

**MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON THE 18th OF
SEPTEMBER 2025 AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Present : Cllrs L. Alderson, B. Howard, S. Jackson, C. Kendall, A. Kirsopp, C. Morshead, A. Sharp, A. Suddes, D. Thornhill (Chair), and D. Webster; a member of the public and C. McGivern (mins.).

1. Public participation –

- a) Mr Gowan of the Old Congregational Chapel had admired planters elsewhere in the village and was keen to build some on a piece of land just outside his gate. He wondered if he needed permission. Cllr Sharp said that he would check with NCC.
- b) Mr Gowan also asked about the Crow Hall project. The Chair said that the PC had not yet taken a position on this matter but has been facilitating meetings between the owners of the land and the public. Cllr Sharp explained that permission would rest with the Forestry Commission. Cllr Suddes said that discussions were ongoing about the planting of barrier of broadleaved trees along Haresby Lonnen. Cllr Sharp said that planting would not go right up to the A69, as on the original plan.

2. Apologies – were received from Cllr K. Richardson.

3. Declarations of interest – none were received.

4. Minutes of previous meeting – having been circulated, were approved and signed.

5. Report from Northumberland County Council –

- Cllr Sharp said that the West View planning application is to go to appeal and will be subject to a hearing on the 18th of November.
- NCC had agreed to put up signage to deter traffic from driving up Temple Houses, and will look at the signage for the football club.
- Work to dome the roundabout at the end of Church Street has been completed and hopefully the white lines will be done in the next 2 weeks.
- The hedge between Whittis Hill and Mrs Oliver's hedge should be done shortly.
- Cllr Thornhill noted that double yellow lines haven't been reinstated as planned.
- Cllr Sharp is still pushing to get work done on the Spa footpath.
- Some weed spraying has been done on the estate and dropped kerbs installed. Cllr Kirsopp said that none had been installed at the Showfield, and Cllr Kendall said that one of the new dropped kerbs is very steep. The area coned off at East Lands End road and branches blocking a light on the way to the Showfield will be dealt with soon.
- A letter regarding poling stations had been circulated. It was agreed that the PC would reply to say that they wanted to keep both poling stations in the parish.

- Cllr Thornhill said that James Brown had been tidying up around the trees in the churchyard, and he thought that the one on the right of the war memorial was rotten inside. This is the responsibility of NCC and it needs to be looked at.
- Cllr Jackson asked about trees overhanging Douglas Gardens. Cllr Sharp is looking at getting some pruning done.
- The pavement opposite the Co-op, which has been damaged by tree heave, will be sorted out by NCC.

6. Highways –

- a) Correspondence regarding Transport Priorities had been circulated. Priorities will be discussed at the next meeting. One of the priorities last year was the rerouting of the AD122 into the village. Another possible inclusion was an engineering solution to West Lands End road. This is used for the Haydon Hundred and is in a dangerous condition. Cllr Morshead wondered if something could be done next time that John Martin Street is dug up to provide suitable power to the bridge for charging points.
- b) The poor service for users of the 685 was discussed again. The Clerk had written to Joe Morris MP, who was supportive but his letter to Stagecoach had asked for additional services rather than less cancellations/late buses which is what the PC had requested. It was agreed that Kim McGuinness would be contacted about this.
- c) Savills had replied to a query about a dying tree at the riverside picnic area to say that a tree safety survey on this land was completed recently and the tree in question was highlighted for removal.
- d) Cllr Morshead said that the sign near Langley had been sorted out, but the wall forming part of the bridge hadn't been repaired.

7. Lighting –

- a) Cllr Kirsopp asked about the damaged light behind Belmont Gardens. The school does not want to pay or repairs as they do not use this access route any longer.
- b) Cllr Kirsopp also asked for branches blocking the streetlight opposite the Haydonian to be cut back. Cllr Sharp said that would be done.

8. Planning applications –

25/02810/FUL : Proposed change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage associated with Drystones, and the erection of a post and rail fence at Dry Stones Heugh House Lane – NO OBJECTIONS.

25/01788/FUL : Change of use of approximately 350 square metres of land from agricultural use to residential garden at Highfield Heugh House Lane – NO OBJECTIONS.

