



## Minutes of Meeting 27 November 2023 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

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

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

**2. Apologies for Absence** Cllrs V. Gibson, S. Armstrong.

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

**4. Public Questions** None received.

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 October 2023** These were read and approved.

### **6. Outstanding/Ongoing Repairs**

6.1 No additional matters other than those on the agenda.

### **7. General Amenities**

7.1 Footpaths – nothing to report.

7.2 Seating – repainting or treatment of all seats to be undertaken in early 2024.

7.3 Lighting – nothing to report.

7.4 Verges – The roadside verges (Park Lane/ Well Bank to the Sill) have been cut back. The various verges and grass strips through the villages will be maintained on a more regular basis in 2024 as the Parish Council have agreed to fund additional cuts.

7.5 The dog waste bag dispensers will be refilled soon as a new supply of bags have been ordered.

### **8. Miscellaneous**

8.1 Electric Charging Points. The Clerk has asked the County Council for details of usage to date.

### **9. Village Greens**

9.1 Tree Surveys. The scope of work has been completed and will be issued for quotes shortly.

9.2 Correspondence has been received regarding amendment to the easement for access across Henshaw Village Green for Whychope Barn. Clerk to progress and revert to Members for approval.

9.3 A request had been received from Northumbrian Water for access across Towhouse Village Green to install a temporary generator if there are power failures to the pumping station. The Chair had met with NWL on site and an alternative solution was proposed to lay a cable under the green with the connection near to the roadside so that taking vehicles across the green (and ensuing damage to the green) could be avoided. NWL to provide details for consideration in due course.

### **10. Planning Applications and Issues**

10.1 Falcon Grange (Unmade road).

10.2 The Clerk advised that the planning application at Cragside Stables for a change the use of existing staff accommodation to residential has been refused.

### **11. Transport and Highways Matters**

11.1 A69. Still awaiting details from National Highways and Clerk to chase up.

11.2 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp advised that the proposal to install gateway signs requires Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent and an update will be provided in due course.

11.3 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. Details of possible speed warning measures had been circulated by Cllr Sharp. Whilst Members supported the proposals it was asked if such measures could be introduced through the village as a whole starting west of Henshaw Church as vehicles approached the built up areas. Cllr Sharp agreed to raise this with County Council Highways.

11.4 Bardon Mill Station Access Road. The Clerk advised he has contacted the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership regarding a scheme of repairs. Letters would now be sent to Network Rail, County Council, Local MP to try and facilitate a scheme.

## **12. Redburn Park**

12.1 Inspections. The Clerk advised he is in discussion with the County Council for the County to undertake the monthly inspections in 2024.

12.2 Maintenance. Emergency work has been completed in accordance with the RoSPA report by Mark Watson. Site meetings had been held with the Chair and Clerk to inspect the works and to agree a few additional repairs. The Clerk was also in discussions with Kompan to progress recommended repairs to some of the play equipment. Cllr Armstrong was thanked for the repairs to the noticeboard and Cllr Benson for continuing to undertake repairs to fencing at the park.

12.3 Woodland Management. Work has recommenced to thin out the woodland.

12.4 Redburn Community Park Group. An initial meeting of the group had been held to plan repairs and future management. This would be a developing idea and would seek input and representation from the community to improve facilities at the park and seek out external funding opportunities.

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

13.1 The Committee had met recently with a view to increasing the numbers of events and activities at the hall and to promote the use of the hall.

## **14. Northumberland National Park**

14.1 Cllr Saunders gave an update on the recent developments.

## **15. Henshaw School**

15.1 Plans for improved parking arrangements and layout had been distributed by Cllr Sharp. These included additional road marking, amendments to layout of parking, possible extension into the grassed area to the rear, and installation of bollards at the entrance to stop parking on the footpaths.

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

16.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 November 2023 as follows:

- Current Account £13,314.21
- Easement Account £5,620.45

16.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Mark Watson (Urgent repairs at Redburn Park) £420.00
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (War Memorial Maintenance Contribution) £133.00
- Susan Saunders (Poppy Appeal Donation) £40.00
- JRB Enterprise Ltd (Dog Wate Bags) £325.40
- PPH Hire & Supplies Limited (Materials for Redburn Park) £64.20
- Mark Watson (Verge Cutting) £360.00
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £12.00

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£11,949.61**

16.3 Precept. Clerk to circulate budget details so the precept can be agreed in January.

## **17. Northumberland County Council Update**

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

**18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting** No further matters were raised.

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

**20. Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting is on Monday 22 January 2024 at 7.00pm. The meeting finished at 8.17pm.

***Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 22 January 2024.....***