

MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON 24TH OF SEPTEMBER
AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Present : Cllrs L. Alderson, B. Howard, C. Kendall, A. Kirsopp, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, T. Simmonds, A. Suddes, D. Thornhill, and D. Webster; C. McGivern (mins.); 8 members of the public and R and J Copley (1st Haydon Bridge Scouts).

1. Rob Copley, Haydon Bridge Scouts to discuss project Shedisfaction –

Rob explained that the Scouts have been using the old dairy located by Shaftoe Trust Academy, to store equipment for the last 15+ years. The dairy is now scheduled for demolition to make way for housing. Legacy equipment is stored there such as gas bottles, a large marquee that we use as a field kitchen on bigger equipment. As the group has developed over the last ten years they are purchasing modern equipment such as the tents and hammocks.

Rob said that they hope to turn a potential negative into a positive with a new storage solution. Their current meeting place at St John of Beverley church hall with its adjacent wooden storage shed. The wooden shed has seen better days and is not suitable to house the larger and more expensive equipment.

The ambition is to remove this old wooden structure and replace it with a much larger, more secure and low maintenance concrete panel building that will allow them to consolidate the larger camping equipment alongside the day-to-day stuff on one site. There are several advantages to that idea obviously as not only will the equipment be better preserved, safe from theft and allow space for further acquisitions, it will also give much more efficient and easier access to the gear for the leaders.

Rob outlined the plans for the new shed which will sit on a concrete pad laid by Ken Eales. The estimated cost of the project is £17,000. Some funding has already been secured from Karbon Homes Community Investment Fund, the Smith Trust and the Community Chest. £10,000 of funding is pending from the Shaftoe Trust.

The land is owned by the church and the plan would be to hand the new building over to the church who would be responsible for maintenance, with the scouts agreeing a licence for it's use. Cllr Sharp said that if there was a shortfall in funding he would be happy to help. The PC will consider a contribution to the project at their budget meeting. Cllr Suddes thanked Rob for his very clear presentation and the Chair thanked Rob and Jane for coming along.

2. Public participation –

- a) Julie Clarke said that streetlights between the club and the Showfield had been off since June. Cllr Sharp said that the problem was with Northern Powergrid, who were taking too long to sort things out. NCC had put in some solar lights, but these are quite dim. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Northern Powergrid.
- b) Geraldine Newton said that she had heard that the cemetery contract would be coming up to tender and she wanted to support Alan Batey. She said that Mr Batey had improved access to the water supply, left tools for visitors etc. The Chair explained that the PC's

Standing Orders dictate that they seek value for money for residents. There was no criticism of the work Mr Batey does. However, the contract has not gone out for competitive tender for over 8 years and it is proper to do so now. The PC will be very happy to receive a tender for the work from Mr Batey. The Chair also explained that the PC is not responsible for grass cutting on the estate. The cutting of the playing field at Shaftoe Green was also raised and it was explained that this area was rented by NCC, who had then handed it over to the Shaftoe School who no longer want to use or maintain it.

- c) Mr Rasu said that since he had taken over Claire's Convenience Store he has had problems with people parking in the designated loading bay. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to NCC to request that the loading bay is enforced.
- d) Mr Rasu said that he and his family continued to suffer racist abuse at his shop. The PC were very concerned to hear about this completely unacceptable behaviour. A meeting will be requested with Inspector Kate Benson to discuss this.
- e) Jenny Rutherford said that there had been an accident recently on Shaftoe Street and she was concerned about the speed of traffic on the road. Cllr Sharp said that he had arranged a meeting with Neil Snowdon and this would be discussed.
- f) Jo Dennington of the Christmas lights group thanked Alan for his help with funding and installing the electric supply. She also thanked the PC and Derek Boyd for their help. She said that the group had done fundraising for the balance. They have been charged £100 for storage of the lights and this will rise to £500 next year. They are liaising with Shaftoe Academy for a drawing competition to create posters to go on the front of the boxes housing the trees. There was also discussion about a memorial tree (perhaps in front of the church again). The switch on is at 5pm on the 5th of December.
- g) David Robson said that the right of way requested at Brigwood had now been agreed. The Chair agreed that once the PC received formal notification they will write to the EA to ask about access over the wall.
- h) David Robson also asked for an update on the Spa Well. Cllr Sharp said that the landowner is happy grant permission for the repairs. He had spoken to the Footpath's Officer and the work will be treated as a priority.
- i) Paul Ramsay said that the heritage pavement on Church Street had been repaired with tarmac which was unacceptable. Also, the sign for Church Street is so worn that it is almost unreadable. This will be reported to NCC.

3. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllr C. Morshead.

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

5. **To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting** – having been circulated, were agreed and signed with one amendment – Cllr Alderson noted that her suggestion of a cheaper printer for the Haydon Newsletter had been missed. Details were passed to Cllr Simmonds.

6. **Northumberland County Council -**

- Cllr Sharp said that the right of way at Brigwood had been approved unanimously.
- A site meeting has been arranged for the 2nd of October to discuss traffic problems on Shaftoe St/John Martin St.
- The Vauce Farm planning application was refused and has now been appealed.
- The planning application for a new storage shed for the Scouts was approved.
- Drains on Ratcliffe Road have now all been cleaned out, as well as North Bank.
- Potholes have been filled on the road up past Haydon Fell Cottage.
- Cllr Sharp hoped that the Spa Footpath issues had been resolved.
- The road behind Belmont Gardens will be repaired in Feb/Mar 2027.
- Trees have now been felled at Woodhall Mill and the wall will be rebuilt.
- Cllr Sharp will try to get signage for the loading bay on Church Street.
- A bay will be installed at Ratcliffe Road in the next 3 months.
- The bin has been restored at Threepwood. Cllr Simmonds asked about evidence on litter where there are bins. Cllr Sharp said that he regularly litter picked from laybys on the A69 between Haydon Bridge and Haltwhistle.
- The hedge at Whittis Hill has been cut.
- It was noted that the path is obstructed by the overgrown hedge at the bus stop on the same side as Innerhaugh.
- The crown has been lifted on a tree near the new bus shelter to allow those waiting to be visible to bus drivers.
- A wall East of Haydon Lodge is crumbling and Cllr Sharp has reported this.
- Cllr Sharp had a meeting at the High School and felt that there was a good team in place now.
- Dumped furniture has been removed from Foundry Court.
- Cllr Thornhill said that Bellway have agreed the purchase of land surrounding Shaftoe Green from the landowner. It is unclear what will happen to the tenancy of the Green.
- Cllr Alderson reported that the kissing gate at Langley has still not been repaired. Cllr Sharp and the Clerk will report this again.
- Cllr Kirsopp said that nothing had happened about installing a dropped kerb at the Showfield.

7. Highways –

- a) Chris Armstrong had contacted the PC about a recent accident and safety concerns about Shaftoe St/John Martin St. The Clerk will forward the details to NCC for consideration at the upcoming meeting and Mr Armstrong will be invited.
- b) Lorries parking on verge opposite Innerhaugh Mews – This continues to be a problem. Letters will be sent to the firms concerned stating that if the problem persists it will have to be reported to the authorities.

- c) 685 bus service – The service continues to be very poor with regular delays and cancellations. The Clerk will write to Kim McGuinness to raise the matter.
- d) David Crossey had contacted the PC regarding parking on Ratcliffe Road. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Lighting – nothing to report.

9. Planning applications – none received.

10. Accounts – as in the budget.

I Cemetery contract – The contract for the cemetery will go out to tender. The PC will consider the list of duties currently undertaken before the next meeting in case it underrepresents the work done. The new schedule will then be sent to anyone interested in tendering for the work. They will also outline the process for choosing the contractor and this will be posted on Haydon Bridge Matters for transparency.

(Cllr Alderson left the meeting.)

11. Correspondence –

- a) Details of the Joint Town and Parish Council Conference on the 8th of October were received from NCC.

12. Parish Projects –

- a) **Development Trust** – Cllr Suddes is stepping down from the DT and wondered if a 2nd representative from the PC was needed. Cllr Simmonds will be attending the next meeting and she said that as she receives the minutes, she would be able to report to the PC even if unable to attend a DT meeting in person.
- b) **Repairs at play areas** – The Clerk will seek a quotation for the repairs needed at the Showfield and Shaftoe Green. The Handyman will repair the fence.
- c) **John Martin pictures** – Cllr Suddes asked if the Community Centre Assoc had been asked about the pictures. Cllr Webster will ask Henry Swaddle about this.

13. Any other business –

- a) A defibrillator outside the surgery will be discussed at the next meeting.
- b) Parking of campervans at the riverside will be discussed at the next meeting.