

# HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL



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## Minutes of Meeting 27 January 2025 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

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

**3. Declarations of Interest** Cllr J. Oliver (Item 9.2)

**4. Public Questions** None received.

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

### **6. General Amenities**

6.1 Footpaths. There is a tree partially blocking the path along the A69 opposite the Henshaw Garage. Cllr Benson advised this was in hand to be cut back.

6.2 Seating. A new seat will be installed in Henshaw in the next few weeks.

6.3 Street Lighting. Light 55HN (Whitegates) is still not working and has been reported (again).

6.4 Verge Maintenance. Final cuts for the season have been completed.

6.5 Noticeboards. A replacement noticeboard for Henshaw will be installed in the next few weeks.

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

### **7. Miscellaneous**

7.1 Grazing Site. Arrangements are underway to agree a 3 year licence.

7.2 Ultrafast Broadband. Details of additional areas to be included is awaited from Openreach.

### **8. Village Greens**

8.1 Henshaw Village Green. Estimates are to be sought to put a new top surface on the tarmacked section of the access road across the green.

8.2 Concerns were raised about potential damage to the Tow House green as a result of NWL driving across to access the pumping station. Clerk to chase up as the Council had agreed for a power supply to be installed to the roadside to avoid the need for vehicles to drive over the green.

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

9.1 No general planning matters or issues were raised.

9.2 Planning Application 25/00122/FUL Side Extension at 6 Hawthorn Terrace, Redburn. Details of this application were considered with no objections to the proposal.

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

10.1 A69. Clerk to contact Roadlink to request an update on additional footpaths and crossing points.

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

10.3 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp advised that work is underway with new speed warning signs installed and 'SLOW' markings to be done soon.

10.4 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. This has been agreed and work should start soon.

10.5 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Cllr Gibson reported that the road leading to Gibbs Hill is deteriorating and this would be added to the County Council 'Fix My Street' site.

10.6 Wellbank, Henshaw. An update is awaited from the County Council on proposed works.

### **11. Redburn Park**

11.1 General Maintenance. Work to repair the fence to the rear of one of the goalframes, install a gate and remove the damaged fencing in the boundary hawthorn hedge has been completed.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. Reports are being undertaken on a monthly basis by the County Council with no issues raised requiring follow-up work.

11.3 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.

11.4 Following the recent storms there were a number of trees down in the carpark and in the woodland. These have now been cleared but it was agreed that the Clerk contact Peter Dodd Contracting Ltd (who undertook the 2024 Tree Survey) to request a further inspection to ensure there were no other issues (both at Redburn Park and on the Village Greens).

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

12.1 It was reported that the application to Northern Powergrid for funding to install an emergency generator had been unsuccessful. Members expressed their disappointment considering this area has regular power cuts (and not only in stormy weather). Agreed that a meeting be arranged to see what could be done to reapply or appeal as a 'Warm Hub' is considered essential in this area.

## **13. Northumberland National Park**

13.1 Cllrs Gibson & Saunders gave an update on developments in the National Park including proposals that a limited number of Camper Vans/Motor Homes may be permitted to stay overnight in the National Park car parks.

## **14. Henshaw School**

14.1 Cllr Sharp gave an update on the School and reported that pupil numbers were high with the possibility that a further extension to provide an additional classroom may be needed.

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

15.1 Funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 January was £29,481.12

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Storey & Dodd Ltd (Accountancy) £51.60.
- Northumberland County Council (Grounds Maintenance 2024) £4,390.07
- Mark Watson (Fencing Works at Redburn Park) £420.00
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donations) £10.00 *Already deducted.*
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £16.50 *Already deducted.*
- Northern Powergrid (Wayleave Agreement) £20.91 *Income.*
- The Bowes Leek Club (Donation for Redburn Park work) £50.00 *Income.*

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£24,690.36**, of which £8,522.36 is operating funds and £16,168 (from £17,500) is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

15.3 Capital Programme. Main spend to come in 2025 with a number of works proposed.

15.4 Precept. The Clerk had presented a report on budgeting at the November meeting and based on the increase in maintenance of Redburn Park, and the costs of grass cutting, Members had made the preliminary decision to increase the budget by 3%. This was agreed to be the increase with the Precept submission to be £17,448 (up from £16,940).

## **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 reminded Members that Local Council Elections were being held in May 2025 and details of the programme etc would be circulated in due course. An invite has also been received from Bardon Mill Parish Council to attend their next meeting where the Local MP Joe Morris would be in attendance to discuss local issues. Clerk to circulate details asap.

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

**19. Date and time of next meeting.** 24 February 2025 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.00pm.

**Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 24 February 2025.....**