HAYDON BRIDGE AND HAYDON PARISH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2026

Present
Mark I'Anson (Chair), Will Rutherford (Vice Chair), Henry Swaddle, Peter Fletcher, Jo Bates, Michael Sadgrove, Kate Minto, Siobhan Stephenson, Phil Hartley, and Anne Suddes

In attendance: Ian Foster

26.26 Apologies
Apologies were received from Christina Taylor and Tessa Simmonds.

26.27 Declarations of interest - There were none.

26.28 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2026 –The minutes were approved.

26.29 Matters arising not already on the agenda
26.16 John Martin Exhibition. HS reported back that he and TS had visited St Cuthbert's Church and agreed a location for the exhibition boards in the entrance hall of the Church. By using the exhibition panels, this meant that no wall fixings would be used and there would be no need to seek a faculty from the Church for the work. There was also a discussion about hanging the two large prints that were in the meeting room in the Community Centre, in The Bridge. It was clarified that the exhibition materials were owned by the Parish Council and the question of insurance was raised
Action: HS, PH and PF to move the panels into the Church on 16 July.
HS would also explore the suitability of moving the two large prints that hung in the meeting room at the Community Centre, to a location at The Bridge
AS would clarify the insurance responsibility of the PC for any JM exhibition materials moved to St Cuthbert's and The Bridge

26.17 Proposal for overarching village map. SS reported that Marcus Byron had been asked to do a final revised design. He had quoted for A4 size. Directors all agreed that a larger A3 poster would look better and Marcus had been asked how many A3 size could be produced for the budgeted amount available.

26.30 Haydon Hundred 2026
MI reported that the HH on Saturday 13 June went well, and apart from some riders finding the wind a challenge the feedback comments had been very complementary. The big change was doing the timing ourselves, with experienced riders using Strava. There had been no complaints and we had saved c.£900. Overall numbers were up from 139 last year to 151, revenue was up from £4187 to £4604. Tom Stephenson had made a £50 donation from the hog roast. Costs were down and the net surplus to go towards the running costs of the Bridge was £2800, a significant increase on the previous year.

26.31 Current and future operation of The Bridge
PF had circulated the Bridge Team Leaders meeting notes of 18 May and 22 June 2026.

He also reported that the outside painting had now been completed and PH was thanked in particular for all his work, alongside other members of the painting team.
KM reported that she and PF had meet with Karen Louton from NCC about the Library Service review. She said it was likely that only 2 out of the 6 proposed community access libraries would actually come to fruition. Key points made to her were that: HB Library volunteers want to feel valued; we want to keep the local point of contact with the NCC library service via Andrea Jackson at Hexham Library; and the importance of better ongoing training for the library volunteers.
PF reported on the volunteer social event at The Bridge on 18 June. The event went well but only 7 volunteers came. MI said that it was important to thank the volunteers for their work. PF said that an alternative event might be tried for next year.
AS reported back that the PC had confirmed that it had no desire to move the library to the Community Centre unless the DT wished to explore this.
In relation to the discussion at the last meeting about the cost of rent and insurance for The Bridge, PF had circulated a copy of the lease to Directors. The lease was the same as the one that NCC had with Network Rail when it ran the library. No new lease was issued by ArchCo when they took over ownership. PF confirmed that it was a full repairing lease, and that the rent was indexed by RPI, with a rent review every 6 years. The next rent review was due in September 2028.
Decision and Action: given the ever increasing cost of rent and insurance PF was asked to approach Arch to see if they were prepared to sell the building to the DT. If not it was agreed to try to re-negotiate the rent going forward at the next rent review in 2028.

26.32 Neighbourhood Plan and Community Actions Updates

1. *Sustainability and climate change*

1a) Secure funding for initial overall feasibility study for community led renewable district heating options
MI reported that the Steering Group was still meeting, but that this work had now moved to a different phase given that the District Heating Scheme action was on hold due to the lack of a suitable location for an energy centre.
Northern Powergrid have offered to provide information on grid capacity for a growth in air source heat pumps in the parish, and about possible locations for wind or solar farms if we want to get into energy generation, with profits to go back to the community.
WR fed back that there had been interest from developers to do a wind farm on his land but the idea was knocked back because Haydon Fell was in the Roman Wall corridor. **Action: the Net Zero group to raise the question of the Roman Wall corridor at the next Steering Group meeting.**
MI also reported that both Humshaugh and Acomb had now got planning permission for solar farms and he was trying to get a date to meet with them to find out more. **Action: MI to finalise date**
PF reported that the other main action was for CAN to run a series of awareness raising events about options for addressing energy issues in people's homes. They had a successful stand at the Nurture Project open day on 7 June and were planning similar events in the autumn/winter at The Bridge, at the luncheon club and a coffee morning at the Community Centre, and with the Scouts. These would be advertised in the September Newsletter and via Haydon Bridge Matters.

