



Minutes of Meeting 28 October 2024 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice-Chair), A. Saunders, D. Finlayson, J. Benson, County Cllr A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

1. Introduction and Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence Cllr S. Armstrong and Cllr C. Kennedy.

3. Declarations of Interest Cllr Saunder re Royal British Legion (Item 17.1).

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 September 2024 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. Despite numerous bins and dog waste bag dispensers it was disappointing that many of the footpaths have dog mess upon them.

6.2 Seating. A new seat has been ordered for Henshaw.

6.3 Street Lighting. Light 55HN (opposite to Whitegates) is not working, and this has been reported.

6.4 Verge Maintenance. Two areas on the roads into Henshaw have been missed and this has been reported to the County Council.

6.5 Noticeboards. A replacement noticeboard for Henshaw has been ordered.

6.6 Litter bins. The County Council have been asked to repair the bin outside Henshaw School.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Grazing Site. Work to thin the woodland is almost complete and the tenancy of this site has been renewed at a rent of £400. (Cheque for this amount has been handed to the Clerk and will be banked accordingly). The tenant has asked if they can have a 3 year licence which will enable them to seek grant funding. This was agreed at a rent of £400pa and on the understanding the tenant is reminded it is their responsibility to ensure boundary fencing is in good repair.

7.2 Ultrafast Broadband Provision. An update has been received from Openreach to advise vouchers are now starting to be claimed and the necessary link-up work is underway. Investigations are still ongoing to see if areas such as Scroggwood can be included in the scheme. Clerk to ask if the areas and properties to the north of Henshaw can also be added.

8. Village Greens

8.1 Henshaw Village Green. An estimate has been received from the County Council to put a new top surface on the tarmacked section of the access road across the green. This estimate (approx. £7k + VAT) was considered excessive and alternative quotes are to be sought.

8.2 Tree Survey Work. This has now been completed to cut back trees where required on with the various village greens.

9. Planning Applications and Issues

9.1 Councillor Sharp advised that the appeal for additional holiday accommodation at Hadrians Villa has been refused.

9.1 The Clerk has again been contacted regarding the alleged use of a property in Henshaw as the address/base of a 'riding school' business. These complaints included congested and unauthorised parking, horse mess left along the village road, and noise/nuisance. This has been referred to the County Council who are responsible for investigation and enforcement of these matters.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. A site meeting with National Highways and the Police had been held on the 14 October to discuss speed limits and road safety issues. The Police road safety representative was very supportive of the request for additional safety measures and would consider and report back. Plans from Roadlink, showing proposals for additional paths and protected crossing points, were considered and it was agreed the Clerk advise Roadlink there were no objections to the proposals. National Highways confirmed that the resurfacing of the A69 with a much quieter top surface would take place in our area in early November.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. Awaiting details from the Community Rail Partnership.

10.3 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp advised that the proposal to install gateway signs has been agreed and would chase up timescales.

10.4 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. This has been agreed and Cllr Sharp would follow up.

10.5 Road Maintenance and Potholes. There has been recent work in the area to repair potholes and work should start soon to resurface Park Lane.

10.6 Wellbank, Henshaw. Work to improve drainage and road condition on Wellbank is underway.

11. Redburn Park

11.1 General Maintenance. Fencing repairs have been carried out to replace missing panels around the park. It was reported that fence to the rear of the goal frame (nearest the access road) has again been damaged and the Clerk to action repair work. An estimate had also been received regarding the fence along the main road which is contained within the hawthorn hedge. It was agreed the hedge itself formed a sufficient boundary and the old fence be removed rather than repaired.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. Reports are being undertaken on a monthly basis by the County Council. These are circulated to Members for consideration, and any recommended work will be considered at the subsequent Parish Council meeting.

11.3 RoSPA Report 2024. Further work to inspect and repair the play equipment had been completed and the majority of matters needed under the report have now been actioned. The condition of the 'football pitch' was discussed as this has drainage issues and worn surfaces. This would be looked at further.

11.4 Redburn Community Park Group. This is a developing idea and would seek input from the community to improve facilities at the park and seek out external funding opportunities. Agreed the Clerk arrange a Community Meeting along with the Village Hall representatives.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 The hall continues to be very well used with regular classes and bookings. There have been recent evenings where food vans were parked at the hall with the hall being open for people to eat their takeaway food and buy drinks etc. These were proving popular and will hopefully continue.

12.2 An application for grant funding to install an emergency generator has now been submitted.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 The Sill currently has an exhibition and art display regarding the Sycamore Gap tree.

13.2 The NNPA are currently considering an application to allow a limited number of campervans and motorhomes to park overnight in their car parks.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 Nothing to report.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

15.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 October was £26,367.97

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- PPH Hire & Supplies Ltd (Play Bark) £288.00. Approved.
- Storey & Dodd (Accountancy Services) £51.60. Approved.
- Peter Dodd Contracting (Tree Removal & Pruning) £1,116.00 (Capital Works). Approved.
- Mark Watson (Towhouse Woodland Fencing Repair) £264.00 (Capital Works). Approved.
- Mark Watson (Redburn Park Play Equipment Repair) £216.00. Approved.

- Northumberland County Council (Redburn Park Inspections July to Oct) £191.52. Approved.
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donations) £10.00 *Already Deducted*.
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £8.00 *Already Deducted*.
- Martyn Benson (Maintenance and Painting of Benches) £185.00 *Approved at September Meeting but not yet cleared*.
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Recharge on Shared Assets April-July 2024) £876.95. *Income*.
- Cumberland Building Society (Savings Account) £5,620.45. *Income*.

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£30,553.25** (of which £14,385.25 is operating funds and £16,168 (from £17,500) ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

15.3 Capital Programme. Expenditure from the capital programme to date is the tree work (recommended in the tree survey) and fencing repairs at Towhouse.

15.4 The Clerk confirmed that the Cumberland Building Society Account has now been closed with the money now transferred into the HSBC account.

15.5 An invoice to Bardon Mill Parish Council regarding the Shared Assets Agreement for the payments made in the 2nd quarter was presented which amounted to £569.20. It was agreed this be issued by the Clerk.

16. Northumberland County Council Update

16.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates throughout the meeting.

17. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

17.1 Update by Clerk. The Clerk advised of the following matters,

- The Poppy Wreath for this year has been collected which the Chair will present. It was agreed that the contribution to the Royal British Legion be increased from £40 to £50.
- A pay award for this year has been agreed for Local Council Clerks and this represented an additional 63p per hour for Henshaw.
- The Councils registration with the Information Commissioner would be renewed next month at a fee of £40.
- It looks extremely likely that all Local Councils will be required to conduct all business through a .gov.uk address and that would include websites and emails for all Clerks and Councillors. Clerk to progress this as required.

18. Items to be included on the next Agenda. Nothing raised.

19. Date and time of next meeting. 25 November 2024 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.15 pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 25 November 2024.....