

HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL



c/o 1 Wilsons Cottages, Henshaw, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 7EN. Tel: 01434 344647
Email: henshawparishclerk@outlook.com Website: www.northumberlandparishes.uk/henshaw

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

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), D. Finlayson, L. Welsh, 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, K. Baron, A. Saunders and V. Gibson.

3. Declarations of Interest Cllrs Oliver and D. Finlayson (Item 11).

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 September 2025 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. Footpath alongside the seat near Whitegates is partially blocked by a fallen tree. This will be reported to the County Council.

6.2 Seating. Clerk to arrange inspection and repainting if necessary.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report

6.4 Verge Maintenance. Clerk to contact the County Council to arrange for the verges leading up Wellbank and Park Lane to the National Park to be cut again before the season ends.

6.5 Litter bins. Clerk/Chair to see if a new bin can be acquired to replace the damaged one at the entrance to Redburn Park.

6.6 Dog Bag Dispensers. The dispensers will be refilled as soon as possible. There is an additional dispenser which is to be placed near to Bardon Mill Village Green.

7. Village Greens

7.1 Henshaw Village Green. The Chair and Clerk have met on site to look at the potential patch repairs and were arranging for estimates and options and would report back as soon as possible.

7.2 General matters. The 3 cottages on the main road have all been sold or relet recently and the Clerk to consider advising owners/tenants that the land to the front and rear are village green.

8. Planning Applications and Issues

8.1 There were no general matters to discuss.

8.2 Clerk advised that the application at Ramshawfield (replacement farm buildings) has been refused.

9. Transport and Highway Matters

9.1 A69. The Clerk advised that National Highways have stated that there is no funding at present for the crossing points and additional footpaths. Clerk to ask if Joe Morris MP could be invited to a future meeting for support.

9.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership have chased up Network and Northern Rail to seek match funding for the much needed road resurfacing.

9.3 Road Maintenance and Potholes. No significant matters reported.

9.4 Wellbank, Henshaw. Work has been carried out to remove the unsightly bund on the entrance to Henshaw but the cleared soil and debris had been left. The road at Wellbank needs resurfacing as it is not level and the surface water flows away from any of the drains and down onto the A69 junction.

10. Redburn Park

10.1 General Maintenance. A site meeting with the Clerk and several Cllrs in attendance had been held to look at the extensive works which were ongoing, and the repairs/management that would be needed in future. The Clerk to submit a further report to the Council as part of the budget setting in December and January.

10.2 Monthly Inspections. These continue to be submitted, circulated, and reviewed with any recommended work undertaken.

10.3 RoSPA recommended work. Extensive work has been undertaken to address the points highlighted in the recent park report.

10.4 Unauthorised Use and Encroachment onto Western Edge of Woodland. It was reported that there was a substantial amount of building materials and 2 tractors on part of the woodland. The Chair agreed to speak to the person responsible.

11. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

11.1 Lease to Village Hall Project Group. During recent work to review the ownership of the Village Hall building it was found that the lease to the group also included the entire woodland and pitmans trail. As this needs further discussion, and for all Members to be involved (as only 3 were present at the meeting), it was agreed that an Extra Ordinary Meeting be arranged for the following week.

11.2 The Village Hall committee are seeking grant funding for numerous works including repair/replacement of the hall floor.

12. Northumberland National Park

12.1. There were no general matters to report.

12.2 Planning application. The application for motor homes (maximum of 2) to be allowed to stay overnight at the Sill had recently been approved on a trial basis.

13. Henshaw School

13.1 Cllr Sharp advised that the parking and blocked road issues had been discussed at a recent Governors meeting and would be considered further.

14. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

14.1 A report was presented by the Clerk with funds held as at 18 October being £30,320.18.

14.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Sport Tynedale (Donation) £50.00
- Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (Donation) £50.00
- Tynedale Talking Newspaper (Donation) £50.00
- Martyn Benson (Maintenance Work) £50.00
- Clerk (Expenses) £160.25
- PPH Hire & Supplies (Materials for Redburn Park) £324.00
- Mark Watson (RoSPA Recommended Repairs at Redburn Park) £1074.00
- Storey & Dodd (Accountancy Services) £60.00.
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00. *Pre-approved and accounted for.*
- HSBC (Charges) £5.00. *Already accounted for.*
- Grazing Site Annual Fee £400.00 (*Income – still to credit*).

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£28,876.93** of which £11,376.93 is operating funds and £17,500 is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

14.3 Capital Programme. This programme is reviewed each year and is to ensure funding originally acquired from the granting of easements is used on physical projects rather than general spend. The current projects identified are to resurface the access road across Henshaw Village Green, improve and extend the Pitman's Trail, and to provide soft surfacing around the children's play equipment at Redburn Park.

14.4 Mid-Year Budget Review. The Clerk presented a report on the Council spend and budget for the first six months with no significant overspend or budget implications identified.

15. Northumberland County Council Update

15.1 Cllr Sharp provided updates throughout the meeting and advised that the new signage into Bardon Mill has been installed and this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Haltwhistle swimming pool.

16. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

16.1 Update by Clerk. The arrangements for a new Council website and .gov email address are underway with the Clerk authorised to progress as required.

16.2 Request for Financial Assistance – Bardon Mill Sports Ground Association. A verbal request has been received previously for funding/donations towards the purchase of a new mower. Agreed that such requests should be in writing and contain details of the matter and future plans for the playing fields.

16.3 There is to be a further engagement event regarding the proposals for new woodland plantations at Crow Hall. This would be held on 15 December in the Village Hall.

16.4 The Clerk has undertaken additional work recently with regard to Redburn Park matters and it was agreed overtime would be paid as necessary. Clerk to record hours and submit these with the 3rd quarter salary submission.

17. Items to be included on the next Agenda. Nothing raised.

18. Date and time of next meeting. This will be on Monday 24 November 2025.

The meeting finished at 8.26pm.

Approved and Signed at the Meeting held on 22 November 2025.....