

MEETING OF HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7PM ON 25th OF JANUARY 2018, AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Present : Cllrs. I. Burrows, E. Charlton, E. Faulks (Chair), V. Fletcher, K. Richardson, D. Robson, A. Sharp, R. Snowdon, J. and L. Thompson, and D. Thornhill; press and public; C. McGivern (mins.).

1. Lynsey Sawyer (Business Support Officer at NCC) and Andrew Douglas of the lighting contractors had come to update the PC on the street lighting scheme –

Ms. Sawyer explained that the contractors were expected to reach Haydon Bridge in early February. The lanterns will be changed and where necessary columns replaced. There will be leaflet drops in streets where lighting columns are to be added. There had been some issues with lights already installed and NCC needed to identify where it could improve its customer care. Much of this had been down to response times, and Lynsey had now suggested that when a light was visited, if the issue could not be immediately resolved, a wrap will be put round column to let members of the public know the column had been visited. NCC felt that the contractors are cleaning up after their work, but if anyone has an issue they should contact her. Cllr Sharp asked about the new lanterns and Lynsey responded saying that the new LED lights were very directional. Where there had been complaints about light intrusion a baffle had sometimes been added to reduce the light in one direction. Cllr Robson queried the light levels on some pathways behind these new lights and Andrew Douglas said that there was a duty to light the road and the footpath. Cllr Charlton said that recently installed lights near her home were lighting the road up to edge of the kerb, but not the paths. Lynsey Sawyer asked her to pass on details so that she could investigate the issue. Cllr Robson said that he had had complaints about the western turn off the A69 into Haydon Bridge. This section of road was very dark and difficult to negotiate if you were not familiar with the road. As this is not currently lit it would be the responsibility of the Highways Dept. Alan Sharp said that he would happily pay for lights if it was justified. The light at the Railway Inn corner has now been repaired. A missing light at Brigwood was also reported. Cllr Burrows reported a faulty light at Crook Hill Close. This was thought to be the responsibility of the developer at this site. James Brown asked whether there was a standard for light intrusion, and Lynsey replied saying that there was an EU standard for this. With regard to ongoing maintenance she admitted that NCC were relying on the public reporting any issues with lights. Cllr Robson asked whether columns on Shaftoe Street, that are corroded at the base, would be replaced. Lynsey explained that the lights and columns were surveyed before work began and after completion of the scheme all lights/columns would be in a safe state.

2. Public participation –

a) Geoff Jackson of the Shaftoe Board of Governors provided a summary of the current state of affairs. Over the previous 10 days there had been informal consultations chaired by Andy Johnson of NCC, along with the Regional Schools Commissioner, Hadrian Learning Trust and Hexham Partnership. The committee at NCC wants to hear from a range of stakeholders, and then there will be formal consultations. The second stage of informal consultations runs until the 9th of April. Then the Scrutiny Committee will look at all responses and present to Cabinet on the 8th of May. The output from this procedure will go to formal consultation after that. One option is for the High School to close. Mr Jackson felt that it was up to the community to look for an educational model that would keep the school open. Elsewhere there are schools with 500 pupils which are running

successfully. Possible models might include a technical college, with a sixth form. What model would work here? Hexham Partnership would like to extend to 11-18/19 school. Once the Academy withdraws from HBHS the Regional Schools Commissioner is the representative of the Dept. of Education. Mr Jackson felt that a new partnership was beginning between NCC and the Commissioner. Previously they had been at loggerheads. It was thought that there are not enough Academy Trusts to roll out the programme as the Government had envisaged. The Government delegates what it wishes through the Commissioner. NCC would like to build a new school in Hexham, but has no power over high schools in Hexham. Cllr Robson wondered whether, should the QE High School change its age range, the 152 spaces it currently there would be filled? Mr Jackson said that there was not sufficient capacity at Hexham to take in all HB pupils. Corbridge Middle School Partnership has been very pro-active at working with the First Schools that feed into them. John Kite said that there was no ready solution for the predicament of the High School, but closure would not be an easy answer. Mr Jackson questioned who was addressing the quality of education being received by the 350 pupils currently at HB High School. There is a backlog of repair work needed on the buildings. Rather than paying for a new school, money should be spent on all the schools in the area. Cllr Thornhill said that a lack of trust in NCC has built up over time. There have been a lot of discussions about money, but the mish-mash of 2 and 3 tier schools in the area was a large part of the problem. Cllr Charlton said that there was a short time to respond. The PC had met with the Heads of HB High School and Shaftoe First School, and everyone would need to unite with one vision to make progress. Mr Jackson agreed with this. It was noted that parents have a right to choice regarding schools. If a super-school was created in Hexham, there would be no choice. On the 1st of February the Shaftoe School becomes Shaftoe Academy and Geoff Jackson will be standing down as a Governor. Parish Cllrs are due to meet again with the Darren Glover in the next week and will decide how to proceed after that.

b) Vehicles have been speeding through the village. Four cars had been hit in the last six months, and a drunk driver dealt with by the Police. It was felt that drivers are coming off the A69 at 60mph and do not slow down sufficiently. Cllr Robson wondered whether arrows giving priority to traffic coming out of the village might help, along with an island in the middle of the road. In Horsley granite strips have also been used to slow traffic down. Cllr Sharp said that he would be happy to look at this.

c) James Brown raised the proposed closing of a road at garages near Greenwich Gardens. Would it be possible to open the road at the other end?

