



Minutes of Meeting held on 24 October 2022 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

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

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Oliver chaired initially and Cllr Gibson from Item 12.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs S. Armstrong, D. Finlayson, Cllr Oliver (left at Item 12)

3. Declarations of Interest

None received.

4. Public Questions

A member of the public attended to ask for an update regarding the Falcon Grange development. Cllr Sharp and the Clerk advised that despite concerted efforts it did not appear that the County Council would be taking any further action on the issues. It was agreed that further contact to be made to see if there could be any action taken on the planning conditions and report back to a future meeting.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting and of the Annual Meeting held on 26 September 2022

5.1 These were read and approved.

6. Outstanding/Ongoing Repairs

6.1 Additional lighting on the approach into Bardon Mill – site meeting to be arranged and report back.

7. General Amenities

7.1 Footpaths – nothing to report.

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 to seek confirmation from the County Council regarding strimming on the southside of the road (Redburn to Bardon Mill) and the overgrown section outside Henshaw School.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 Broadband. A meeting had been held before the Parish Meeting with a representative of the County Council in attendance. It was noted that a newsletter was soon to be sent to all residents by the County Council on Broadband improvements and forthcoming developments.

8.2 Northern Powergrid. The Clerk advised that he was awaiting a report from Northern Powergrid.

8.3 Hindley Steel. The Clerk advised that the vacant property was now let and to be renovated.

9. Village Greens

9.1 Maintenance by the County Council for the 2022 season has now been completed.

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 Falcon Grange. Discussed at item 4.

10.2 The Clerk gave an update on the statuses of all the 'live' planning applications in the area.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 The Members discussed the recent plans sent by National Highways which included crossing points and new footpaths. Agreed that whilst any work/improvement was good news that further discussion be held (preferably on site) with National Highways/Roadlink before formally responding to the proposals.

11.2 Speeding at Twice Brewed. Although there is a 40mph limit now at this location, concerns have been raised over the lack of enforcement/police presence. A request has also been received from a local/concerned resident about the possibility of installing 'flashing' warning signs. There was discussion about possible alternatives such as additional road marking and 'gateway' signage and this would be taken up by Cllr Sharp in discussions with the County Council Highways team.

11.3 Bardon Mill Station. The Clerk provided advised there was to be an 'on site' information day on 2 November at the crossing point. The TVCRP have expressed disappointment that all the planned improvements have not yet been carried out. Work was ongoing by the Clerk to look at instigating a scheme to repair the road to the station and would report back to the next meeting.

11.4 Road widening at Broadacres. The Clerk is in discussions with the County Council to progress this.

11.5 Cllr Sharp is discussing the possibility of road safety improvements near to the Bowes Hotel such as the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit, additional road markings etc.

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 new staff could be recruited in the next few weeks. Clerk to monitor the situation and report back to the next 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'.

14. Northumberland National Park

14.1 The NNPA Management Plan has now been adopted and recent reviews/meeting regarding the Ranger Service had proved useful and those in attendance agreed the Rangers and volunteers were providing a very good service.

15. Henshaw School

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

15.2 A recent meeting had been held to look at concerns regarding the traffic congestion and risks at the morning and afternoon drop offs/pick-ups. Actions were being progressed to look at providing additional spaces and a review of the yellow lines/parking restrictions as these were outdated.

16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

16.1 Funds held by the Parish Council at 18 October were confirmed as follows:

- Current Account £11,010.93
- Easement Account £5,361.92

16.2 Receipts and accounts for payment:

- Books Accountants (Payroll) £42.00
- JRB Enterprise Ltd (Dog Waste Bags) £325.20

16.3 The Clerk presented details of the mid-year budget which showed that accounts and spend were on budget. Agreed this be circulated with the minutes and on the Parish website.

16.4 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 and Cllr Saunders provided details of recent meetings to discuss planned new cycle routes through the area (one to create an accessible route through the whole Tyne Valley and the second regarding investment in linking places such as the Sill, Kielder Forest etc with new off road routes).

19. Items to be included on the next Agenda

19.1 Verge Cutting.

20. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 28 November 2022.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

M. A. Smith

Michael Anthony Smith (Clerk)

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 28 November 2022.....