

MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON THE 23RD OF APRIL

AT LANGLEY VILLAGE HALL.

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

1. Public participation –

- a) Sharon Batey had written to request that sealed tenders be used when the cemetery contract is next considered. She asked for information about the process followed for the grass cutting contract. The Chair responded saying that the PC was satisfied that its business was done correctly.
- b) Ceri Gibson and Nick Morphet of the Love Our Tyne Group had written to the PC to request that they accept that the River Tyne and its tributaries have rights and a number of linked proposals. She explained that when any economic activity is carried out they wanted to see the environment coming first. Concern was expressed that this would mean that the rights of the river would come before protecting people whose homes may be flooded. It was also unclear how this would work going forward at this stage.
- c) Ben Bates questioned recent road maintenance, saying that in particular on the B6305 parts of the road had been missed. Cllr Sharp said that at West Lands End the problem was a blocked drain on the other side of the road. The ditch has also now been opened up down to the bypass flyover. With regard to the green lane near Castle Farm, where the problem had been a pipe going under the road, he agreed that the work would not last 10 years, but there was not enough money to tarmac this road. In other locations around Langley where tarmac had been put down on top of the surface, he would rather have seen the road resurfaced. Cllr Sharp said that he felt that the A686 had been improved.
- d) Jo Bates requested further litter picking on the A686 and reported that the kissing gate behind the shelter had still not been repaired. She went on to say that she would like to see the PC support the Village Hall by increasing its grant. She outlined planned works and the likely costs including the purchase of a generator so that the hall could become a “warm hub”. The Chair said that the PC had discussed “warm hubs” on several occasions but had been unaware of the Village Hall’s plans. He said that they needed to talk more. Ben Bates said that in an emergency people in Langley would not be able to look to Haydon Bridge for help, they would need to fend for themselves.

2. **To accept apologies for absence** – none were received.

3. **Declaration of interest in items on the agenda** – Cllr Richardson declared an interest in the planning application for the Old Dairy.

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

5. **Northumberland County Council** –

- Cllr Sharp said that he thought a good job had been done with the drains at West Lands End. There would always be a risk of some gravel washing down the hill and this would need to be monitored in bad weather. The white lines on Ratcliffe Road have been refreshed, as have car parking spaces on the road bridge and the slow signs on Shaftoe Street. The keep clear sign beside the metal fence on Shaftoe Street could not be refreshed as it is now illegal in this location. The extension of the yellow line on John Martin Street has not been done yet.
- Cllr Sharp expected that the Langley Brickworks application would probably come to committee in May.
- The sweeper had been around the whole village.
- A grant of £1,500 had been given to the HB Scouts and Cllr Sharp reminded everyone that applications for grants to the Smith Trust should be in by 1st of May.
- Cllr Sharp had met with Derek Todhunter and John Clarke to discuss trees on the Lands End road. These trees are on land which belongs to Bellway. It would be helpful if Bellway would carry out a tree report. Drains have also been sorted out in this area.
- Water has been pouring down the road from the Heugh House Lane/North Bank junction. NCC have promised to address this.
- Potholes have been repaired on the road at Chesterwood/Standalone/Lipwood. It was noted that the road surface is in a very poor state going on toward Whinnetely.
- Regarding the Lowgate Road, Cllr Sharp is trying to get NCC to deal with the culvert work needed. He said that there is also an issue near Woodhall Mill where a tree falling has taken away part of a wall.
- Cllr Sharp is trying to push on with work on the Spa Well footpath and had met with Tim Fish (Footpaths Officer) and Mrs Straker (landowner).
- The repairs needed to the kissing gate near Langley Village Hall will be reported to NCC again. Cllr Sharp will also request more litter picking on the road past Langley Castle. Cllr Morshead reported that the damaged wall has not been repaired yet.
- The drains on Ratcliffe road have not been cleared yet but will be dealt with. A broken manhole on North Bank is also in hand.
- Cllr Jackson reported deep potholes on John Martin Street.

6. Highways –

- a) Network Rail responded to a report of damage to the verge at the layby at the East end of the village saying this was not done by their team. Cllr Howard will ask if anyone has photographic evidence of the vehicles concerned.
- 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 had been reported to NCC.
- d) Richard Snowdon provided photographs of the condition of the C284 Lowgate Road, particularly from Elrington junction to the bridge. The condition of this road is being considered.

- e) The Clerk had once again written to a firm whose employee was parking 40 tonne lorries on the verge opposite Innerhaugh. In their reply the firm said the employee would be spoken to.

7. **Lighting** – nothing to report.

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 – No objections.

26/01225/FUL - Conversion and extension of agricultural buildings to create a dwellinghouse on land south of Vauce Farm, Langley – No objections.

Appeal regarding Land West Of High Meadows – the PC responded to the latest appeal The caravan on the site is in breach of the Northumberland Local Plan and Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Plan.. It is an isolated development in the countryside outside the settlement area. Also, the land in question used to be part of Waite's Farm or School Farm. When it was sold to the County Council we believe that it was subject to an 80 year covenant requiring it's use to be agricultural. Mr Scantlebury was aware of all the restrictions when he bought the land and has consistently shown his intention to change its use to residential by making repeated planning applications for residential development/use.

9. **Accounts** – as in the budget.

I Review of Parish Council contracts – The PC had decided to give the grass cutting contract to Practical Landscapes for 3 years.

II Report from the Internal Auditor – The report from the Internal Auditor was accepted.

III External audit / AGAR / Assertion 10 – The Clerk reiterated that the changes needed to meet the requirements of Assertion 10 were beyond her skills. Cllr Alderson offered to look at what was needed and report back to the PC.

IV Review of Internal Audit and Risk Assessment – these documents were reviewed and agreed.

10. **Correspondence** –

- a) A request was received from the Scouts for help with funding for storage facility. It was agreed that the PC needed more information to make a decision. The Clerk will invite Rob Copley to a PC meeting.
- b) Ceri Gibson had written to the PC to ask them to Consider the rights of the River Tyne in decision making – It was agreed that the PC would not adopt the proposal put before them at this time, but they would like to work with the

Love our Tyne Group in future. They reaffirmed their commitment to the environment and in particular to the wellbeing of the River Tyne.

- c) Cllr Sharp had circulated details of a tree inspection at St Cuthbert's Church.
- d) Cllr Jackson passed on a request from the GITS for a grant for the planned celebration of Northumberland Day. A grant of £300 was agreed.

11. Parish Projects –

- a) Cemetery - In response Mrs Batey's queries the Chair said that the PC had decided to carry out due diligence as it was dealing with public money and would be putting contracts out to tender every 3 years (on a rolling basis). No Cllr had seen the quotes until all 3 were received and no contractor had seen a competitor's quote. Practical Landscapes will be asked to provide proof of their insurance.

12. Any other business –

- a) Cllr Webster had reported to the PC that Ram, who runs Claire's Convenience Store, had suffered racist abuse. This has been reported to the Police. The PC discussed what they could do to support him and his family. A statement of support was agreed as follows –

Haydon Parish Council has heard with concern of the alleged anti-social and racist behaviour of a small number of individuals concerning Claire's Convenience Store in Haydon Bridge.

"The Parish Council deploras any such behaviour and states with confidence that it does not meet with the attitudes of the community at large. Whenever such behaviour occurs it is completely unacceptable and all right minded people should call it out.

The Parish Council wishes to publicly express its thanks to Ram and his family for their contribution to the life of Haydon Bridge and to wish them well."

- b) The owner of a pizza van asked whether she needed permission to visit other locations in the village. Cllr Sharp said that she would need a licence from the County Council unless she was parked on private property.