

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON THE 16TH OF DECEMBER, IN HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Present : Cllrs E. Charlton, E. Faulks (Chair), J. Keyte, A. Kirsopp, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, and J. Thompson; 1 member of the public, & C. McGivern (mins.)

- 1. Public participation** – none.
- 2. Apologies** - were received from Cllrs J. Bates, I. Burrow, B. Howard, K. Richardson, D. Thornhill. Several Cllrs had stepped down to allow for social distancing at the meeting.
- 3. Declarations of interest** – none were received.
- 4. Minutes of last meeting** – having been circulated were agreed and signed with the following amendment. In the October minutes it had been mistakenly stated that planning application **21/03704/FUL : Change of use from grassed area to a designated area for parking and turning horse trailer (retrospective), Blackhill, Heugh House Lane** had been withdrawn, this was incorrect.
- 5. Report from Northumberland County Council** –

The yellow and white lines have now been reinstated on the road outside Shaftoe School, opposite the Showfield entrance, and the road markings have also been refreshed along John Martin Street and Shaftoe Street.

The road sweeper has been around Haydon Bridge and cleared the leaves. Cllr Snowdon confirmed that the road sweeper had also been to the Woodhall area. Additional 20 mph signs will be installed on Martin's Close shortly.

The road signs for the roundabout on Church Street/Ratcliffe road junction were removed after the last meeting.

Cllr Sharp had reported that all of the other matters discussed the last meeting, but unfortunately due to staff having to be deployed to deal with matters following Storm Arwen many of these matters have not been able to be progressed.

Cllr Sharp had sent around a report on the 9 December 2021 regarding the electricity being off in various properties in the village following Storm Arwen and these issues were discussed fully at the meeting on 10th December 2021.

Cllr Sharp had been told that the parts for the new litter bin at Peel Well corner have still not been received, but he had been assured that this work would be done in the very near future.

6. Highways –

- a) Roadlink had written to say that they would be undertaking tree removal works within the landscaped areas between Haydon Bridge and Hexham over the next few months. Recent surveys have identified significant Ash Dieback within the landscape plots posing a hazard to the carriageway if not actioned. All of the work would be undertaken from within the highway boundary under traffic signals. At such times that the foresting works are in operation, it will be necessary to place ‘Footpath / Road Closed’ signs along the old road adjacent to the A69.
The works will involve the removal of Ash Trees within falling distance of the carriageway. Industry guidance requires that due to loss of structural integrity affected trees be removed mechanically. The motorised equipment does generate noise and they apologised for any inconvenience that this might cause. They are proposing to carry out work in the above area week commencing 13 December with one evening closure to remove some of the larger trees, which would require traffic to be stopped in both directions for a short period of time for safety reasons. They are planning to undertake works outside of morning and afternoon peak times.
- b) Cllr Charlton said that the road from New Alston to Grindon was in a terrible state. It was noted that the surface had been removed, to allow resurfacing to go ahead, but this had not happened. In contrast the road down to Joicey Shaft had a new tarmac surface.
- c) Transport North East had written to inform the PC about a significant project they’re working on in partnership with Go North East, Durham County Council and Northumberland County Council. The project is for the delivery of 73 new zero emission buses in the North East. Following the North East’s successful expression of interest for the delivery of the new electric bus fleet earlier this year, we have been busy developing a business case to secure funding through the Department for Transport Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) programme with an expected submission date of that business case in late January 2022. Cllr Charlton said that during work on the Neighbourhood Plan it had become clear that a number of people who travel from Haydon Bridge to Newcastle by bus were transferring to a faster bus service at Hexham, which also had wifi. If this continued she feared that it would skew the statistics and make it look as though people did not travel through to Newcastle from Haydon Bridge. She feared it could lead to the bus service being reduced to Carlisle to Haltwhistle, and she requested that this was highlighted in the response.

7. Lighting –

- a) Cllr Sharp said he was dealing with a report of a light out at Tynedale Close.

8. Planning applications –

There were no applications to discuss. Cllr Snowdon had said that the discussion at the previous meeting about a planning application had been very useful. He felt that there was not normally time at the PC meeting to give applications the time that they deserved. He suggested that a planning scrutiny group be set up to look at plans more fully and report to the full PC. All agreed that this would be a good idea, and Cllr Sharp

welcomed the idea. Cllr Bates had offered to take part and Cllr Howard was volunteered in his absence. The Clerk will ask him if he is willing to do this.

