



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

Present: Cllrs J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice-Chair), A. Saunders, C. Kennedy, S. Armstrong, 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 D. Finlayson.

**3. Declarations of Interest** None received.

**4. Public Questions** None received.

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 June 2024** These were read and approved.

### **6. General Amenities**

6.1 Footpaths. Nothing to report.

6.2 Seating. Repainting of all seats to be undertaken in the next few weeks. Materials are on order.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report.

6.4 Verge Maintenance. The Clerk has again asked the County Council for the uncut area directly outside Henshaw School to be included in the maintenance programme. Cllr Gibson asked if the Clerk could report the overgrown verges on the Sill/Military Road junction as they are overgrown and blocking sightlines for drivers.

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

6.6 Litter bins. Repainting and repairs to be undertaken in the next few weeks.

### **7. Miscellaneous**

7.1 Grazing Site. Work to thin the woodland will commence once the ground conditions improve. The tenancy of this site has now expired and it was agreed that the licence be renewed on the existing terms with the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

7.2 Broadband Provision. Clarification had been sought from Openreach and the County Council regarding coverage of the Scheme, and additional plans have been received and circulated. Openreach have agreed to attend the September meeting of the Parish Council to provide an update on progress.

7.3 Additional Maintenance of Verges and Grassed Areas. The Clerk is still liaising with the County Council on the exact areas and costs for additional cuts and strimming and would report back to Members as soon as possible.

### **8. Village Greens**

8.1 Tree Maintenance. Following the recent survey, the Clerk had sought prices for the recommended maintenance work. It was agreed that Peter Dodd Agricultural Services be asked to undertake this at a cost of £1,116.00. This work to be funded from the Capital Programme budget.

8.2 Henshaw Village Green. The Clerk has asked the County Council for an estimate to provide surface dressing on the tarmacked section of the access road across the green.

8.3 Electricity Supply to Pumping Station at Towhouse Green. No further details have been received from NWL and it was agreed this item be closed.

### **9. Planning Applications and Issues**

9.1 There were no updates on planning or new applications to report.

### **10. Transport and Highway Matters**

10.1 A69. National Highways have agreed to a further meeting with the joint Parish Councils in September and the Clerk would make the necessary arrangement. Another request has been

received from residents in Falcon Grange for the provision of a safety barrier on the A69 to the rear of their properties. Agreed that this be included in the discussions with National Highways.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. Cllr Sharp is to meet 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 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 is considerable surface damage on the road outside Redburn Park and the section of road between Huntercreek and Shawhead. Agreed these be reported to the County Council.

10.6 Local Transport Plan 2025-26. Following discussion it was agreed that the 3 priorities to be included in the plan to be comprehensive repairs to Wellbank, and resurfacing of the areas discussed in 10.5.

10.7 Wellbank, Henshaw. The Clerk has met the County Council on site to discuss issues at Wellbank (drainage, potholes, eroding road edges, extensive debris and overgrown verges. Agreed the Clerk to continue to press the County Council for repairs and maintenance.

## **11. Redburn Park**

11.1 General Maintenance. In addition to work required in line with the RoSPA report, general repair work such as fencing repairs, strimming etc were ongoing. It was raised that the Pitman's Trail was in need of clearing and weedkilling and the Clerk was asked to follow this up. There were also concerns over the rapid spread of Ragwort, both along the Pitman's Trail and around the carpark. This is a toxic plant and requires careful removal or spraying. Agreed the Clerk seek advice on how best to deal with this.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. Reports are being undertaken on a monthly basis by the County Council.

11.3 RoSPA Report 2024. A site meeting is to be held to look at actioning the recommended works. It was agreed that the Clerk order new play bark from PPH Hire & Supplies as this was the cheapest price and comes certified as suitable for play areas. (The need for additional play bark and quality issues was one of the items raised in the RoPSA report).

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 in August (as there is no Parish Council Monthly meeting).

## **12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall**

12.1 The hall continues to be very well used with regular classes and bookings. Cllr Sharp advised that there is still funding available for works at the hall if grant applications are submitted. Cllr Oliver agreed to progress this with the Village Hall Committee

12.2 Agreed that the Clerk, Cllr Oliver and Cllr Finlayson to meet and discuss progressing the application for grant funding to install and emergency generator.

## **13. Northumberland National Park**

13.1 The AGM has recently been held with no issues to report. The Sill would be hosting the Annual Conference this year and arrangements are being made for part of the Sycamore Gap tree to be displayed.

## **14. Henshaw School**

14.1 Cllr Armstong showed images of the recent artwork/drawings done by the School that was now on display at Bardon Mill Station. Agreed that thanks be sent to the School.

## **15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters**

15.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 July 2024 as follows:

- Bank Account £21,956.71
- Easement Account £5,620.45

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Northumberland County Council (Redburn Park Monthly Inspections 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter) £143.64.

- Christian Dodd (Accountancy Services) £51.60.
- Carrs Billington (Strimmer and Supplies) £633.44 (already paid as pre-approved).
- North Air Ambulance Donation (already paid) £10.00
- HSBC Bank Charges (estimate/already paid) £9.00

Estimated balance (bank and easement account) following above transactions is **£26,729.48** (of which £9,229.48 is operating funds and £17,500 ringfenced for the Capital Programme).

15.3 Capital Programme. There has been no expenditure on the capital programme to date with the first identified work to be the work recommended in the 2023/24 Tree Survey (see 8.1).

15.4 The Clerk had drafted an invoice to send to Bardon Mill Parish Council for work carried out in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024/25 under the Shared Assets Agreement. Agreed that this be issued.

**16. Northumberland County Council Update**

16.1 Cllr Sharp gave an update on grants approved through the Community Chest and Smiths Trust and said that grants could still be forthcoming for applications from the Village Hall.

**17. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting**

17.1 Update by Clerk. The Clerk advised that the Council strimmer has now been purchased and would be used for adhoc maintenance. There were also high-viz vests with ‘Henshaw Parish Council’ printed on the rear to be worn (both for safety and to promote the Parish Council).

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

**19. Date and time of next meeting.** 30 September 2024 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.00 pm.

***Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 30 September 2024.....***