HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

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HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting 28 September 2026 held in the Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), A. Saunders, S. Armstrong, D. Finlayson, L. Welsh, K. Baron, County Cllr A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

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

2. Apologies for Absence Cllr V. Gibson.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions A local resident attended the meeting to speak about the planning application for Green View, Towhouse. The Chair agreed to bring this item forward but minuted under 8.1.

5. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 27 July 2026 were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. The path at Benton House is to be tarmacked.

6.2 Seating. The repainting is underway and should be completed soon.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report.

6.4 Verge Maintenance. The verges at Towhouse, opposite to the village green, and on the northern roadside on the road leading from Redburn to Bardon Mill have been cut back but need further work to remove the trees and overgrown vegetation. Clerk to contact the County Council.

6.5 Litter bins. The Clerk to progress the request for a new bin near to Hawthorn Terrace.

6.6 Dog Bag Dispensers. The dispensers will be refilled as soon as possible.

7. Village Greens

7.1 Henshaw Village Green. Clerk and Chair to arrange further inspections and estimates.

7.2 Village Green update. These have not been cut in September and are very overgrown. Clerk to contact the County Council.

7.3 Tree Survey. Follow up work now completed and the next survey will be done in 2028.

7.4 Christmas Lights. Chair and Clerk to progress proposal to instal an external electricity point linked to the EV charging points.

8. Planning Applications and Issues

8.1 A planning application to vary the conditions relating to the property at Green View at Towhouse was discussed at length, with a local resident in attendance to outline the history and background. Members considered that the vehicle gate installed leading onto the village green was unacceptable and the Clerk to respond to the application consultation accordingly.

9. Transport and Highway Matters

9.1 A69. Concerns were again raised about the volume of traffic and dangerous driving past the service station and various junctions. Clerk to contact the new MP to see if he can assist with the Parish Council efforts to have either average speed cameras or additional safety measures.

9.2 Bardon Mill Station Access Road. It is still hoped the resurfacing work will go ahead.

9.3 Road Maintenance and Potholes. The pothole on the entrance to Broadacres is to be reported via ‘Fix My Street’.

9.4 Speed Warning Sign. Chair to arrange for a replacement battery for the sign at Redburn.

10. Redburn Park

10.1 RoSPA Report. The annual RoSPA report has been received and is being reviewed by the Clerk who will consult Members on the repairs needed.

10.2 Monthly Inspections. Reports received each month with any recommended work undertaken.

10.3 Woodland Improvement Scheme. Members agreed to progress with the lowest quote received and for the work to go ahead as soon as possible and before weather conditions deteriorated. An

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application for grant funding will be made for the overall project (woodland clearance and improvements/extension of the Pitmans Trail).

10.4 The Memorial Seat has been delivered and will be installed within the children's play area.

10.5 The fencing at the park is in need of maintenance (wood preserver) and Clerk to arrange for this to be done using local trade services.

11. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

11.1 Update on Activities and Events. Works have been completed to install new storage cupboards in the meeting room and new blinds to the hall. Repairs are needed to the entrance gate.

12. Northumberland National Park

12.1 Cllr Saunders provided an update on matters relating to the Sill and the National Park.

13. Henshaw School

13.1 The vacant Headteacher position is now out to advert.

14. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

14.1 A report was presented by the Clerk with funds held (18 September) being £36,207.71.

14.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Clerk (Wages & Expenses Quarter 2) £1429.60.
- HMRC (Taxable Pay) £295.00.
- Mark Watson (Fencing Repairs and Hedge Cutting) £330.00.
- Martyn Benson (Bench maintenance) £100.00. *Approved between meetings.*
- Glasdon UK Limited (Memorial bench). *Approved between meetings.*
- PPH Hire & Supplies (Materials). *Approved between meetings.*
- Peter Dodd Contracting (Tree Removal/Maintenance) £2304.00. *Reissue.*
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00. *Pre-approved*.
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £2.00*.*
- GoCardless (Website & Email) £2.99 *Pre-approved.*

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£30,954.51** of which £14,454.51 is operating funds and £16,500 is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

14.3 Capital Programme. The main projects in the programme are the resurfacing of the access road at Henshaw (west-end village green), woodland clearance and extension to the Pitman's Trail.

14.4 An application has been submitted to move the Parish Council to online banking.

14.5 The outcome of the External Auditor report on the Annual Governance and Accountability Review is still awaited.

15. Northumberland County Council Update

15.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates throughout the meeting.

16. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

16.1 Update by Clerk. No additional matters other than those on the Agenda.

16.2 Website and Email. The new website is now up and running.

16.3 Community Governance Review. A response on the boundary changes has been sent to object to any changes.

16.4 Request for Funding (Sport Tynedale and Talking Tynedale. Agreed that these requests, and any additional ones, will be considered at the end of the financial year.

16.5 Town and Parish Conference. This is to be held on 8 October at County Hall.

17. Items to be included on the next Agenda.

17.1 To agree a donation to the Royal British Legion.

17.2 Bardon Mill Pottery. The Parish Council successfully made an application to have the Signal Box at Bardon Mill 'listed' to preserve it as local heritage. Members discussed making a similar application regarding the Pottery and the Clerk to progress this and report back to the next meeting.

18. Date and time of next meeting. Monday 26 October 2026.

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