



Minutes of Meeting 22 September 2025 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice-Chair), A. Saunders, D. Finlayson, 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 Cllrs S. Armstrong and L. Welsh.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 July 2025 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. Many of the public footpaths in the village are partially blocked by have overhanging branches due to a lack of routine maintenance by the County Council. Clerk agreed that he would cut these back where possible and report any outstanding issues to the County Council.

6.2 Seating. Nothing to report.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report

6.4 Verge Maintenance. The verges leading up Wellbank and Park Lane to the National Park had been cut recently, with costs paid by the Parish Council. The Clerk had also contacted the County Council who were to arrange another cut and refund the Parish Council as they have not carried out the agreed number in 2025.

6.5 Litter bins. The County Council have finally repaired the bin at Henshaw School.

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.

6.7 Bus Stop at Towhouse. The new seat for the Towhouse bus stop has been installed and the small bin re-attached to the bus stand.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Grazing Site. The £400 rent has now been paid and the agreement extended for a further year.

7.2 Members had agreed to contribute to the repair needed to the verge cutter which is jointly owned by Henshaw and Bardon Mill Parish Councils.

8. Village Greens

8.1 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.

8.2 General matters. A request for the Errington Reay Pottery to use the Bardon Mill Village Green for the Christmas Fair in November was agreed.

9. Planning Applications and Issues

9.1 The County Council are investigation a potential breach of planning condition relating to a rear access being created in the vacant new build property at Towhouse.

9.2 The application from the Errington Reay Pottery for enclosure of the Clay Store building has been granted planning permission.

9.3 The application for a conversion of store to living accommodation at Waughs Bank Farm has been granted planning permission.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. The Clerk was asked to seek an update on proposed improvements to the road crossings and footpaths and any results of further speed surveys by the Police.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership have submitted the updated quote for repairs to Network and Northern Rail to seek match funding.

10.3 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Cllr Saunders requested an update on the traffic calming measures at Once/Twice Brewed and why gateway signs could not be used. The Chair and Cllr Sharp agreed to look at this again.

10.4 Wellbank, Henshaw. An update is still awaited from the County Council on proposed works.

10.5 The Local Transport Plan 2026/27 was discussed with the 3 priorities for the local area agreed as having the remainder of Park Lane resurfaced, the road from Henshaw School junction to Bardon Mill to be surfaced dressed, and consideration of 20mph speed limit or traffic calming measures to be installed through the village.

11. Redburn Park

11.1 General Maintenance. This would continue as required.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. These continue to be submitted and reviewed with any recommended work undertaken.

11.3 RoSPA Annual Report. This has now been received and the Clerk and Chair had met recently at the Park to agree the programme of recommended works.

11.4 It was reported that there is still an informal bike route in the woodland with ancillary damage through jumps etc being created. As this is unauthorised and a danger to walkers that action be taken to remove any works and block off routes.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 There are a number of works planned such as repair/replacement of the hall floor, heating system, and solar panels.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 Members expressed disappointment that dogs were still not allowed in the Sill and this was one of the main areas of complaint from visitors and local residents. It was also raised that there was a lack of new events and exhibitions at the Sill. The Parish Representatives (Cllrs Gibson and Saunders) were asked to raise these points again with the National Park.

13.2 Planning application. The application for motor homes to be allowed to stay overnight at the Sill is to be considered at the NNPA planning meeting on 8 October.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 Parking Issues. It was raised that the parking situation at the school in the afternoon was getting worse with numerous cars parked on the yellow lines, at the junction, and alongside the Church causing the road to be blocked for buses and potential road safety issues. Clerk to write to the School and Cllr Sharp to raise this at the school meeting next week.

14.2 General matters. Nothing to report.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

15.1 A draft report on Finances was presented by the Clerk (figures updated post meeting following receipt of the September bank statement). Funds held as at 18 September are £32,519.03.

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Mark Watson (Works at Redburn Park) £204.00.
- Mark Watson (Repairs to Roundabout at Redburn Park) £288.00
- Mark Watson (Additional Verge Cutting) £380.40.
- Citizens Advice Northumberland (Donation) £75.00.
- Wages & Expenses £943.65.
- HMRC (Tax) £216.80.
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Contribution to Village Hall Film Club) £67.00.
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00. *Pre-approved and accounted for.*
- HSBC (Charges) £2.00. *Already accounted for.*
- Grazing Site Annual Fee £400.00 (*Income – still to credit*).

- NCC (2nd Precept payment) £8724.00 (*income to note – already credited*).
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Redburn Park Shared Assets Agreement) (*income to note – already credited*).

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£30,311.18** of which £13,311.18 is operating funds and £17,500 is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

15.3 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.

16. Northumberland County Council Update

16.1 Cllr Sharp provided updates throughout the meeting.

17. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

17.1 Update by Clerk. Nothing other than remaining items on the Agenda

17.2 Request for Financial Assistance – Sport Tynedale. A donation of £50 was agreed.

17.3 Request for Financial Assistance – Tynedale Talking Newspaper. A donation of £50 was agreed.

17.4 Request for Financial Assistance – Village Hall Film Club. A joint donation of £100 with Bardon Mill Parish Council was agreed (with Henshaw to pay £67 in line with the shared assets agreement).

17.5 Request for Financial Assistance – Bardon Mill Sports Ground Association. It is understood that the Association needs to purchase a new mower to maintain the playing pitch. Before a donation was agreed, Members felt that additional information is required on the running of the Association and plans for future uses of the sports ground. Clerk asked to contact the Association accordingly.

17.6 Meeting of Northumberland Parish Chairs (Bywell Parish Council). The Chair had attended a meeting of Local Council Chairs to discuss matters relating to Northumberland County Council. The main complaints from Councils was the difficulty in contacting/dealing with the Planning Department and attendance/support from County Councillors (although it was noted that all Local Councils with Cllr Sharps area had nothing but praise for him). A further issue raised was that the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) provide little support and assistance.

17.7 Parish and Town Council Meeting with County Council on 8 October 2025. Cllr Sharp and Cllr Oliver to attend.

17.8 Polling Arrangements Review 2025. Members considered that the use if the Village Hall was a suitable venue for a voting station and should remain so with no changes required in this area.

17.9 Community Governance Review 2025. The County Council are carrying out a review of Local Councils. Members agreed that no change was required to the current arrangements in this area but Local Councils perhaps needed a ‘relaunch’ as Community/Village/Local Councils and for our area the name Henshaw was not reflective of the boundary as we include most of Bardon Mill.

18. Items to be included on the next Agenda. Purchase of Poppy Wreath and Donation.

19. Date and time of next meeting. This will be on Monday 27 October 2025.

The meeting finished at 8.26pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 27 October 2025.....