rutherford (Vice Chair), Henry Swaddle, Peter Fletcher, Kate Minto, Jo Bates, Joanna Thompson, Ian Foster, Anne Suddes

Anne Suddes was welcomed to the meeting as a new Director, representing the Parish Council.

25.13 Apologies

Apologies were received from Phil Hartley, Siobhan Stephenson, Christina Taylor and Michael Sadgrove

25.14 Declarations of interest - There were none.

25.15 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2025 - The minutes were approved.

25.16 Matters arising not already on the agenda

25.10 MI confirmed that a new one year bond had been opened with the Cambridge and County Building Society.

25.17 Haydon Hundred

MI reported that there were 126 entries for the event so far and it was hoped that additional entries on the day would take the figure to nearer 150. This number was similar to recent years though down on some earlier years. Volunteer roles for the day were agreed.

25.18 Current and future operation of The Bridge

PF had circulated the Bridge Team Leaders meeting notes of 31 March 2025.

PF and KM confirmed that the next social/development session with the Bridge volunteers would be on 17 July. The main topics to be discussed would be: the purpose and values statement and development of volunteer role; review of progress on development ideas suggested at last year's session; and role of team leader. Refreshments will be provided.

DT Directors were invited to attend and to let PF know if they are coming

PF introduced the updated draft purpose and values statement, which aimed to set the tone for all working at The Bridge, and to Development Trust activities and initiatives more widely. This had been discussed and agreed at the Library Team Leaders meeting on 2 June.

Decision: Directors approved the revised purpose and values statement

KM reported that The Bridge Team Leader role description had been discussed and agreed at the 2 June Team leaders meeting.

KM reported that the Monday team were under some pressure as they could not guarantee two volunteers, which is the minimum needed for opening. Team Leaders would be asking for volunteers from the other teams for back up when needed. A further volunteer recruitment session would be considered.

The summer reading challenge would take place during the 6 weeks of the school holidays.

The Northumberland Recovery College has ceased operating and has been replaced by Escape Family Support (which plays a similar role) in terms of renting space at The Bridge. There has also been an enquiry from the Northumberland Food Bank.

MI congratulated The Bridge volunteers on the accuracy of till entries, especially given the number of volunteers, number of transactions and potential for errors.

25.19 Neighbourhood Plan and Community Actions Update

A written update paper had been circulated with the agenda. Items discussed were:

1. Sustainability and climate change

1a) Secure funding for initial overall feasibility study for community led renewable district heating options

A workshop would be held on 20 June with the county council, the combined authority, CAN, Reheat and the Rural Design Centre to review the feasibility study findings and discuss possible next steps.

2. Built & Historic Environment

2c Plaques group

Planning permission has been approved for the plaque for the Reading Rooms and applications are in for approval for the other three locations.

3. Natural Environment

3b developing projects to enhance habitat to increase biodiversity

Tree Planting: The community Orchard has been approved by the Parish Council but now also needs approval from NCC. **Action: SS/PH to draw a proposed plan for the orchard; parish Council would then speak to Alan Sharp about NCC approval for this**

It is hoped that WR and PH will put up the plant and produce stall outside The Bridge in the second half of June. Some plaques/signage will need moving. Discussion is still to take place on the final position of the stall and on the way that the Nurture Project and The Bridge will work together on the plant and produce stall.

5. Vibrant and thriving communities

Luncheon Club surpluses. MI said that he was in discussion with Carole Price on this. The fact that the total surplus is unchanged means that some of the surplus is now being spent.

SS has asked for ideas to recruit more volunteers for the gardening side of the Nurture Project.

Directors to forward ideas to Siobhan

SS has applied for £30k of NCC RAMP funding on behalf of the Nurture Project. However the funds are only available in arrears after the £30k has been spent and SS has asked if the DT can help with cash flow for this purpose.

Decision: it was agreed that the DT does not have the finances or cash flow to support the £30k bid. However, it could consider much smaller cash flow support if appropriate of around £1k.

5f Working with the police

KM reported that the police held an open surgery at The Bridge which went well. More were planned. AS reported that PC Steph Calf attended the Parish Council meeting in October 2024. It was agreed that PC Calf would attend some of the Parish Council meetings in the future. At the June Parish Council meeting AS will ask when PC Calf will next be attending. The Parish Council are encouraging residents to report any anti-social behaviour to the police via 101. The recent vandalism of the BBQs at the picnic area were reported by the Parish Council. Repairs are planned.

6. Local economy and tourism

6a) Supporting local business

PF reported that he had been approached by Chris Armstrong of Oddfellows Coffee about whether it would be possible to have an information board outside The Bridge listing local businesses – coffee shop, pubs, shops – and where they are located

Decision: it was agreed that this was an excellent idea and that a noticeboard could be put either on the north wall of The Bridge, or on the sign outside which used to have information on summer events. ACTION: PF and JT to meet with Chris Armstrong to work up plan for discussion and agreement with DT.

