

MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON 23rd OF JULY

AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Present : Cllrs L. Alderson, B. Howard, S. Jackson, A. Kirsopp, A. Sharp, T. Simmonds, A. Suddes, D. Thornhill, and D. Webster; C. McGivern (mins.).

1. Public participation –

- a) Mike Jackson said that he was aware of Chris Armstrong's recent letter regarding speeding on Shaftoe St./John Martin St. He said the new yellow lines keep the area clear and help line of sight from the car park at the Anchor, however he said that speeding in this area was getting worse. Drivers coming down the hill speed up when they get past parked cars. Simon Currie said that cars were travelling at well over 20mph, and it was dangerous to back out into the road. He said some drivers had no regard for children's safety and speed humps would stop this. Cllr Sharp said that he had recently had a meeting with Chief Inspector Kate Benson and he had raised this issue. He said he was happy to get the safety team at NCC to survey again at this location. Simon Currie said that he had recently been hit on the arm by a speeding car which did not stop. This had been reported to the Police. The Chair said that the PC had no powers over this but were there to amplify the views of residents. NCC was reluctant to go for speed humps as these could cause more problems than they solved. The Clerk had written to the Neighbourhood Policing team and they intended to carry out speed patrols.
- b) David Robson said that he had come along to discuss the draft report for the alleged Public Footpath No 75 (Parish of Haydon). The report shows that the route is shown on 9 Ordnance Survey maps over the years. This shows that it is a right of way, but it had not been acknowledged as such. The recommendation from NCC was that it should be a right of way and enforced. The PC agreed that they support this. This will go to Committee in August.

2. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllrs C. Kendall and C. Morshead.

3. **Declaration of interest in items on the agenda** – none were received.

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

5. Northumberland County Council –

- Cllr Sharp said that NCC were happy to go ahead with the installation of an electric supply for the Christmas lights on the old bridge. Cllr Sharp will pay for this installation and the group organising the lights will pay for ongoing maintenance.
- Work will begin to repair drains on North Bank in the next week. Work will also begin to repair the pipe below the care home.
- NCC will return to Ratcliffe Road to complete work on the drains in the next week and will take 2 to 3 days. Cllr Alderson reported three blocked drains on the road out of the village from Innerhaugh.

- Cllr Sharp had met with the Head and Assistant Head of Haydon High School. He had been impressed with the Head Teacher and said that the staff were now more united with the Head. He hoped that the Government would pay for more work on the school. The Head had confirmed that they were happy to meet with the PC. Falling numbers at the school remains a problem.
- The felling of 4 trees between Woodhall Mill and Elrington has not been done yet. Trees between the library and St. Cuthbert's Church will be pruned.
- On the A69 signs have been put up in the laybys advising motorists to take their litter home and the laybys have been cleaned.
- Haydon Lodge will reopen in October 2026 for education provision to students who are not able to be educated in mainstream school.
- Cllr Sharp had attended the Scouts AGM. They have raised £3,500 from grants for the proposed new building.
- The road has been repaired at Carts Bog and Cllr Sharp felt a good job had been done.
- The Smith Trust had met recently and given out £53,000 in grants. There had been six applications from Haydon Bridge. £1,500 had gone to the Football Club; £700 toward additional heritage plaques; £565 to the Community Centre; £1,200 to St. Cuthbert's Church; £1,000 to the Scouts and £2,300 to the Nurture Project to tarmac the paths. He said that the committee was keen to support projects in Haydon Bridge.
- Cllr Kirsopp said that a local resident had complained about use of electric scooters at the Showfield. Cllr Thornhill said that this should be reported to the Police.
- Local people will be using speed guns on North Bank in September.
- Cllr Kirsopp said that trees on the western verge on the cemetery road were restricting visibility and causing a traffic hazard. This will be reported to Home Group.
- A white van has been parked outside the General Havelock for 2 years and is thought to have been dumped there. This has been reported to NCC and the next step will be to report it to the Police.

6. Highways –

- a) The Clerk reported that a new bin had been purchased to be placed at the bus stop at the East end of the village near the topiary. The Handyman will install it.
- b) The Clerk reported that a small bin will be purchased to go on the pole at the bus stop opposite Innerhaugh Mews. The Handyman will install this too.
- c) Cllr Kirsopp reported potholes at the entrance to Foundry Court and a loose kerb stone at Rahm's shop. Cllr Sharp will deal with these issues.

7. Lighting – nothing to report.

8. Planning applications –

26NP0067 Change of use from existing agricultural stores into two toilets including the installation of a pumping station and package treatment plant for use by Hadrian's Wall walkers at Sewingshields Farm – NO OBJECTIONS.

26NP0069LBC Listed Building Consent - Change of use from existing agricultural stores into two toilets, including the installation of a pumping station and package

treatment plant for use by Hadrians Wall walkers at Sewingshields Farm – NO OBJECTIONS.

