

**MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2025 AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

**Present :** Cllrs S. Jackson, A. Kirsopp, C. Morshead, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, A. Suddes, D. Thornhill, and D. Webster; 1 member of the public; C. McGivern (mins.).

**1. Public participation –**

a) Anne Smith explained that she had come to express her support for the Allendale Youth Ambition. She said that she had worked with them in the past and they did a colossal amount of work for kids up to the age of 16. She could not praise their work highly enough. Cllr Thornhill said that the sports organisations in the village, as well as the Scouts do a lot of work in HB. However, he said that Ms Smith was pushing at an open door and the PC were supportive. Sources of funding such as the Shaftoe Trust and Community Chest were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Charlotte Reid to say that the PC are completely supportive and suggest the Community Centre as the obvious location for their work.

**2. Apologies were received from –** Cllrs L. Alderson, B. Howard, C. Kendall and T. Simmonds.

**3. Declarations of interest –** none were received.

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

**5. Report from Northumberland County Council –**

No decision has been made on the planning appeal for **APP/P2935/W/25/3371630** Land West of High View.

The yellow lines on John Martin Street will be done early next year, as well as white lines on the road from Innerhaugh to Hordley Acres.

The Nurture Club has received funds from Cllr Sharp and he will also give £2,500 toward the new bus shelter.

Trees in St Cuthbert's churchyard have not been pruned yet, but Cllr Sharp has paid for trees opposite Douglas Gardens to be pruned.

Trees have been pruned around the light on the bend near the Showfield and this has made a difference to the amount of light showing. Cllr Sharp is waiting for a report on a possible further streetlight in this area.

The lower kerb outside the Church will not be enforced. Cllr Sharp will get NCC to look at the raised area of tarmac outside the newsagents. Cllr Thornhill said that the drains on Ratcliffe Road have still not been cleared and the one outside 12a is full of

debris. The need for a lower speed limit on the road past the Village Hall at Langley was discussed.

Cllr Kirsopp asked when the sweeper would next go around the village and Cllr Sharp promised to request that this is done soon.

## **6. Highways –**

- a) Cllr Webster said that James Walmesley had raised the issue of the road behind Belmont Gardens with her. Cllr Sharp said that he is trying to put together a scheme for the next financial year.
- b) Cllr Morshead reported that verge drains need to be cleared out on the road between Grindon Farm and the Repeater Station.
- c) Cllrs Sharp, Simmonds Suddes, and Thornhill had all attended the recent consultation event regarding Crow Hall. There was disquiet about the fact that the Forestry Commission seemed to be too close to the applicants. Cllr Thornhill said that Harry Humble and True North are still keen to go ahead. The proportion of Sitka Spruce has now gone down to 51% and is divided into parcels, rather than one solid block. There are more native broadleaved trees and mixed conifers, such as Scots Pines, to soften the appearance the environmental impact. The PC will not take a view on the project until they are consulted formally, which will be after the final plan is drawn up. Cllr Sharp is trying to persuade the applicants to move the access to the site away from the A69.
- d) Cllr Morshead said that the give way sign at the T junction at Langley is broken. Cllr Sharp will deal with this.
- e) The Clerk had contacted David Hunt at NCC to ask for a replacement inner for the bin at the Anchor, but he was unable to supply one. She will try to source a plastic box that will fit the existing bin. The cost of NCC installing bins was also discussed and it was agreed to see if James could install them instead.

## **7. Lighting – nothing to report.**

## **8. Planning applications – none received.**

## **9. Accounts – as in the budget.**

**I Budget and precept** – The draft budget was approved and a precept request for £60,000 was agreed.

## **10. Correspondence –**

- a) Northumberland Design Code – It was agreed that the Clerk would reply to this first stage of the consultation stating that the PC already had a Design Code for Haydon Parish, which was part of the Neighbourhood Plan, and that they did not wish to alter this.
- b) In response to a revised planting plan for the riverbank behind Ratcliffe Road received from the Environment Agency, the PC agreed and asked them to go ahead.

- c) An email was received expressing neighbours' concerns about the number and size of outbuildings at Staward Station House. Cllr Sharp said that they should contact the Planning Dept at NCC, and the Enforcement Officer would deal with it.
- d) The Clerk said that she had been contacted by Haltwhistle Burial Board regarding a soil box used for burials at Haydon Bridge. HBB would like to try this themselves and offered to pay a rental fee per burial. It was agreed that they could have a trial period of 3 burials at £15 per burial to see if it worked for them. Of course, they would be responsible for any damage to the soil box.
- e) The Civil Contingencies Officer from NCC had contacted the PC about a community emergency plan for Haydon Bridge. This is already being discussed by Cllrs and it was agreed that they would like to take up the offer of an in person meeting to try to progress things. It was agreed that members of the Flood Group would also be invited along.
- f) Jon Keyte had contacted the PC with an update on the proposed cycle route to Hexham. The Chair proposed the motion that "The Parish Council supports the proposed cycle route from Haydon Bridge to Hexham". This was agreed unanimously. Possible future funding for feasibility reports was also discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would request more information and details of other funding sources being explored.

## 11. Parish projects –

- a) **Development Trust** – Cllr Simmonds had sent a report from the DT –

Progress on the community heating system has stalled as the ½ acre energy centre site owned by the Greenwich Hospital is no longer available. There was discussion about the need to pursue other options but no way ahead yet agreed.

The high school has not made any applications to Shaftoe charities for a number of years and it was felt that they were open to engaging more with Haydon Bridge life, so it was proposed for a meeting with the Chief Operating Officer of the High School, Shaftoe Charities and the Parish Council to improve links and potentially explore:

- Improved access to Shaftoe charity funds for the school library
- Explore adult education development.
- Access to sports facilities at the school for the community
- Enable volunteer placements at the Bridge and Nurture project for Duke of Edinburgh students etc.

Haydon News – all 100 paper copies have gone, (thank you to the Parish Council for funding), a further 130 people subscribe online so we need to keep spreading the word to increase circulation.

John Martin Exhibition – Does the parish council own it? Does the Parish Council want the Development Trust to find a solution for rehousing it? This was discussed and it was suggested that if a larger premises was found for the library they would be better housed together.

- b) **Memorial bench** – Cllr Suddes had investigated this idea and said she had approached the Gardening Group/DT and Nurture Club, who were all involved in the installation

of the new benches on the Old Bridge. She said that memorial plaques could be placed on the verticals of benches. It was agreed that these needed to be uniform and a size of 20 x 10 cm would be best. Timpson's charge £70 for plaques of this size. The plaques would be installed by the Handyman and the point of contact would be the PC.

**12. Any other business –**

- a) Cllr Kirsopp asked for an update on the Spa Well. Cllr Sharp said that he had mentioned it at the most recent Rights of Way Committee. The work will be done in the next financial year.
- b) The right of way application for Brigwood will be considered in the next 6 months.
- c) A lorry parking on the grass verge opposite Innerhaugh Mews was discussed. The firm in question will be contacted to request that this ceases.
- d) Haydon Bridge High School – Peter Fletcher had contacted the PC to propose a meeting between the PC, DT, Shaftoe Academy and the High School. It was agreed that the PC would be in favour of such a meeting, once the current dispute at the High School has been resolved.