HAYDON BRIDGE AND HAYDON PARISH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2025

Present
Mark I'Anson (Chair), Will Rutherford (Vice Chair), Henry Swaddle, Peter Fletcher, Kate Minto, Ian Foster, Jo Bates, Joanna Thopmson, Phil Hartley, Siobhan Stephenson, Michael Sadgrove and Tessa Simmonds

25.39 Apologies
Apologies were received from Christina Taylor, and Anne Suddes.

25.40 Declarations of interest - There were none.

25.41 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2025 - The minutes were approved.

25.42 Matters arising not already on the agenda – None.

25.43 Current and future operation of The Bridge
PF had circulated the Bridge Team Leaders meeting notes of 29 September, 27 October and 24 November 2025.
Painting The Bridge:
Action: PF, JB, MI, and PH to paint/touch up the inside of the building in the New Year and to sort out draught excluders for the outside doors. PF to get quotes for painting the outside, subject to checking the requirements of the lease. NOTE, following the meeting the painting team have also offered to do the outside painting.

Flooding: The leak outside the back entrance to The Bridge now seems to be sorted.
Action: PF to talk to Martin Scudamore about flooding at the entrance to station yard.

Volunteers: KM reported that there is a new volunteer for the Friday team and the Monday team is down to 3 people. There will be a further push on volunteer recruitment next year.

Use of Noticeboards: Carole Price is looking at this.

Relocation of bike rack: a new location was agreed and this would be done in the New Year along with the painting.

The Plant and produce stall: MI reported that this has raised £888 for the first 8 months of the year and had now become the third most valuable income source for The Bridge, after the grant from the PC for rent and building insurance and the HH. The bonus ball also brought in £1500, but then paid out £800 in prizes.

Other income sources at The Bridge: MI reported that other income sources apart from the above included: £151 for second hand books; £156 from individual donations; £55 from quiz proceeds; £71 from raffle proceeds; plus money from photocopying and sales of arts and crafts products. Overall income from activities and services at The Bridge was £3600.

Literacy initiative: no update to report.

Archive: Ian and Penny are progressing this and Ian has involved Paul Burrows with helping identify people on the photos. NCC has been approached at Woodhorn about GDPR implications of the archive, but no response has been received yet.

Open Day on 4 October: Sadly this was washed out because of the poor weather.

Removal of one of the NCC computers: Done.

Shed outside The Bridge: Northern Rail have refused to agree to a large enough shed to make this worthwhile doing. TS said it might be possible to put a shed outside St Cuthbert's.

Landlord inspection: This went well, with no issues arising.

Village adverts: KM said that there was no noticeboard now to place personal adverts in the village now Claire's does not do it, apart from limited space at the Co-op. **It was agreed that one of the outside noticeboards at The Bridge could be used for this as a service to the village.**

25.44 Neighbourhood Plan and Community Actions Update

A Community Actions progress summary had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. Discussion points were:

1. *Sustainability and climate change*

1a) Secure funding for initial overall feasibility study for community led renewable district heating options

PF reported on his phone call with Simon Beeby of Galbraiths about the proposed Energy Centre site now being wrapped up with the proposed housing development site on the Strawberry Field. There was a discussion as to the next steps in the light of this in relation to the next Steering Group meeting on 12 December.

Renewable energy was a key issue for the community and it was agreed that the issue should not be dropped. At the same time we may need to pursue other options to the proposed biomass renewable district heating system if we have no site for the energy centre.

Action: MI to talk this through with Andy Dean from CAN, who Chairs the Steering Group, to agree where to go from here.

PF to ask AS and CT to look at the flood maps to clarify the position in relation to the energy centre site and the strawberry field site.

Other renewable energy initiatives

Action: WR to advise SS on a rain water harvesting system for the Hive building at the Nurture Project.

2. *Built & Historic Environment*

2c Plaques group

The plaques have been ordered and delivery is awaited.

