



Minutes of Meeting held on 26 September 2022 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Councillors J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice Chair), A. Saunders, D. Finlayson, J. Benson, C. Kennedy County Councillor A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs S. Armstrong.

3. Declarations of Interest

None received.

4. Public Questions

No questions were raised.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting and of the Annual Meeting held on 25 July 2022

5.1 These were read and approved.

6. Outstanding/Ongoing Repairs

6.1 Additional lighting on the approach into Bardon Mill – to be reviewed to see if there is an alternative suitable location or design which will prevent light shining directly into property.

6.2 Drainage work on the road to Scotchcoulthard will be undertaken in the next few weeks and road repairs in Wark Forest have been completed.

7. General Amenities

7.1 Footpaths – weed spraying has been undertaken to most areas and additional work is to be discussed by Cllr Sharp and the County Council.

7.2 Seating – to be inspected to assess if any need repainting or repaired.

7.3 Lighting – nothing to report (other than in 6.1 above).

7.4 Verges – Cllr Sharp agreed to meet the County Council to look at further strimming on the southside of the road (Redburn to Bardon Mill) and the overgrown section outside Henshaw School.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 The meeting to discuss Broadband provision was to take place in October. Clerk to issue invites.

8.2 Empty Property at Hindley Steel. Clerk is awaiting a response from Forestry England's Land Agents.

9. Village Greens

9.1 The regular maintenance by the County Council is ongoing.

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 Falcon Grange. Clerk and Cllr Sharp to continue to press the County Council for a response.

10.2 There were no further planning matters to discuss.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 The Clerk had circulated details of the recent meeting with National Highways with the outline proposals for crossing points and improved footpaths to be discussed at the October meeting.

11.2 Speeding at Twice Brewed. Although there is a 40mph limit now at this location, concerns have been raised about vehicles continuing to travel about this limit and over the lack of enforcement/police presence. Clerk to contact the Police and report back.

11.3 Bardon Mill Station. Concern was expressed at the dangerous condition of the road leading to the station. The Clerk to look into this again and report back to the next meeting.

11.4 Road widening at Broadacres. The Clerk is arranging to meet with the County Council to progress.

11.5 Cllr Sharp is discussing the possibility of additional yellow lines near to the Bowes Hotel on the south side of the road and the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit.

12. Redburn Park

12.1 Inspections and maintenance continues on a monthly basis.

12.2 There is a shortage of staff and resources at present in the Cemetery Team but it is understood that arrangements were being made for recruitment of new staff. Clerk to monitor the situation and report back to the October meeting to consider alternatives if this situation is not resolved.

13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

13.1 The hall is continuing to hold numerous events and weekend bookings.

13.2 There may be grants available for external generators to be installed which would provide heating and lighting if there are storms events etc and the hall could be used as a 'community hub'. Clerk to look at this and report back.

14. Northumberland National Park

14.1 The NNPA is currently undergoing a budgetary review process and Cllrs Saunders and Gibson would provide updates as soon as they can usefully do so.

15. Henshaw School

15.1 Cllr Finlayson and Cllr Sharp gave an update on the good progress being made at the school.

15.2 Concerns have been raised regarding the traffic congestion and risks at the morning and afternoon drop offs/pick-ups. Cllr Sharp has made arrangements for Members to meet with the Headmaster to discuss this and the outcome to be reported to the next Parish Council meeting.

16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

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

- Current Account £11,781.08
- Easement Account £5,361.92

16.2 Receipts and accounts paid and for payment:

- Clerk (Wages/Expenses) £752.15.
- HMRC (Tax) £162.60
- Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee (Redburn Park Inspection) £22.40.
- Mark Watson (Verge Cutting) £300.00.
- GNAA (Monthly donation July & August) £20.00.
- HSBC (Bank charges August & September) £31.00.

Approved but not paid:

- JC & C MacDonald (Redburn Hedge Maintenance 2020, 2021 & 2022) £420.00.

Income

- Northumberland County Council (Precept 2nd Instalment) £7000.00

The estimated balance of the current account following these transactions is **£10,543.91**

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 advised that all correspondence and updates had already been circulated for information.

19. Items to be included on the next Agenda

19.1 Power cuts and Northern Powergrid issues.

20. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 24 October 2022.

The meeting finished at 7.40pm.

M. A. Smith

Michael Anthony Smith (Clerk)

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 24 October 2022.....