



Minutes of Meeting 25 March 2024 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice-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 J. Benson.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 February 2024 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 Spring 2024.

7.3 Lighting – nothing to report.

7.4 Verges – A meeting has been arranged with the County Council on 8 April to identify the areas which require additional maintenance.

7.5 Noticeboards – the noticeboards at Towhouse and Bardon Mill have been repaired/replaced.

7.6 Bus Shelter. The shelter at Towhouse is to be cleaned in the near future.

8. Miscellaneous

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

8.2 Broadband Provision. Further information is awaited regarding the possibility of an initiative to improve the broadband in Henshaw, Bardon Mill and Melkridge Parish areas.

8.3 Dog Waste Bag Dispenser and Replacement of Dog Waste Bags. The new dispenser will be installed at Bardon Mill Village Green shortly. All of the existing dispensers have now been refilled.

9. Village Greens

9.1 Tree Surveys. Peter Dodd Agricultural Services have been appointed to carry out the surveys with these to take place in the next few weeks.

9.2 The variation of the Easement across Henshaw Village Green has now been concluded.

9.3 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.

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

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 No matters to discuss.

11. Transport and Highway Matters

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

11.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. The Clerk has written to the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership to advise that following the receipt of quotes and funding commitments to repair work, this is a matter that would now need to be taken forward as a private scheme and not led by the Parish Council. Clerk would continue to assist where appropriate.

11.3 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.

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

11.5 The 30mph Speed Warning Sign adjacent to Redburn Park needs a replacement battery. Chair agreed to action this.

11.6 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Cllr Sharp had advised that the County Council have received additional funding for repairs/resurfacing with £80k specifically earmarked for Park Lane.

11.7 Bus Stop at Ridley Hall. A new bus shelter has been installed on the A69 at the Ridley Hall junction but all in attendance felt it has been placed the wrong way around with no protection from traffic/water spray etc. Chair and Cllr Sharp has raised this with Roadlink and National Highways.

12. Redburn Park

12.1 General Maintenance. The majority of the work identified in the RoSPA report has been completed and Clerk/Members to inspect prior to the next meeting.

12.2 Monthly Inspections. The County Council have been appointed to undertake these commencing in April 2024.

12.3 Woodland Management. All work has now been completed.

12.4 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.

13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

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

13.2 Cllr Finlayson would progress the application for provision of an emergency generator and was awaiting details of the next funding round.

14. Northumberland National Park

14.1 Cllr Sharp and Saunders gave a brief update on the recent developments and confirmed it has recently been agreed that felled Sycamore Gap tree will be on display at the Sill. Cllr Sharp had expressed his disappointment that the planned interactive signboard project (where visitors could search/access details on local services etc) has not been fully implemented and he has taken this up with the NNPA.

15. Henshaw School

15.1 The bollards have now been installed at the car park entrance to prevent parents parking on these areas when dropping off/collecting children in an effort to reduce the risk of traffic incidents.

16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

16.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 March 2024 as follows:

- Current Account £5,061.36
- Easement Account £5,620.45

16.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Wages and Expenses (4th Quarter) £1,230.22
- HMRC (4th Quarter Tax) £243.40
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £10.00 (already debited)
- Great North Air Ambulance Donation £10.00 (already debited)
- Northern Powergrid Wayleave Payment £20.91 (Banked but not cleared income)
- BM Parish Council Shared Assets Payment £1,055.09 (Banked but not cleared income)
- Henshaw Easement Payment £12,000 (Income)
- JRB Enterprises £104.34 (Paid but not cleared)

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£16,559.39**

16.3 The Monthly Financial Report was agreed by all Members.

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

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

18.1 Update by Clerk. All matters had been covered in the meeting.

18.2 Town and Parish Council Spring Conference. The Chair and Clerk had attended this Conference in March and provided an update of the matters discussed.

19. Items to be included on the next Agenda

19.1 Annual Litter Pick. It was raised that this has not been done in the Village for a number of years. It was noted that equipment, bags etc for this could be obtained from the County Council.

19.2 Fire Hydrant Inspections. It was reported that these had been carried out recently but concerns were raised about the quality of the inspections and that equipment had not been replaced properly. Councillor Sharp said he would contact the relevant department and report back to the next meeting.

19.3 Planting of Grassed Verges. It has been noted that there are areas in the County where planting of daffodils on grass verges on the outskirts and village edges made a huge difference to the appearance and welcoming nature. Consideration to be given to such a scheme at a future meeting.

19.4 It was pointed out that the proposed date for the May meeting falls on a Bank Holiday. Clerk to look at alternative dates.

20. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 22 April 2024 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.07pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 22 April 2024.....