9. Accounts – as in the budget.

I Details of revised pay rates were received from NALC and had been approved by the PC and passed to Checkbook Accountancy to implement.

II A change of signatories to the playground accounts is being discussed. Cllr Kendall will look at the information on file.

9. Correspondence –

- a) Chris Armstrong and Carole Price had asked about the dog bag dispenser that had been removed from the Old Bridge. This had been done because huge numbers of bags were being taken every day and the cost was unsustainable. The PC had decided to trial providing local businesses with a supply and a sign to advertise this.
- b) A request had been received from the Tyne Valley Film Festival for a donation of £100 toward the cost of a film licence. More information will be requested.
- c) The EA had written to the PC to inform them of changes to the Ratcliffe Road flood defence enhancements. The outcome is to raise the level of the path at the pedestrian entrance off Ratcliffe Road to the banks of the River South Tyne to 63.20AOD. This will be done by creating a sloped access point and regrading the path back down to the river at 1:15 slope. A proposed seating area and improved signage will not go ahead at the moment.
- d) Alan Batey had contacted the PC about a hole that had appeared in the play area at the Showfield, which he has dealt with and concrete watery mix that had marked the footpath. The PC thanked him for bringing this to their attention.

10. Parish projects –

- a) **Development Trust** – the PC received a report from Cllr Suddes.
 - She explained that they were waiting for Listed Building Consent for the plaque for the Anchor Hotel. Once they have this the plaques will be ordered.
 - The Haydon 100 was less successful than previous years. The weather forecast (torrential rain) may have played a part as usually 20 – 30 participants would register on the day, but only 3 signed up on the day. There were 136 entries and a surplus of £1,200 was achieved. The DT will look to refresh the event with perhaps a different route and look at a potential shorter family friendly route.
 - The Plant and Vegetable Stall is doing really well and in August it was taking £65 per week.
 - The Bridge volunteers have taken part in archive training. A literacy incitive is in the pipeline with potential access to funding for this project. There is an open day on Saturday 4th October 9.30 am - 12.30pm.
 - The Neighbourhood Plan will need updating following the County Plan update which is taking place 2027 – 2029.
 - Planters and seating on the old bridge is imminent. Planters also planned for the bus stop on the west bound side of the road opposite the bus shelter. A bee

friendly walk with signage is coming soon along with more planters on the road bridge in the spring (opposite side).

- Footpaths. Cllr Simmonds will email Alan Sharp to chase up Ian Fish regarding the lack of repairs to footpaths.
- There is a new Chief Operations Officer at the High School. Michael Sadgrove is to arrange a meeting with them about raising the profile of the school.
- Cycle route – Haydon Bridge to Corbridge. Some progress has been made following a meeting with Stuart Johnson (farmer) and Rodrica Straker (landowner). Both are keen on the idea and want to help. But progress is slow.
- The DT is looking for clarity regarding the football pitch on Shaftoe Green.
- The Haydon News - 100 people have signed up to receive a copy.
- The PC agreed to fund a trial run of 100 hard copies for 3 issues.

- b) **Bus shelter opposite Innerhaugh** – a revised quote for a simpler shelter with more protection from weather to the west was accepted.
- c) **Waste bins at Shaftoe Green and Ratcliffe Road** – The Clerk said that the new bins had now been delivered to NCC who would install them. They will replace bins near the gate onto cemetery road, and next to the gate into the estate.

11. Any other business –

- a) Cllr Jackson said that the gate from the Anchor to the river was damaged and the rail was rotten. It was agreed that the Handyman will be asked to look at it.
- b) Cllr Morshead said that he had not succeeded in getting a free defibrillator, but one could be purchased at a discount at a cost of £1200. To be discussed at the next meeting.
- c) Cllr Howard said that the lease for Shaftoe Green would soon be due for renewal. The area leased by the PC had been confirmed and includes some rough scrubland. NCC had leased the playing field in the centre and it was unclear what arrangements were made when the Shaftoe Academy took over. The PC had already been approached by developers interested in the field above and it might become very expensive to renew the lease. Cllr Thornhill said that grass cutting was a major outlay for the PC and the playing field had never been it's responsibility.
- d) Details of a review of Councils had been received. To be discussed at the next meeting.
- e) The PC recognised all of the hard work John and Pauline Wallis had done for the village and they wished John well.