MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON 22ND OCTOBER

AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Present : Cllrs L. Alderson, B. Howard, C. Kendall, A. Kirsopp, K. Richardson, A. Sharp, A. Suddes, D. Thornhill (Chair), and D. Webster; and C. McGivern (mins).

1. **Public participation** – (Cllr. Alderson in the Chair)

a) David Thornhill responded to an email from David Crossey regarding difficulties parking on Ratcliffe Road. He said that if there was a resident's parking scheme he would be a beneficiary and so he was speaking as a member of the public. He said he had lived there for 25 years and could almost always find somewhere to park, if not on the street then on the bridge. He noted that some people parking on Ratcliffe Rd might be visiting the Co-op and this should not be discouraged. If a scheme was in place it would be very difficult to enforce.

b) Brian Howard said that he had also had to declare an interest and he said that the General Havelock regularly receives deliveries so would probably need a loading bay if resident's parking was in place. This would leave less space for parking. The problem was that there were now more cars per property and parking permits would not help with this. He also noted that anyone moving to Ratcliffe Road would be aware of the parking situation when they did so.

2. **Apologies** – none were received.

3. **Co-option to fill the current vacancy.** The PC had been given permission to co-opt. Cllrs will give this consideration and discuss at the next meeting.

4. **Declarations of interest –**

- Cllrs Howard & Thornhill both declared an interest in the request for resident's parking on Ratcliffe Road.
- Cllr Morshead declared an interest in the proposed development around Shaftoe Green.

5. **Minutes of previous meeting –** having been circulated were agreed with 2 amendments –

2e Should say Jenine Rutherford and not Jenny.
12c To remove "Cllr Webster will ask Henry Swaddle about this." As the Clerk had not heard that this was not necessary.

6. **Report from Northumberland County Council –**
    - An overgrown hedge blocking the path from Innerhaugh Mews has been cut.
    - Tim Fish is continuing to make progress with the Spa Well.

- The kissing gate at Langley is still to be repaired.
- Tree work at Church St will be carried out on the 28th of October.
- A plan showing a possible location for a 50kw EV charging unit had been provided by NCC. This was in the layby to the East. Cllrs were concerned that this might stop lorries being able to park there. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Work continues on the installation of feeder box on the old bridge for Xmas lighting.
- Bellway would need to be chased again about trees on Lands end Road.
- A wall at the rear of Haydon Lodge is next to a public footpath and the coping stones have come off the top. A structural engineer will need to look at it. The Lodge will be used for only 8 children who are not in mainstream education and will not be in use on evenings or weekends.
- There had been a meeting with NCC to discuss traffic on Shaftoe St/John Martin St. A consultation letter was discussed.
- The road will be resurfaced at Folly Lane, Langley.
- Cllr Kirsopp reported a large pothole at the junction of A686 and Langley Chapel road.

7. Highways –

a) Campervans on the riverside – This was discussed and it was agreed that this was not an issue at the moment.
b) NCC had been in touch to confirm they will install a new street sign for Church Street.
c) (Cllr Alderson in the Chair) – Cllr Alderson said that the PC had to decide whether they wanted to include a resident's parking scheme in the discussions with NCC about the road scheme. It was agreed that the PC did not support such a parking scheme.
d) Cllr Howard said that details of a recent accident on Shaftoe St had been circulated as evidence of the need for traffic management measures. A car travelling down cemetery road and along Shaftoe Street had written off a parked vehicle. Cllr Howard said that the accident was caused by a young woman who had a cat in her car and had been distracted by this. In this case traffic calming would not have made a difference.
e) NCC agreed to carry out enforcement of the loading bay in front of Mr Rasu's shop.
f) Mr R Silcock responded to a message about parking on the verge opposite Innerhaugh, saying that his driver had only parked there once in the last month when struggling to get finished at the end of a shift. The Clerk said that only Mr Silcock had responded to messages regarding lorries parking in this area.

8. Lighting – nothing to report.

9. Planning applications –

26/03209/FUL - Single storey side extension along with alteration to the existing car parking at Bettys Cottage East Mill Hills – NO OBJECTIONS – However, the Parish Council would like to make clear that this is a retrospective application. The form confirms the work was started on 06/04/2026 without consent, and the extension has been built within the area allocated for parking under condition CH B 3 of T/980391. The Design and Access Statement also asks for that condition to be removed.
26/03400/FUL- Provision of new access gates and sections of fencing at Haydon Lodge – OBJECT - the gates should be replaced like for like with the use of the same materials.
26/03089/FUL – Single storey rear extension at 19 South Gables – NO OBJECTIONS.
26/03677/FUL - Side extension to existing hall to provide new toilet facilities and store room at Langley Village Hall – NO OBJECTIONS.

