



Haydon Parish Council

13th April 2026

Dear Councillor,

We will be meeting at **Langley Village** Hall for the purpose of transacting the following business at 7.30pm on the 23rd of April 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Carole McGivern,

Clerk to Haydon Parish Council.

AGENDA

- 1. Public participation.**
- 2. To accept apologies for absence.**
- 3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda.**
- 4. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.**
- 5. Northumberland County Council - Report from Cllr. A. Sharp.**
- 6. Highways –**
 - a) Network Rail responded to a report of damage to the verge at the layby at the East end of the village.
 - b) Lynne Heslop had contacted the PC regarding flooding on the road at Cruel Syke. The Clerk has reported this to NCC.
 - c) Damage to the sign at Strother Close was reported to NCC.
 - d) Richard Snowdon provided photographs of the condition of the C284 Lowgate Road, particularly from Elrington junction to the bridge. These had been circulated.
- 7. Lighting – to discuss lighting issues.**

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8. Planning applications –

26/00762/LBC - Listed Building Consent for the construction of a dining room, conversion of the existing piggery to serve as a farm office and "dirty entrance" to the main house, construction of an extension built out from the external toilet / store and to connect the 'dirty entrance' to the existing utility at Harsondale Farm – No objections.

26/00767/FUL - Demolition of Old Dairy buildings and erection of 3 no residential dwellings with associated parking at Shaftoe Tce.

26/01225/FUL - Conversion and extension of agricultural buildings to create a dwellinghouse on land south of Vauce Farm, Langley.

9. Accounts – as in the budget.

I Review of Parish Council contracts – Decision.

II Report from the Internal Auditor.

III External audit / AGAR / Assertion 10.

10. Correspondence –

- a) A request was received from the Scouts for help with funding for storage facility – see Appendix A.
- b) Ceri Gibson had written to the PC to ask them to Consider the rights of the River Tyne in decision making – see Appendix B.
- c) Cllr Sharp had circulated details of a tree inspection at St Cuthbert's Church.

11. Parish Projects –

- a) Development Trust.
- b) Proposed footpath on verge in front of Langley.

12. Any other business –

Date of next meeting is 28th of May 2026.

Appendix A –

Hope this finds you well.

Over the last few years 1st Haydon Bridge has continued to grow in numbers and ambition, we now have over 70 young people involved and around 20 adults as regular volunteers both on the 'frontline' and also in the essential behind the scenes duties. We have also been acquiring more and more modern and expensive equipment through our fund raising efforts and some of that of course has been through the generous support of Haydon Parish Council.

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We currently store our day-to-day kit such as craft materials, sports gear, VHF radios and rope etc for running session nights in a wooden shed next to the church hall where we hold meetings. Our larger equipment such as tents, hammocks, gas bottles and stoves are stored at a separate larger and more secure location in Haydon Bridge, the old dairy next to Shaftoe school.

Unfortunately this arrangement at the old dairy is now coming to an end and after researching several possibilities we have decided the best option for us would be to replace the wooden shed at the church hall and replace it with a larger pre-fabricated concrete building where we can consolidate both our day to day and our larger camping equipment. In this way we are looking to turn a potential negative, in losing our current storage space, into a positive, with a brand new larger more secure and totally dry storage solution, where all of our gear would be easily accessible and safe. Not only would this benefit our own members, but would also be of use to the members of the church community with who we share that storage space and other groups who use the hall.

Initial estimates put the cost at around £20,000, which would provide the large concrete base necessary for the structure and the building itself. We are hoping to raise this money through smaller donations from all the authorities, charities, groups and individuals who have so very kindly supported us in the past, as well as with some fund raising of our own through the more traditional raffles and sponsored events.

My, by now perhaps, obvious question is would this be something the parish council may be able to support and make a donation to help us reach our target please? Perhaps you would be good enough to raise this at the next meeting of the council for discussion and if I can provide any further information or details please do let me know.

Best Regards, Rob Copley.

Appendix B –

The Rights of Rivers Not a single river in the UK is classed as healthy. The UK currently treats rivers as property and a resource rather than as a subject with inherent rights. The absence of legal rights for nature, and the exclusion of nature from our moral and political community, perpetuates a system where the service rivers provide is underappreciated and the long-term impact of not considering our connection to river processes is underestimated. Ecological harm is only addressed after damage occurs, rather than being prevented proactively. Our environmental laws and regulations are failing to prevent the destruction of vital ecosystem services provided by nature, often simply regulating the rate of destruction of those service providers. This legal and ethical gap undermines efforts to achieve sustainable, regenerative relationships with the natural world and meet the essential needs of rivers whilst weakening the ability of communities to defend local ecosystems from pollution, over extraction, or destruction. Rights of Rivers is a community-led / grass roots approach which can reframe our relationship with rivers and offer hope for their regeneration. This approach gives moral, political and legal personhood to rivers, granting them fundamental rights. This reframes our relationship to rivers,

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treating them not as resources to be exploited but as vital, living ecosystems that we owe duties to. In the UK, the River Ouse (Sussex) recently became the first river to have a charter of rights recognised by a local council. The River Test (Hampshire) has also had its rights recognised by local councils. At least thirty other communities across the UK are now pursuing rights of nature approaches for their rivers. Although 36% of the Tyne's rivers reach "Good" ecological standards, none of the Tyne's rivers reach the same chemical status. As it remains without protection sewage is regularly dumped into the river and its tributaries. Agricultural runoff is insufficiently policed relying more on voluntary action rather than statute. Tyne pollution from road traffic is washed into the river. River governance remains fragmented: the Environment Agency, Ofwat, councils, developers and catchment partnerships each hold partial responsibility. The result is diffused accountability and slow response when water quality or flows degrade. A rights-based approach offers a unifying principle — placing the river itself as a subject of care, not just an object of management. The Tyne does have a River Basin Management Plan produced by the Environment Agency. It is out of date, vague on action and largely a self-congratulatory document, promising little. An anglers' club in Pickering took the EA to court because its similarly vague management plan for Yorkshire rivers was, according to the High Court Judge, "smoke and mirrors". The anglers won their case. Protection is inadequate making the Tyne and its tributaries open to unfettered abuse. Only Governments can pass laws giving rights to rivers. This has happened in Ecuador where the constitution was changed but it is very unlikely to happen in the UK. However, our local authorities can embed protective policies into their protocols so that the river's needs are considered first in any decision. A group of residents has set up Love Our Tyne. We are setting out on the journey to eventually persuade the County Councils and Town and Parish Councils throughout the Tyne Catchment to write such consideration for the river into their plans. I'd like this Full Council to accept that the River Tyne and its tributaries have rights. I'd like it to support the Love Our Tyne group and propose that:

1. This Council acknowledges the growing global movement of "Rights of Nature" as a framework for rethinking its relationship with the environment
2. This Council acknowledges the value of the Universal Declaration of River Rights which establishes that all rivers shall possess, as a minimum, the following fundamental rights:
 - a) The right to flow
 - b) The right to perform essential functions within the river's ecosystem
 - c) The right to be free from pollution
 - d) The right to feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers
 - e) The right to native biodiversity
 - f) The right to regeneration and restoration
3. This Council believes there is a case to be made for considering our interactions with our local waterways in the context of "Rights of Rivers" and through which the

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health and wellbeing of the River Tyne can be prioritised and addressed 4. This Council will lend its support to Love our Tyne as it explores with other Councils, communities and relevant stakeholders the implementation of “Rights of Rivers” throughout the River Tyne Catchment. This will involve working towards a concise “Declaration on the Rights of the River Tyne” for possible endorsement by this Council within its current term of office.

Ceri Gibson.

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