

**MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON THE 19<sup>th</sup> OF MARCH  
2026 AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

**Present :** Cllrs B. Howard, S. Jackson, C. Morshead, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, A. Suddes, D. Thornhill (Chair), and D. Webster; C. McGivern (mins); members of the public.

**1. Public participation –**

a) Keith Iveson and Paul Woods explained that they were representing the new Christmas Tree group, as the group who were previously organising this wanted to stand down. They hoped to build public participation in the event. One issue that needs to be dealt with is the electricity supply. They hoped to be able to plug into the supply for street lighting on the old bridge, but would need advice from NCC as to how to go about this. Cllr Sharp will take this up. Mr Iveson said that they would also like to involve local children in the switch on. It was agreed that they would contact the PC in the autumn for contact details of local groups such as the scouts or football club.

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

3. **Declarations of interest** – Cllr Morshead declared an interest in the planning application for Harsondale Farm.

4. **Minutes of previous meeting** – having been circulated the minutes were agreed and signed.

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

Cllr Sharp said the Langley Brickworks planning application would probably be considered at the May committee meeting. Cllr Webster had raised the issue of a large heap of soil/leaves at the end of Belmont Gardens with Cllr Sharp, and he said that he will ask for this to be removed next week.

Most of the drains on North Bank have been cleaned out. Work had begun on the green lane at Lands End Road. Water is bubbling up at the side of the road and running down the side of the road to Lees Farm.

Cllr Sharp confirmed that the sweeper had been around the village. He also confirmed work in the Local Transport Programme. These were –

- Surface dressing on the A686
- Carriageway repairs on the B6295 from Stublick to Langley.
- Carriageway repairs at Esp Hill and from Ridley Hall to Haydon Bridge (past Tedcastle Farm).
- Carriageway repairs at Langley.

The yellow lines which have now been painted on John Martin Street have stopped 5ft short. The team would be back in the following week to paint white lines from Innerhough to Hordley Acres. Cllr Sharp will ask them to do slow and white lines refresh on Shaftoe Street.

Cllr Sharp said that the drains on Ratcliffe Road had been cleaned, apart from 2, which they had not been able to reach. Cllr Webster said that if a warning had been given to residents they would have moved their cars. It was noted that the drains at 12a, 20 & 30 were blocked.

Cllr Sharp said that the litter on the A686 was very bad and he had cleared some of it himself.

It is unclear what will happen with regard to bins in laybys and litter collection when Highways England take over the contract for the A69 from Roadlink.

A tree report had been prepared for the trees on Church Street and some work is needed, the report will be circulated.

Drains will be looked at on the Grindon Road. Cllr Morshead asked about the road beyond West Lands End. Cllr Sharp said that this was not on the LTP list, but he would try to get some work done.

## **6. Highways –**

- a) Cllr Morshead reported a Landrover parked on Lands End Road; it was parked legally but he said that it was preventing HGV's getting through. Cllr Sharp will investigate.

## **7. Lighting –**

- a) Cllr Thornhill said that there was a light out at the junction of John Martin Street and Ratcliffe Road. He will report it on NCC's website.

## **8. Planning applications –**

**26/00761/FUL** - 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.

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

**I Review of Parish Council contracts** - The Chair thanked Cllr Webster for her sterling work on the new schedules. Cllr Webster said that she had heard back from Highways England who had said that they will have to assess the situation before they say what they will do about bins/litter. They implied that they would only cut grass at the junctions, two times per year. Cllrs noted that Mr Batey had been doing a wonderful

job. Three tenders had been received in response to the new schedule. It was agreed that the PC should accept the one that offered the best value. It was also agreed that Cllr Webster would contact Procut again to ask them to revise their quote to reduce spraying and use strimming where this was possible. The PC will also follow up references from other parish councils.

**II Internal Audit** – The Clerk explained that the Internal Auditor had completed her work and would write her report once the AGAR form was received. From the external auditors.

**III Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** – both documents were reviewed and it was agreed to make the alterations suggested by Cllr Alderson.

#### **10. Correspondence –**

- a) A request for funding for a music project led by the Queen’s Hall was discussed. Cllr Thornhill said that music provision at the High School was already being supported by the Shaftoe charity. Cllr Richardson said she would ask whether this project was being funded.
- b) Peter Fletcher had passed on details of a consultation about the library service in Northumberland. Cllr Thornhill said that he had attended the meeting to discuss this. Northumberland library service currently has 2 libraries on the “Bridge” model and they wish to increase this to 8. At present there is no security in the arrangement for HB, NCC could say that they did not want to continue with the present setup. There is no threat of closure. At the meeting NCC had been interested to hear that the PC pay the rent, but they were appalled by the yearly increase. This needs to be looked at again. Alternative locations were discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would write in support of the service at HB.

#### **11. Parish projects –**

- a) Development Trust – there had been no meeting since the last PC meeting.
- b) Suggested footpath across the grass opposite Innerhaugh Mews – This was discussed. It was agreed that a short piece of path from the nearest gate to the shelter and then to the road were the vital bits. It was agreed that at this stage the Clerk would contact Karbon Homes to ask about a short path to a closer gate to enhance connectivity, with the PC paying for the gate.

#### **12. Any other business –**

- a) Hanging baskets – The Clerk passed on a message from Cllr Kirsopp, who wondered if the PC wanted to go ahead with hanging baskets this year. This was agreed.

- b) Cllr Kendall had passed on a query from Hayley Turner who asked who was responsible for overhanging branches coming from the area behind the public toilets on John Martin Street. Cllr Jackson will investigate.
- c) Cllr Sharp asked about a blocked drain near the picnic tables at the Anchor, which was mentioned at the last meeting. It was not known if this was now cleared.
- d) Cllr Jackson said that the GITS were planning an event to mark Northumberland Day. It was agreed that the PC insurance would cover this event and Cllr Howard agreed to represent the PC by attending.
- e) Cllr Morshead raised the issue of parking on Shaftoe Street. He said that on a recent evening cars could hardly get through and it would have been impossible for an emergency vehicle to pass through.