10. Accounts –as in the budget.

I Cemetery Maintenance Contract – A draft schedule of work will be circulated to Cllrs for approval. Once agreed this document will be provided to those wishing to tender. The contract will be advertised in the Haydon Bridge newsletter as well as on the 3 Facebook pages. Possible contractors will be invited to visit the cemetery to see the standard that the PC wish to maintain. Quotations will be considered over the winter, and the contract awarded before the new growing season. Once again the PC praised the work carried out by Mr Batey at the cemetery.

II IT Policy – A draft IT Policy was discussed. The PC will need to set up a gov.uk domain and email addresses. Cllr Sharp said that other local councils were using the firm Hugo Fox to carry out this work. A working party of Cllrs Alderson, Howard, Kendall and Thornhill will consider how to proceed. The group will also consider updating PC social media.

11. Correspondence -

a) Following Christine Teasdale's email about a motor cross track on the riverside and parking on Martin's Close, Cllrs had visited the area to see for themselves. It was agreed that the motor cross setup was on private land and for the use of the family. If the field was to be used for a school farm change of use would be required and the PC could not comment until then. It was noted that visitors to the Nurture Project have been asked not to park on Martin's Close.
b) Inspector Benson and PC Steph Calf had both responded to details of racist incidents at Claire's store. There comments had been passed on and Inspector Benson had promised that one of her officers would visit Mr Rasu.
c) Cllrs received an invitation to contribute to the Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment Update by the 23rd of October.
d) Details of a consultation exercise regarding housing development to inform the Local Plan were received from NCC. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
e) A quotation had been received from Playdale for play equipment repairs at the Showfield and Shaftoe Green and was agreed.

12. Parish Projects -

a) **Development Trust –** nothing to report.

b) **Memorial bench –** Cllr Suddes said that there were 2 plaques on the memorial bench on the old bridge at present. She said that this needed to be advertised on social media.

c) **Defibrillator at the surgery –** Cllr Jackson had been looking into this and Cllr Kendall offered to take this on. This was agreed.

d) **Meeting with Miles Crossley of Bellway and John Turnbull agent for the Langley Estate** – Cllrs Howard and Thornhill had met with Mr Crossley and Mr Turnbull to hear their proposals for the land surrounding Shaftoe Green. They had produced a plan for 94 houses on this site. These would be developed over a period of 5 years and would include 14 2 bed semi-affordable homes. The rest were a mix of 3, 4 and 5 bed homes. Access for this site would need to be over a corner of Shaftoe Green and there would be a 30m green barrier between the development and Geeswood. The playing field formerly rented by the school was now described as surrendered. Their plan was to leave the area with play equipment on it and steps down to the car park for the PC. An unused area of field alongside the play equipment would also be passed to the PC. Cllrs were told that Bellway would employ someone to manage the lightly wooded area by the school/cemetery road.
Mr Turnbull had been very interested to hear of congestion problems on Shaftoe St and the recent incident with a bus being unable to get through.
Belllway describe the proposed development as open plan and low density and said that some properties would need to be faced with stone to blend in with the Almshouses etc. They made the suggestion that the lease on the remaining Shaftoe Green area could be continued for 25 years on a peppercorn rent. Either the Langley Estate or Bellway could be the landlord for this piece of land, whichever was preferred. It was also stated that the Strawberry Field would not be able to be developed due to flood risk.
Cllr Thornhill said that if the PC said no to this proposal (re Shaftoe Green) it was unclear what would happen to the tenancy of the green. The Local Plan ends in March 2027 and it would be likely that a planning application would be submitted then. Cllrs Howard and Thornhill had stated that the Neighbourhood Plan would still be in place and the PC did not plan to review it. They also said that a great deal of hard work by very committed local people had gone into the creation of Shaftoe Green and the PC could not make changes without consulting the community.
A way forward might be for the PC to invite Bellway/Langley Estate to a PC meeting to talk through firmer plans and invite questions from the public.
Concerns were expressed about additional traffic in this area of the village, although it was hoped that numbers at local schools might be boosted. Cllr Sharp said that Highways might insist that all access would need to be away from Shaftoe Street.