



Minutes of (Virtual) Meeting held on Monday 22 March 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Present; Councillors J Oliver (Chair), S. Armstrong, V Gibson, A. Saunders, D. Finlayson, J. Benson, County Councillor A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

1. Introduction and Welcome.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr C Kennedy.

3. Declarations of Interest.

None received.

4. Public Questions.

None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 22 March 2021.

5.1 These were read and approved and the Clerk was authorised to sign the approved version.

6. Matters arising and actions from previous minutes.

6.1 All matters were covered in the meeting.

7. General Amenities (Footpaths, Access, Seating and Lighting).

7.1 The overgrown hedging restricting the footpath east of Broadacres has been passed to the County Council Highway's team.

7.2 The footpaths from Henshaw School to Bardon Mill are scheduled for repair in April.

7.3 Additional bottle banks outside Redburn Park have not yet been delivered but the twice weekly collections appear to be keeping the bins from being overfilled.

7.4 Council seating to be inspected and repaired as necessary – including those on the Pitman's Trail and Bardon Mill Village Green.

7.5 The streetlight on the Henshaw junction from the A69 needs the tree branches cutting back as do the ones on the road from Redburn to Bardon Mill.

7.6 Clerk to check if the phonebox at Towhouse is still to be 'decommissioned'. Parish have requested to buy this for £1 and use it to house a new defibrillator.

8. Maintenance Programme.

8.1 Village Greens and Grassed Areas. 'No Vehicle Access' signs have now been placed on the entrance to the Towhouse Green.

8.2 The access road at the west end of Henshaw is to be repaired by the County Council (on behalf of the Parish Council) in April.

8.3 The Clerk to ask for details of the County Council programme for verge cutting in the area as it is always left too late in the season when the verges are totally overgrown.

9. Planning Applications.

9.1 No planning applications had been received for consideration but it was reported that the unoccupied properties at Falcon Grange were now on the market to let.

10. Highway Matters.

10.1 A69 Issues. It was reported that the recent meeting with Highways England was productive with surveys/reviews ongoing and the possibility of funding becoming available for safety improvements.

10.2 Works have been completed on the road to Scotchcoulthard and Henshaw to Melkridge.

10.3 Further works are planned on the junction onto Park Lane from Huntercrook and most of the road signs are to be replaced or repaired in the area in April.

10.4 Cllr Sharp to request work to widen/clear the road from Redburn to Bardon Mill as one lane (heading east) is now noticeable narrower because of the verge overspill.



11. Redburn Park.

11.1 The Clerk advised that inspections were continuing but improvement works were on hold until the Spring and/or improved weather.

11.2 There is a problem with dog fouling on the Pitman's Trail and signage was to be placed at each of the kissing gate entrances.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall.

12.1 The hall remains closed as a result of COVID-19 but is due for phased re-opening in April.

12.2 It was reported that Julie Smith has tendered her resignation as Secretary. All in attendance expressed their sincere thanks for all her hard work over the past few years.

13. Northumberland National Park.

13.1 A meeting had been attended by Parish Members with consultants who were reviewing and reporting on the Sill development. A copy of the report to be circulated when available.

13.2 The Clerk and Cllr Sharp were continuing their efforts to have tourist direction signs erected on the Military Road to advise people of what is on offer in Henshaw and Bardon Mill. Agree both to write to County Council Leader Glen Sanderson and Guy Opperman MP to seek their support.

14. Henshaw School.

14.1 The school is now open following lockdown.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters.

15.1 Funds held by the Parish Council were confirmed as follows:

- Current Account £2,723.93
- Easement Account £5,361.92

15.2 Payments to approve:

- Wages (estimated) £638.92
- HMRC (estimated) £159.80
- PPH Limited (Redburn Park Supplies) £11.66
- Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee (Redburn Park Inspections) £37.40
- Expenses £135.67

16. Members Issues.

16.1 Rail Services. A letter has been sent to raise issues regarding the lack of improvements made to the Bardon Mill Station.

16.2 Broadband. I was reported that many people have complained regarding broadband speed and access. Clerk to contact the County Council who have responsibility for this.

17. Northumberland County Council Councillor Update.

17.1 Councillor Sharp had provided comprehensive update throughout the meeting and would follow up any issues as soon as possible.

18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting.

18.1 Notices of the May Elections to be placed in the village in the next week.

19. Any other relevant business.

No additional items were raised.

20. Date and time of next meeting to be Monday 26 April 2021 at 7.00pm.

Approved at the Virtual Meeting held on 26 April 2021

Michael Anthony Smith, Clerk to Henshaw Parish Council

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