3. Apologies - were received from Cllr E. Brown.

4. Declarations of interest – none were received.

5. Minutes of previous meeting – having been circulated, these were agreed & signed. Cllr Snowdon noted that his name had been missed from the apologies.

6. Report from Northumberland County Council –

Cllr Sharp said that the highways scheme at Shaftoe School was about to be implemented. Camera surveys have now been carried out on Ratcliffe Road. Cllr Sharp provided Cllrs with an information pack about recent meetings regarding the High School. A site meeting is planned for North Bank to look at highways issues. Only one caravan is left on site at Willow Gap, and this should soon be removed. Cllr Sharp planned to look at the items raised at the PC surgery. He will also raise concerns about road at Chesterwood.

7. Highways –

a) Cllr Charlton said that there had been an accident with a car hitting the fence in front of Greenwich Gardens. Police attended the incident. The Clerk will report the damaged fence to Karbon Homes.

b) Cllr J. Thompson said that a member of the public had reported damage following recent works by Northumbrian Water. There was reportedly damage to the road and a lot of mud. The Clerk will contact Northumbrian Water.

8. Lighting – nothing to report.

9. Planning applications –

17/04615/FUL - Single storey rear extension + part conversion of attached outbuilding at The Willows, John Martin Street - no objections.

17/04571/FUL - Increase ground levels of shared access (retrospective). Erection of dwelling with attached garage, water pumping station, flood defence and closure of existing access, demolition of existing drinking water pumping station, installation of package treatment plant + biomass plant, Land north of Middle Lipwood Farm - The Parish Council objects to this application until such time as flood protection has been improved in this area.

17/02577/FUL -Object : We note that the developer has produced amended plans. However, these amendments do not address the Parish Council's concerns over the materials used, ie buff brick. This does not blend in with the surrounding stone built properties in the conservation area.

Concerns over flooding in this area have not been addressed. After the floods of December 2015 Northumbrian Water carried out a survey of drains in Haydon Bridge. Following this they admitted that there was a need to upgrade the main drain on North Bank, as this was struggling to cope with the existing load. We do not believe any further development should be allowed in this part of the village until this is addressed.

The amended plans suggest that as there is insufficient parking within the site, residents could park on Station Road. The Parish Council strongly objects to this proposal. This area is already used by vehicles setting down/picking up from the railway. A line of vehicles regularly builds up when the level crossing barrier is in place, so it would be inappropriate to use this area for residents' parking.

Similarly the plans advise that as no pavement has been provided in front of the development, that residents cross to the pavement on the railway side of Station Road. Once again we draw your attention to the fact that people will be heading into the traffic building up around the level crossing.

10. Accounts – as in budget.

11. Correspondence – No additional correspondence.

12. Parish projects –

a) Development Trust – The DT had not met since the last PC meeting. However, Cllr Charlton had discussed the idea of having the toilet open at the library whilst the library is closed. She said that no one was willing to come in regularly to cover this. Also she was concerned that if volunteers dropped out this would be left to her to do, and she was not prepared to go in twice a day. Cllr J. Thompson said that she would be happy to be on rota, along with Cllr Richardson. Cllr Faulks said

that there would be extra toilet cleaning too. This will be discussed at next meeting, taking on board the concerns that have been raised.

b) Flooding – Cllr Robson said that there are a number of fallen willow trees on the river bank. They could be moved in a flood and block arches in the bridge. The trees are in the Conservation Area. Cllr Robson had spoken to the EA, who had promised to look at this as an urgent matter. A survey of the river won't be ready until summer 2018, so gravel removal at Lipwood will not take place this year. The EA will look at a multi-agency approach to protecting the A69. As part of the survey work two representatives of the village had been requested. Cllr Robson will represent the village and he will find another person to represent Lipwood. Cllr Charlton said that the EA had attached a map showing flooding to the planning application for the garages at Greenwich Gdns. They suggested that the houses could be built at a raised level, and that surface water could go into the existing drains.

c) Patient group – Cllr Fletcher said that they had met on Monday, but there was little to report at this stage. There have been complaints about the waiting times for appointments. This will go on agenda for March, when there should be a clearer view of how things are going.

14. Any other business –

a) Cllr J. Thompson said that Derek Boyd had given three sacks of Union Jack bunting to the community. She wondered where it could be stored, and it was suggested that there would be space at the Community Centre. Cllr Charlton said that the volunteers at the library are repairing the Northumberland bunting.

b) Cllr J. Thompson said that she had received a query about the Anchor Garage. Who owned the site now? Someone has dumped rubbish on site and there are concerns about vermin.

c) Cllr Charlton said that a pensioner had carried two bags of glass for recycling to the tunnel top! Cllr Sharp said that he had asked if the recycling point could be moved, and he will chase this matter up.