9. Accounts – as in budget.

10. Correspondence –

- a) Northumbrian Water had replied to a request for an update following problems with the drains at Park Stile saying that they had “located the data which you reported to us back in May 2021 (BP Ref:366973123238); I regret to advise that I am unable to locate any information relating to the proposal of an air-tight manhole installation. I have spoken with the technical support advisor who attended the site, on the day your reported it to us and confirmed he is not aware of any requests for new manholes. I have asked if the team can re-attend, to verify if new manholes are required. As soon as I receive an update from our technical support team, I will be back in contact to keep you updated.” David Robson had been informed of this, and he restated that the air-tight manholes had been suggested to him. The Clerk will chase this up again.
- b) Alan Batey had contacted the PC about moles in the green burial area. It was agreed that he should get a quote for dealing with them.
- c) Hexham Council’s Planning & Infrastructure Committee had written to the neighbouring PCs to express support for a cycle route from Haydon Bridge to Corbridge and to start partnership working. It had also been agreed to contact NCC and request the Tynedale Local Area Council consider a cycle route and invite the respective Councils to discuss this. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply with the PC’s unanimous support for this.
- d) A modification to the Definitive map of Public Rights of Way was received from NCC. This made alterations to byways 68-71.
- e) The Tyne Rivers Trust had written to say that they had received grant money and were looking for ideas on how to spend it. An interpretive panel was suggested to inform people about life in the river, possibly to be located on the South bank.

11. Parish projects –

- a) **Development Trust and the Bridge** – Cllr Charlton said that there had been discussions at the library about remaining open. As all of the volunteers are in the vulnerable category and some are shortly to meet with relatives they have not seen for two years, or are awaiting operations it was decided to close the library until the New Year.
- b) **Update on extra-ordinary meeting on 10th of December** – Cllr Faulks said that he had received a letter from Aidan Pollard regarding the length of time it took to restore power to some homes in the village after Storm Arwen and the very poor communication with Powergrid. He felt that the letter summed up the problems well, and he went on to say that the Clerk had written to Powergrid, with copies to NCC and the Police. He went on to say that Cllr Snowdon had suggested that the existing flood groups be extended to help with other emergencies. However, he went on to say that

the Flood Group was set up in 2016 and there was a need to get younger people involved.

Cllr Snowdon said that in 2019 an article had been included in the Haydon News which provided information about preparing for a flood. This had included a pro-forma to be completed with insurers details and emergency contact numbers etc and kept handy. He thought this could be expanded to include other emergencies. Cllr Charlton wondered if this could be included once a year to remind people. Cllrs felt that something that needed to be highlighted was with everything was moving toward electricity, people did not have an alternative source of heat or cooking.

Part of the problem recently had been communication, with Powergrid asking people to contact them on social media. In the first instance people should contact their electric supplier by telephone, the contact number will be on the back of electric bills.

Cllr Faulks said that prior to the meeting on the 10th of December a member of the PC had been subject to abuse from a member of the public, he had been horrified to learn of this. Cllr Thompson said that she had been unable to be present at the meeting but wanted personally to thank all members of the council, Cllrs Richardson and Thornhill for handling facebook. Cllr Sharp and the Clerk for the professional way they had dealt with this. The whole council are good public servants. She said she would not resign, but she had never experienced such an unsettled week as a Cllr. The whole thing had been very intimidating and had been very difficult for the whole council.

12. Any other business –

- a) Cllr Thompson said that the area behind the Community Centre that had recently been discussed had now been fenced by Karbon Homes and looked much better.
- b) Cllr Charlton wondered whether Greenwich Hospital had replied to a query about the lane behind the Community Centre. The Clerk will chase this up.
- c) Cllr Thompson asked what was to be done about the damaged barbecue stand at the picnic area. It was agreed that the PC would ask the builder for advice on how to proceed.
- d) Members of the public had reported that High School students had been seen along Station Road and at the picnic area before school, and they'd been noticed smoking. This issue will be raised with the school.