

MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON 21st OF MAY

AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Present : Cllrs L. Alderson, B. Howard (Chair), S. Jackson, A. Kirsopp, C. Morshead, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, and D. Webster; C. McGivern (mins.); and 1 member of the public.

1. **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair** – Cllrs Thornhill and Howard were re-elected Chair and Vice-chair respectively.
2. **Haydon Bridge Flood Group** – the PC had received a request for support for a public meeting to promote the work of the Flood Group. This was agreed unanimously. The Clerk will liaise with the Flood Group to arrange this.
3. **Public participation** –
 - a) Laura Gilhespy (Chair of Langley Village Hall Committee) thanked the PC for the grant of £1000 but requested that this be increased to its previous rate, which had been £2,400 in 2024. She said that the new committee was planning big changes. A lottery grant of £20,000 was being used to insulate the walls of the main hall and put in new electrics. They also hoped to extend the hall to install accessible toilets and revamp the existing toilets. Cllr Morshead said that as there was a precedent for a larger grant it should be reinstated. Cllr Sharp promised to give some money from his Cllrs scheme. Laura said that the committee was also applying to the Smith Trust. More use of the village hall is planned, but it will need to close while work goes ahead. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate details of the previous grant rate to the whole council for comment.
4. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllrs T. Simmonds, A. Suddes and D. Thornhill.
5. **Declaration of interest in items on the agenda** – none were received.
6. **Minutes of the previous meeting** - having been circulated, were agreed and signed.
7. **Northumberland County Council** -

Cllr Sharp said that the Langley Brickworks application would be heard by committee on the 9th of June. This application is going to committee because it has received 11 objections. The Vauce planning application has also been called in.

The yellow lines on John Martin Street will be extended and a passing place created on Ratcliffe Road.

Three drains on Ratcliffe Road will be sorted out in the next week.

Drains are blocked with grass between North Bank and Heugh House Lane will be sorted out too. Water is coming down the road just above Heugh House Lane and it has created a crater.

Cllr Sharp accepted that work had been done to fill potholes near Cruel Syke, but that the road looked terrible.

The road from New Alston to Newbrough, past Haydon Fell Cottage, is adopted but almost impassible now.

The road at Standalone has been patched but needs resurfacing. Further down at Lipwood drains have been blocked by grass.

The culvert going up to Lowes Fell, near the old railway bridge, has been cleared. The road at East Lands End has been repaired and the Chair said that there was a dramatic improvement.

Cllr Sharp has met with the Chair of the Governors at the High School. David Nisbet has stepped down as Head. The strikes have now been cancelled and there is a new governing body who are working on applications to improve the school buildings.

Cllr Sharp has talked to both sides involved with the Spa Well Footpath, but work has not started yet.

Two or three trees are to be removed below Woodhall Mill, this will require the closure of the road for a few days.

8. Highways –

- a) Motor homes parking at the riverside picnic area – Cllr Jackson said that she had been approached last year by 4 local residents who were concerned about motor homes parking overnight at the picnic area. The site is advertised as a free camping site on the Internet and this was attracting a lot of interest. The website claims that the area is run by NCC, and that there are toilets on site. Neither of these things is true. At one point last year 7 vans had been parked overnight. Cllr Jackson had investigated sites where you can park overnight for free on NCC's website and there are strict rules relating to this. You must have your own toilet facilities on board for example. Cllr Howard said that he had seen 6 vans there recently and the rubbish bins were overwhelmed by the volume of rubbish. He went on to say that this is a designated picnic area, well used by dog walkers and kayakers accessing the South Tyne. A letter will be sent to the website advertising this site, pointing out the inaccuracies to try to nip this in the bud before the summer holidays. If this does not work the issue will be looked at again. Cllr Jackson will also talk to NCC to make them aware of it.

9. Lighting – nothing to report.

10. Planning applications – none received.

The PC received details of **EN0110031** - Ray II Wind Farm - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification.

11. Accounts – as in the budget.

I Annual Governance Statement – was completed by the Chair and approved by the PC.

II Statement of Accounts – had been completed by the Clerk and signed by the Clerk and the Chair and approved by the PC.

III Assertion 10 on the AGAR – Cllr Alderson had looked at this and suggested ways of taking the work forward, she also provided a statement for the external auditors on this.

IV Safeguarding Policy – A draft policy had been circulated. Cllr Alderson suggested some improvements to the draft and these will be circulated for approval following the meeting.

12. Correspondence –

- a) Details of a Community Nature Connection day at the Nurture Project on the 7th of June were received from Lydia Coulson.

13. Parish Projects –

- a) Development Trust – Cllr Suddes had provided a report from the last meeting –

Village Leaflet Trail Carol Price & the Gardening Club had put forward a proposal for a village trail map. This would include various groups in the village as well as hospitality venues. The groups would include Nurture Project/Community Garden, Bee Friendly Walk, Heritage Plaques, Gardening Group, etc. In short there would be one QR code with a link to the website which would then direct people to the relevant project. The DT were in agreement with this. The PC will be asked to support the leaflet trail and support the erection of the maps at various locations in the village. An application will be made for funding through the Royal Countryside Fund. The PC may be asked for a financial contribution if required. Other charities/trusts will also be approached. (Accommodation will not be included)

The Haydon Hundred 2026 – there had been a smaller than usual number of entries at the same time last year. Advertising will be taking place to try and boost numbers. All time trials/sportives are having the same issue and around the country a large number no longer exist. There are a number of factors, in particular the 2012 Olympic effect is wearing off. A child friendly route has been looked at but this is out of the question due to numerous H&S issues. The H&S issues are magnified ten-fold when involving young people.

Haydon Newsletter. It has always been the intention that the newsletter will be an electronic publication. The DT do not want to find themselves back in the same situation of having to find volunteers to deliver numerous copies. The copies at various locations in the village, Ram's, The Bridge, Pharmacy, etc works really well. An evaluation of the paper copies will take place and whether this needs to be increased.

Flood Group – The DT asked for clarification on the relationship with the PC and the Flood Group. This is to avoid any overlap which could occur with the DT.

The Bridge/Library - The DT would like clarification on whether the PC are looking to put forward a proposal that the library moves to the Community Centre. It has been mentioned a couple of times to the DT Directors. As PC representatives Tessa and I confirmed it was discussed at a PC meeting but as far as we are aware there is no desire from the PC to move it from its current location.

The DT wished to convey that having two representatives from the PC attending their meetings is a very positive step and feel it is a good way for communication between the two organisations.

- b) Cllr Kirsopp passed on a query from Cllr Simmonds, who was trying to find out who owned the wall between the churchyard and the old farm shop. It was thought that this was the owner of the shop and Cllr Howard will contact them. The PCC would like to create an opening in the wall to create access from the riverside to the green space around the church.

14. Any other business –

- a) Cllr Sharp said that he is still in discussions to have an electric supply on the old bridge for Christmas lights.
- b) Cllr Sharp said that litter picking had been carried out on the A686.
- c) Grass will be cut again on the green at Strother Close before Northumberland Day.
- d) Cllr Sharp noted that several Parish Cllrs had attended the recent event at Langley Castle and that it had been a real success.
- e) Cllr Howard asked if bins would be reinstated in laybys on the A69. Cllr Sharp said that Highways England are carrying out manual litter picks, but he felt that bins were needed.