6b Tourism:

Action: IF and KM clarified that the tourism group had now stopped meeting.

7. Accessibility and transport

7a Cycle route to Hexham: The meeting with the tenant farmers of Rodriga Straker about the planned route has not yet taken place.

7b) Public electric car charging points: AS reported that the PC has discussed this with Alan Sharp. NCC are now focusing on villages with no EV charging points so are not in a position to support additional charging points in HB at the moment.

7 Public transport: AS reported that she and Brian Howard from the PC were trying to get the AD122 Hadrian's Wall bus to call at Haydon Bridge for the first and last bus of the day.

25.20 Taking forward discussion about the future of the village post covid, future priorities and action agenda for the DT, and succession planning for the Director Group

MI said he had not arranged a special meeting on this since the last meeting mainly because he has had a bicycle accident but also because he was not clear where the discussion should go.

It was agreed that going forward we needed to focus on our core ongoing tasks of running The Bridge, website and Newsletter as well as supporting our other activities such as the luncheon club and gardening group, and development actions for the parish.

Some of the Community Actions from the Neighbourhood Plan have been achieved, some have been dropped and others are still being taken forward.

There was general agreement that the DT had not run out of steam or fulfilled its role/was no longer needed.

AS said that as a new Director she did not know all the things the DT did, nor probably did other local residents. There is a communications issue to address about what the DT does, which the DT has identified, in terms of getting more usage of the website and greater circulation of the Newsletter.

It was also noted that the PC now has a new chair and 4 new members, and as a whole may not be clear as to the role of the DT.

Going forward we needed to be clear about:

- What we want to achieve
- What skills we need on the Board to deliver

Some of the questions raised included:

- Do we want to continue to act as a facilitator for the local community
- Can we support local business and if so how
- We have majored on the environmental agenda, including transport and this has gone well and there is a lot to build on
- There is a major issue about social and community engagement in the parish compared with, say Allendale. The Haydon Festival is finishing this year – do we need something to replace it, such as a Classic car event

There are some new ideas about areas for action/areas that need to be addressed, for example:

- Outside gym either at the Shaftoe Green or Langley Gardens playground
- Future of the football ground above Shaftoe School – the school did not use it
- Renewing the lease with Langley Estates for Shaftoe Green, which is running out soon
- We need additional fund raising activities to go alongside the HH, where the entry numbers are static or declining

Many of the Directors have been on the Board for 15 years and there was a need for succession planning.

It was agreed that:

- **PF would put together a short 2 page summary of progress on the Community Actions and outstanding areas for action**
- **PF and AS would talk to the Chair of the new PC about a potential joint meeting to agree priorities for the way ahead**

25.21 A strategic approach to Communications

a) Newsletter – PF reported that the fifth (June) edition of the Newsletter has been published. From now on the Newsletter will move to being published on odd rather than even months of the year, with the next edition in September. PF said he was keen to include information/events from Langley and to include key actions by the PC as well. The June edition included all the PC membership changes.

b) Website – IF reported that the new website is fully up and running and Directors thanked IF for all the work he had put in.

Action: PF and IF have produced a flyer that will be hand delivered to all households in the parish publicising both the new website and the Newsletter. A number of DT Directors

volunteered to help with delivery and PF would prepare a schedule of who would deliver where.

c) Social media: Nothing to report.

25.22 Governance

EF has resigned as a DT Director following his resignation as a Parish Councillor. Directors thanked EF in his absence for his immense contribution over the years, since the DT was formed. JT has also resigned as a Parish Councillor but wishes to remain as a DT Director.

Decision: Anne Suddes was approved as a DT Director representing the Parish Council

25.23 Finance and Grants

a) Annual accounts and report for 2024-25

A draft set of accounts had been circulated with the agenda. There is a loss of £5k - £2.7k for depreciation and the remainder relates to spend on the Community Foundation Grant as the income for the grant was received on 2023-24 but spent in 2024-25. The actual underlying income/expenditure figures show a small surplus.

There is £15k in the building society deposit bond, £25k in unrestricted funds of which £10k is in cash, and around £11k in restricted funds – Flood relief fund, lunch club fund, Haydon News fund, village fund and Haydon Hundred fund (see note 11 to the accounts). C.£2k was moved from the HH fund into unrestricted reserves.

PF said he would draft the annual report to go with the accounts. It was agreed that it should include updates on website and newsletter, The Bridge refurbishment, usage by outside groups including the police, as well as the usual information about library and visitor usage

b) Corporation tax response form: MI reported that he had now responded to the Corporation tax enquiry form.

25.24 Any other business

None

25.25 Date and time of next meeting

7pm on Tuesday 9 September 2025 at The Bridge