



Minutes of Meeting 22 April 2024 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Oliver (Chair), S. Armstrong, A. Saunders, C. Kennedy, D. Finlayson, County Cllr A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

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

2. Apologies for Absence Cllr V. Gibson.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 March 2024 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. Nothing to report.

6.2 Seating. Repainting or treatment of all seats to be undertaken in 2024. Agreed that G. Benson be asked to undertake this work.

6.3 Lighting. Nothing to report.

6.4 Verges. A meeting was held with the County Council on 8 April to identify the areas which require additional maintenance and an estimate of costs is awaited.

6.5 Noticeboards. There are currently 4 Noticeboards located in Henshaw, Towhouse, Redburn Park, and Bardon Mill. The Clerk advised that the one in Henshaw is too small to display the Agenda and Minutes, and the one at Reburn Park is of poor quality and has been repeatedly damaged. Agreed that these could be removed and the two which were the most suitable at Towhouse and Bardon Mill (both of which had been replaced or repaired recently) be the only ones required in future.

6.6 Bus Shelter. The bus shelter at Towhouse has been cleaned but two of the main panels are discoloured. Agreed that these be replaced.

6.7 Litter bins. The County Council has provided all of the litter bins (both metal and 'wheelie' bins) but the Parish Council are responsible for maintenance and painting. There are several which require repair or repainting and it was agreed that the Clerk arrange for this work.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Grazing Site Woodland Thinning. Work will commence on this site once the weather and ground conditions improve.

7.2 Broadband Provision. Notification has been received that Openreach will carry out works to provide an upgraded 'superfast' broadband in this area (providing a sufficient number of properties sign up). There was confusion as to what commitment people had to sign up to and it was agreed that the Clerk seek further details and arrange a community meeting on this matter.

7.3 Annual Litter Pick. Clerk to contact the County Council for details and to speak to Clerk at Haltwhistle Town Council who arranged something similar.

7.4 Fire Hydrant Inspections. Concerns had been raised about these inspection and how they were carried out. Cllr Sharp agreed to follow this up.

8. Village Greens

8.1 Tree Surveys. The surveys have been completed and a report sent to the Clerk which had been circulated to Members. The report recommended cutting back or removing a few trees and the Clerk was asked to obtain prices for this work.

8.2 Repairs to Access Road across Henshaw Village Green. Minor repairs were made to this unmade road 2 years ago and the Chair and Clerk are to look at costing of any current, and potential future repairs, and report back for consideration.

8.3 Further details are awaited from Northumbrian Water, relating to access across Towhouse Village Green to install an electricity supply and connection point for a temporary generator.

9. Planning Applications and Issues

9.1 Members were advised that application for additional holiday accommodation etc at Hadrians Garden Villa had been refused and the applicant has submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. There has still been no response from National Highways regarding the Parish Councils request to extend the average speed cameras to include the section through Bardon Mill and Henshaw. Concern was also expressed that two 'Mobile Speed Camera' parking bays had been created a few years ago and had only been used once. Clerk to write to both National Highways and Guy Opperman MP on this.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. Cllr Sharp is meeting with the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership and would provide an update thereafter.

10.3 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp advised that the proposal to install gateway signs has been agreed and the final design and costings are expected shortly.

10.4 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. This has been agreed and designs/costs are awaited.

10.5 The new battery for the 30mph Speed Warning Sign adjacent to Redburn Park is to be installed in the next few days.

10.6 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Clerk and Cllr Sharp to report potholes and road damage on Wellbank and between Huntercrook and Shawhead. Cllr Sharp is also going to ask for the gullies and roadside on Wellbank to be cleared and swept.

11. Redburn Park

11.1 General Maintenance. The majority of the necessary maintenance work has been completed. It was reported that the information plinth at the start of the Pitman's Trail was in need of repair/replacement and Clerk to action this. Additionally the entrance signs for the Park and Hall are in need of cleaning and this would be arranged.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. The first Inspection Report from County Council has been received and circulated with no major issues raised. The Clerk was asked to thank the County Council for the quality of the report. .

11.3 The Clerk had been notified that the annual RoSPA inspection would take place in June.

11.4 Redburn Community Park Group. This is a developing idea and would seek input and representation from the community to improve facilities at the park and seek out external funding opportunities. Members of both Henshaw, and Bardon Mill, Parish Councils agreed to attend, as did Cllr Sharp, with Cllr Finlayson to represent the Village Hall Committee. Members of the Community to be invited to an initial meeting to look at aims and objectives.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 The hall continues to be very well used with regular classes and bookings.

12.2 Cllr Finlayson would progress the application for provision of an emergency generator now that details of the next funding round have been received. Grants were also to be applied for regarding heating system repairs/replacement and installation of new security cameras.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 The next meeting was to take place in May with an update to be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 An application has been made for the School to have Academy status which would take effect from September 2024.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

15.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 22 April 2024 as follows:

- Current Account £4,559.39
- Capital Reserve £17,620.45 (formally Easement Account and ring-fenced for capital projects)

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Society of Local Council Clerks (Annual Membership) £105.00
- Northumberland Association of Local Councils (Subscription and Website) £235.49
- Books Accountants (Payroll and Accountancy) £48.00
- Great North Air Ambulance Donation £10.00
- HSBC Bank Charges (estimate) £10.00
- Northumberland County Council Precept First Instalment £8,4700 (Income)

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£12,629.90**

15.3 The Monthly Financial Report was agreed by all Members.

15.4 The Clerk advised that the Year End Accounts would be completed in early May and circulated to Members for consideration, and then to the Internal Auditor, prior to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return being submitted for approval to the Annual Meeting.

16. Northumberland County Council Update

16.1 Cllr Sharp had updated on all matters during the meeting.

17. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

17.1 Update by Clerk. All matters had been covered in the meeting and all general information and updates (CAN news, NALC newsletter etc) had been circulated by email.

18. Items to be included on the next Agenda No items raised.

19. Date and time of next meeting. As the usual 4th Monday in May is a Bank Holiday, it was agreed that the next meeting, which will be the Annual Meeting followed by the Monthly Meeting, would be held on Tuesday 28th May at 6.30pm (Annual Meeting) and 7.00pm (Monthly Meeting).

The meeting finished at 8.13pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 28 May 2024.....