

HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of Meeting held on 27 February 2023 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Councillors J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice Chair), A. Saunders, J. Benson, C. Kennedy, S. Armstrong, County Councillor A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk). 2 Members of the Public.

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor D. Finlayson.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Saunders re Damaged Road at Scotchcoulthard.

4. Public Questions

Two members of the public attended to enquire about developments at Falcon Grange. This was an item on the agenda and the Chair agreed to bring this forward for discussion. The Clerk and Cllr Sharp advised they were still seeking answers from the County Council regarding the lack of enforcement to ensure the owners/developers completed the estate road. Efforts would continue and the residents would be kept informed of progress.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 January 2023

5.1 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 – nothing to report.

7.3 Lighting – The Chair is looking to acquire spare batteries from decommissioned lighting for the flashing speed warning sign at Redburn.

7.4 Verges – nothing to report.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 Electric Charging Points. Awaiting details from the County Council with work expected to start soon on providing charging points to two spaces next to the Bardon Mill village green.

9. Village Greens

9.1 The road at the west end of Henshaw still needs attention and the Clerk/Chair to meet on site.

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 Falcon Grange. This was discussed under item 4.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 Updated plans are still awaited from Roadlink to confirm new footpath layout and crossing points.

11.2 Speeding at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp is to progress this issue with the County Council and consider options for safety improvement such as flashing speed signs.

11.3 Bardon Mill Station. Members again expressed disappointment that Network Rail have advised they will not be installing lighting at the waiting room. A quote for surfacing improvements on the access road to the station is being sought. Clerk to progress both matters.

11.4 The speed survey near to the Bowes Hotel has now been completed and showed that in general the speed limit was not exceeded. Cllr Sharp to discuss this further with the County Council as Members still consider a 20mph limit should be introduced in built up areas.

11.5 Timber wagons have recently caused significant damage on the road near to Scotchcoulthard. Members were advised that a scheme to undertake full repair was being considered.

12. Redburn Park

12.1 Inspections are continuing on a monthly basis. The Cemetery Team will continue to undertake these inspections but no longer provided a service to undertake any additional work or maintenance. Cllr Benson has offered to undertake repairs to one of the access gates.

12.2 Woodland Management. All agreements were now in place and the contractor has started work on clearance and felling work. This to be managed by the Clerk and the appointed agent.

12.3 Creation of Redburn Community Park Group. Agreed that the Clerk would progress this and report back to the next meeting.

13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

13.1 The Committee are progressing work on an application for funding to install an external generator.

14. Northumberland National Park

14.1 The new management plan is complete and funding/grants are available for landowners as part of initiative to improve farming practices and land management etc along the Roman Wall corridor.

15. Henshaw School

15.1 An update was given by Cllr Sharp who advised that the nursery is looking at providing an additional classroom and improvements to mitigate the parking problems were still being progressed. Cllr Armstrong added that he was involved in presentations to the school regarding rail safety.

16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

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

- Current Account £6,084.73
- Easement Account £5,620.45

16.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- HSBC (est Bank Charges) £10.00 (*Preapproved*)
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00 (*Preapproved*)
- JC&C McDonald (Hedge Maintenance) £420.00 (Previously agreed but awaiting paperwork).
- Northern Powergrid Wayleave Agreement £20.91 (*Income*).
- Darts Club Donation for Redburn Park (*Income*).

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£5,765.64**

16.3 Work is ongoing to change details and account holders of the Easement Account.

17. Northumberland County Council Update.

17.1 Cllr Sharp outlined the recent developments at the Northumberland County Council and had provided updates on work items and progress throughout the meeting.

18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

18.1 The Clerk has circulated a request from the Twice Brewed Inn for a donation to their new play park and one from the Womens Institute for a donation in connection with their planned 'Afternoon Tea' for the upcoming Coronation (with money raised going to MacMillan Cancer Support). Agreed that the play park was a private business venture and no donation should be made, and that a donation of £100 be made to the WI. Further discussion was had on whether the Parish Council should organise mugs for the local school to commemorate the Coronation. It was agreed the Clerk contact Bardon Mill Parish Council to look at costs and a joint venture.

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 27 March 2023.

The meeting finished at 8.23pm.

M. A. Smith

Michael Anthony Smith (Clerk)

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 27 March 2023.....