26/02807/FUL - Rationalisation and extension of the existing car park to provide a total of 16 delineated parking spaces, including the extension of gravel surfacing, installation of timber parking markers, formation of a stone-paved bin-storage area serving the adjacent school and removal of five trees Land South East Of Shaftoe Trust First School – NO OBJECTIONS.

26/02634/LBC - Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing concrete roof tiles with natural slate and associated repair works at 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 17, 19, 21, , 23 & Communal Room Shaftoe Terrace – NO OBJECTIONS.

9. Accounts – as in the budget.

I Review of grass cutting – Cllr Jackson said that the plaque beside the tree planted for the bypass is hidden by grass. This and the grass at the layby will be included when the cemetery contract is next looked at.

Cllrs had looked at the various areas of grass around the village. The entrances to the village looked fine and the PC was happy with the grass cutting. The following points would be raised for extra attention –

- At Shaftoe Green the steps up to the green from the school need tidying up, and this corner in general could do with some work.
- A wildflower patch had been suggested located between the stairs and ramp and the PC would like an update on when this would go ahead.
- On Shaftoe green the paths and under the picnic tables are overgrown with weeds and grass and the PC wonder how this can be remedied.
- Weeds under the barriers near the tunnel top are overgrown. This area needs to be tidied up.

Rubber matting under play equipment at the Showfield is lifting and a swing seat at Shaftoe Green needs repair. The Chair and Vice-chair will take a look at this.

II IT policy – A draft had been discussed at the pre-meeting. A revised draft will be circulated before the next meeting.

10. Correspondence –

- a) Received from the British Trust for Ornithology – Greenspaces Management Questionnaire – Cllr Suddes will complete this.
- b) Request from Natural England to access PC land for the England Ecosystem Survey between April 2027 and March 2028 at the cemetery & Shaftoe Green – the Clerk will reply to confirm this is granted.

11. Parish projects -

a) Development Trust - Cllr Suddes asked if the PC could confirm that they were the legal guardians of the John Martin pictures. The PC was unable to do this as they are not included on the asset list or insurance. It was thought that they would be included

on the Community Centre insurance as they were in that building. On behalf of the DT Peter Fletcher had circulated a copy of the library lease. Rent goes up annually and is reviewed every 6 years. The next review will be in 2029. It has been proposed that Peter writes to Arch from whom the building is rented to request a Community Transfer. The PC agreed with this proposal.

b) The Chair and Vice-chair had met with a representative of Bellway who were interested in developing land around Shaftoe Green. Last year the PC was contacted by Advance (an arms-length development company of NCC) about the same land, but nothing has been heard from them since. The landowners are the Langley Estate and the Duffy family. The land being considered is between the bypass to Shaftoe Green, across to Geeswood and down as far as Smith's Tce. Bellway want to develop the land for housing, including the playing field in the centre of Shaftoe Green. They are currently trying to gauge what the reaction to this would be.

At present Shaftoe Green is protected green space. The Chair explained that protection of the countryside is not as strong as protection for a green belt. The proposed site is also outside the settlement boundary. The Local Plan is currently being reviewed and will be completed in 2027. The settlement boundary might be changed at this stage to the edge of the A69. Cllr Simmonds asked whether a new Neighbourhood Plan was needed, but Cllr Thornhill said that this would involve a huge amount of work and be very expensive. If building went ahead in the centre of the Green this would completely change the character of the site. Building could not go ahead with the surrender of a strip of land to create the access. (Cllr Alderson declared an interest in this proposed development and will take no part in future discussions.)

C) Haydon Bridge Matters - Cllr Thornhill said that there would be some value in making the site a bit more proactive to raise issues of interest or community concern. Cllr Jackson felt that this was also a good forum to highlight the work of the PC. Cllr Simmonds currently does a bullet point list of what the PC is doing for the DT. At present issues are raised at PC meetings and Cllr Thornhill adds them to HB Matters. Cllr Howard acts as gatekeeper to the site which has over 6,000 members and Cllr Thornhill acts as admin weeding out adverts and anything offensive, and under the guidance of the PC updates the site. Both of these duties require work everyday. Cllr Thornhill wondered if 2 younger Cllrs would like to take this on. To be discussed further in September.

12. Any other business -

- a) Cllr Jackson said that the GITS would be holding a dog show on the 13th of September on the green at Strother's Close.
- b) Cllr Jackson said that at some point a new representative would be needed for the PC on the committee of the GITS. Cllr Howard offered to do this.
- c) Cllr Thornhill reminded Cllrs that Cllrs should provide the Clerk with details of anything they would like to discuss at the meeting, rather than raising them under

AOB. Strictly speaking unless matters are urgent they should be discussed at the next meeting.