HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

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HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting 26 October 2026 held in the Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson, A. Saunders, S. Armstrong, D. Finlayson, L. Welsh (Until item 9.2), 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 All present**.**

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 28 October 2026 were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. The path at Benton House has been inspected and will be tarmacked soon.

6.2 Seating. All have now been repainted and will be inspected again in Spring 2027.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report.

6.4 Verge Maintenance. Clerk to contact the County Council again regarding verge clearance where roads are narrowing through the village.

6.5 Litter bins. The Clerk is progressing the request for a new bin near to Hawthorn Terrace.

6.6 Dog Bag Dispensers. The dispensers will be refilled as soon as possible.

7. Village Greens

7.1 Henshaw Village Green. An estimate has been received to resurface the tarmac section and regrade the hardcore turning circle. Agreed the resurfacing to be done this financial year, with the regrading in 2027/28. Clerk to appoint contactors.

7.2 Village Green update. These were cut in October and Clerk to check if that is the final cut.

7.3 Tree Thinning at Towhouse. Clerk arranging an inspection following a residents request for further work to thin out the trees.

7.4 Christmas Lights. Chair and Clerk to progress proposal to instal an external electricity point linked to the EV charging points.

8. Planning Applications and Issues

8.1 Nothing to report.

8.2 Bardon Mill Pottery. Clerk has now submitted the application to Historic England requesting that the pottery and kiln be listed.

9. Transport and Highway Matters

9.1 A69. Joe Morris MP is attending the meeting of the Parish Council in November with the A69 one of the main issues. Members considered that a site meeting with the MP should also be held and Clerk to arrange this.

9.2 Bardon Mill Station Access Road. The Parish Council have agreed a donation to a potential scheme to repair the access road (which is in unknown ownership). Members expressed disappointment that the residents and Rail Partnership have not engaged with the Parish Council to move this along. Cllr Sharp advised he is attending a meeting with the Rail Partnership in a few days and will provide an update on the funding and progress on resurfacing work thereafter.

9.3 Road Maintenance and Potholes. The pothole on the entrance to Broadacres has been repaired.

9.4 Speed Warning Sign. Clerk and Chair to look at costs for a new waring sign which shows car speeds as these are considered to be more effective in slowing down vehicles.

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10. Redburn Park

10.1 RoSPA Report. An estimate has been received regarding the works recommended in the RoSPA report. Agreed the Clerk make arrangements for the work to be undertaken.

10.2 Monthly Inspections. Reports received each month with any recommended work undertaken.

10.3 Woodland Improvement Scheme. Members agreed the contract for the felling work, and this was signed with copies to go to the contractor for signature. As soon as dates and programme are agreed, Clerk will provide updates. The application to the Community Shop Fund will be completed and submitted in the next few days.

10.4 The Memorial Seat has been installed within the children's play area.

11. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

11.1 Update on Activities and Events. Repairs have been completed at the entrance gate.

12. Northumberland National Park

12.1 Cllr Saunders provided an update on matters relating to the Sill and the National Park.

13. Henshaw School

13.1 Interviews are taking place for the vacant Headteacher position.

14. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

14.1 A report was presented by the Clerk with estimated funds being £30,954.51.

14.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Storey & Dodd (Accountancy Services) £72.00.
- Forvis Mazars (Annual External Audit) £252.00.
- Mark Watson (Installation of Memorial Seat at Redburn Park) £384.00.
- HMRC (Employee National Insurance) £33.79.
- Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal) £100.00.
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00. *Pre-approved*.
- HSBC (Bank Charges - Estimate) £2.00.
- GoCardless (Website & Email) £2.99 *Pre-approved.*

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£30,297.73** of which £13,797.73 is operating funds and £16,500 is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

14.3 Capital Programme. The projects to be funded are agreed as the resurfacing of the access road at Henshaw (west-end village green), and woodland clearance at Redburn Park.

14.4 An application is again to be submitted to move the Parish Council to online banking. Cllr Saunders agreed to contact the HSBC for assistance.

14.5 The External Auditor report on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return has been received with the return approved in full.

14.6 A cash donation of £225.00 was received at the meeting from the Darts Club towards the running costs of Redburn Park. Clerk to bank this and send a note of thanks.

14.7 Cllr Sharp handed in the £400 payment for the annual fee for the grazing land. Clerk to bank and send a receipted invoice.

15. Northumberland County Council Update

15.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates throughout the meeting.

16. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

16.1 Update by Clerk. No additional matters other than those on the Agenda.

16.2 Town and Parish Conference. This was held on 8 October and the Chair had attended on behalf of the Parish Council. Information from the Conference was distributed by the Clerk.

17. Items to be included on the next Agenda.

17.1 No items were raised.

18. Date and time of next meeting. Monday 23 November 2026 at 7pm.

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