2. *Built & Historic Environment*

2c Plaques group
AS reported that work on the next phase of plaques is continuing

5. Vibrant and thriving communities

5a Securing access to High School facilities

PF reported that he had sent the notes of the 12 February community groups meeting with David Nisbett to the new acting Headteacher Richard O'Connor, but had not heard any more. The latter had written an article for the May edition of the Haydon Newsletter about wishing to strengthen links with the community.

7. Accessibility and transport

7a) Cycle route to Hexham

PH reported that the group working on this had held a number of meetings with Rodriga Straker, who now seemed positive about the idea. Some of the route had been surveyed using maps and Rodriga wanted to use the old Allendale Railway as part of the route. There has also been discussion about setting up a CIC as a vehicle for the work and to do it as a community project, which would reduce the cost.

26.33 A strategic approach to Communications

a) Newsletter – PF reported that the eleventh (July) edition of the Newsletter had been published. The feedback form responses that PF had circulated to the outlets that had held paper copies had been positive and 250 paper copies have been circulated for both May and July versions. PF thought that this seemed about the right number. AS said that the PC was happy to fund the paper copies. **Action: It was agreed to include the Dr's surgery to the list of venues for paper copies**

IF reported that the amount of copy being submitted for the last 2 editions meant that the list of businesses and services and names of PC members and other useful contacts were not included on the final page of the paper version. It was agreed that going forward it might be possible to edit some entries down if needed.

b) Website – IF had circulated a website report. He reminded Directors that we can post information on the front page of the website as news items.

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c) Social media: KM confirmed that she posted plant stall information on Haydon Bridge Matters, normally on a Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

26.34 Governance

a). Companies House personal codes: PF reported that he had not yet had a chance to take action on the Personal Codes for JT and IF with Companies House. **Action: PF to liaise with JT, IF and Companies House to try to resolve the personal codes issues**

b). Policies: Revised Policies on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (PD02), Data Protection and Management (PD03), Trustee Code of Conduct (PD11), and Conflict of Interest (PD12) had been circulated by KM

Decision: Revised Policies PD02, PD03 and PD11 and PD12 were approved subject to changes agreed to PD02 and PD03

c).Relationship/liability for sub groups: a draft Model Community Group Independence Agreement had been circulated for discussion. **Decision: this was agreed subject to personalising it as a DT document and clarifying in item 7 that it should be the Chair who can give consent around use of charity name and logo.**

Action: KM to make changes and test the document with Carole Price and then circulate a final version for approval

26.35 Finance and Grants

a) Corporation Tax response form for 23-24: MI reported that he has not been able to resolve this despite numerous efforts, and has had no contact with HMRC for more than 3 months. A CT600 has been submitted.

b) Digital tax filing: Looking forward, the DT will be required to do digital tax filing for both the annual accounts and tax returns. A 3rd party product from a list put out by HMRC will need to be purchased, such as Tiny Tax, cost c.£70. **Action: to check if the Co-op bank had such a product free of charge that the DT could use**

c) Draft end of year DT accounts: MI reported that he had done research on the level of accounts reporting that was required by the DT. MI clarified that at present we provide more than is needed and we do not need to get the accounts audited. Draft balance sheet, income and expenditure account and details of restricted and unrestricted funds had been circulated to Directors. **Decision: It was agreed that the 2025-26 annual accounts should include this information as well as a shorter than previous annual report.**

Action: PF to circulate draft annual report for discussion and comment, and this, along with the revised format of the accounts would go to the DT for approval at the next meeting.

MI to simplify the accounts format that he keeps for the DT.

26.36 Any other business - None

26.37 Date and time of next meeting

7pm on Tuesday 20 October 2026 at The Bridge.