

**MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL ON THE 27TH OF NOVEMBER 2025
AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present : Cllrs L. Alderson, B. Howard, S. Jackson, A. Kirsopp, C. Morshead, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, T. Simmonds, A. Suddes, D. Thornhill (Chair), D. Webster; C. McGivern (mins.).

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

A planning application for Marshall's Yard had been approved. Another for a wind turbine below Heugh House Lane had been refused. Cllr Sharp explained that the Langley Brickworks application would not be heard at planning committee until January.

The scheme for yellow lines on John Martin Street had been confirmed and will go ahead. White lines need refreshing on Shaftoe Street, and on Ratcliffe Road from Innerhaugh onwards.

Cllr Sharp said that he would give £3000 to the Nurture Project toward the cost of insulating the Hive building and other things. The Co-op had given £2500 toward the work needed at the campfire area.

Cllr Sharp said that the Smith Trust had funds available but had received no applications from Haydon Bridge. If any projects are brought forward they will be considered.

The tree in St Cuthbert's churchyard has not been pruned yet. A fallen tree at Threepwood Farm has been cut up. The trees opposite Douglas Gardens will be pruned in the next week, along with the one previously mentioned behind Belmont Gardens.

Cllr Sharp was annoyed by a charge of £375 from NCC for a permit to allow the new bus shelter to be installed, but he will contribute £2500 to the overall cost. He will also pay for a new streetlight.

The damaged drain opposite the Haydonian has been repaired. Following up on an email from Mr Robson, Cllr Sharp said that the white line at Park Style is fine and unfortunately he couldn't stop people parking there.

Cllr Thornhill said that there was a lower kerb near the entrance to St. Cuthbert's which only comes in to play when an undertaker needs to wheel a coffin into church. When this happens, Ram puts out cones and the residents respect this and leave the area free from parked cars. NCC have decided that this is a dropped kerb and are charging people for parking over it. Adrian Brown has challenged them on the grounds of the regulations and has got his money

back. NCC are now proposing to spend public money to make this a proper dropped kerb. Joe Morris MP has got involved in trying to sort this out.

6. Highways –

a) Broken handrail at Geeswood – the Clerk had chased this up and Tim Fish had admitted that he mistakenly thought this was a different location. The handrail will be repaired when NCC carry out some work on the footbridge.

b) Bin near the Anchor – Cllr Jackson reported that in the recent high river this had been swept downstream. She and her husband had retrieved the bin, but the liner is missing. Cllr Sharp said that if the Clerk contacted David Hunt he should be able to supply a liner, and James Brown will be asked to fix the bin in place.

7. Lighting – nothing to report.

8. Planning applications – none received.

9. Accounts – as in budget.

I The external audit had been completed and the Annual Governance and Accountability Review returned. One point for minor improvement “The Accounting Statements at Section 2 contains the following error, which was not corrected because the value was immaterial:

(i) Box 9 (Fixed Assets) for 2024/25 did not include an asset valued at £1.

In future, the Council should ensure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is accurate and complete.”

II Parish Council contracts for grass cutting and cemetery maintenance were discussed. It was agreed that they should be regularly reviewed. The work to be done will be looked at and if necessary new specifications drafted for review by the whole PC, two further tenders will be sought in the new year with a view to taking a decision on this in February. The Chair noted that Mr Batey had been doing this work for some time and had done a very good job, but for good governance the contracts should be reviewed.

10. Correspondence –

a) Stagecoach 685 service – Joe Morris and Kim McGuinness were now both involved in seeking a better service for passengers. However, Cllr Howard said that recently the bus driver had missed the turning for Haydon Bridge and had had to circle around on the A69 and back through the village on the wrong side of the road (for Hexham). He had gone out of his way to ensure that those waiting on the correct side of the road did not miss the bus.

b) Shaftoe lease – It was agreed that the PC would approach the Langley Estate as they need to forward plan the renewal of play equipment and seek terms for an early renewal of the contract.

c) Northumbria Design Code – to be discussed at the next meeting.

11. Governance Review –

The preliminary consultation was discussed. It was agreed that 11 Cllrs was the correct number for the parish and no one wanted to see the parish warded, or have the boundaries altered.

12. Parish projects –

a) Development Trust – There is a meeting coming up and this will be reported on at the next meeting.

b) Memorial bench – Cllr Suddes had noticed memorial benches elsewhere with a number of memorial plaques on them. She wondered if the benches on the old bridge might be suitable for this. Cllr Suddes will research further.

c) Orchard planting on Ratcliffe Road – the planting of fruit trees on the wide verge opposite Innerhaugh Mews will be carried out in early December. Cllr Thornhill had met on site with Siobhan Stephenson, Phil Harley and an officer from NCC. It was agreed that the PC would install a plaque confirming that they are responsible for the trees.

13. Any other business -

a) Christmas Fair – the GITS will hold a Christmas Fair at the Community Centre on the 6th of December. They are still looking for volunteers to help with the fireworks at New Year.

b) The PC had been contacted by Allendale Youth Ambition who would like to set up a youth group in Haydon Bridge. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

c) When the new bins were installed outside the shop on Church Street there was a lip left on the tarmac. Cllr Kirsopp asked if something could be done about this. Cllr Sharp will look at this issue.

d) A collection was made for the poppy wreath.