3.Natural Environment

3b developing projects to enhance habitat to increase biodiversity

Tree Planting: PH reported that the orchard on Ratcliffe Road would be planted on 6 December.

Community composting scheme linked to The Nurture Project: SS asked for advice on how to proceed on this and the idea of individuals signing up to a membership scheme and taking responsibility to bring their uncooked food compost to the Nurture Project, rather than a collection system, was suggested.

5. Vibrant and thriving communities

Luncheon Club surpluses: MI said that he and Carole Price were working to agree a way forward on this.

5a Securing access to High School facilities
PF reported that the lead teachers for art and humanities had visited The Bridge and that they and the new Headteacher were keen to build stronger links with the local community. This is in line with the Chief Operating Officer's earlier discussion with MS. It was noted that the community can support the school with placements at The Bridge and Nurture Project.

PF suggested that he talks to the Chairs of the PC and Shaftoe Charities about them and the DT asking for a meeting with the headteacher. **Decision and action: This was agreed**.

7. Accessibility and transport
7a Cycle route to Hexham: PH reported that there was no further progress on this.

7e Footpaths initiative: PH reported that although problems with footpaths were being reported to the NCC footpaths officer, very little action was forthcoming, which negated the purpose and value of the footpaths group, which was now in abeyance. This will be kept as an action on the plan until this issue is resolved.

25.45 Feedback on MI and KM presentation to the Parish Council
MI and KM reported that the presentation had been well received and that the PC was supportive of the work of the DT. **Action: PF to circulate the presentation to the PC.**

25.46 A strategic approach to Communications
a) Newsletter – PF reported that the seventh (November) edition of the Newsletter has been published – thanks to SS, IF and KM for their work. The PC had agreed to fund 100 paper copies for the next 3 editions, including the November one and these were placed in boxes outside The Bridge and Community Centre and in the Chemist, The Railway, The General Havelock, The Anchor and the Haydonian Lounge and Bar. Most copies have now been taken, including nearly 40 in the box outside the community centre so there is positive interest in the Newsletter. A note had been added to ask people to sign up automatically for new editions, with a QR code for easy sign up. **Action: IF to circulate the QR code.**

Now 130 people have signed up to receive the Newsletter automatically.(up from 100 at the last meeting) but it is too early to see if the paper copies are having a positive impact on this.

b) Website – IF reported that the website is working well and a copy of the analytics information had been circulated. **Action: MI asked IF to put a link to The Bridge opening times on the home page.**

c) Social media: MS reported that the social media was ticking along.

25.47 Governance

PF reported that 12 Directors had signed up for their personal code needed for companies house log in and signing up was in hand for the other two. The DT cannot submit its annual confirmation next March unless all directors are signed up. **Action: once all Directors had their personal codes PF would check the next step to take on the companies house website.**

25.48 Finance and Grants

a) Annual accounts and report for 2024-25
   The final annual accounts and report for 2024-25 have been submitted to companies house and the charity commission.
b) Corporation Tax response form: MI reported that he was still trying to sort this out with HMRC.
c) DT accounts: MI reported that there was currently a £1500 year to date surplus. This was likely to turn into a £2500 year end deficit, of which c.£3000 was depreciation, leaving a cash surplus of c.£500.
d) Insurances: PF had circulated the insurance renewal proposals from Lycetts and WR has followed up tom query the proposed nearly 8% premium increase. **Decision and action: It was agreed to go ahead with the quote from Lycetts as the trend at the moment is for increased premiums.PF to contact Lycetts**

25.49 Any other business

HS reported that the community centre was being redecorated and that the JM exhibition in the hall and meeting room had been disbanded and moved to a store room upstairs at the community centre. Apparently the community centre did not want to continue displaying the exhibition. St Cuthberts or the shopfront of the former antiques shop were suggested as possible alternatives. **Action: TS was asked to pick this up on behalf of the Parish Council and also to discuss it with the vicar of St Cuthbert's.**

25.50 Date and time of next meeting

7pm on Wednesday 4 February 2026 at The Bridge.