Bardon Mill Parish Council
12th November 2024
Approved Minutes

Present	Cllr S Furlong Cllr G Gill Cllr J Oliver Cllr M Robson	Cllr V Furlong Cllr M Nixon Cllr C Swinburne	Cllr A Sharp - County Clerk – Mrs Susan Saunders 2 members of the public
Time	7.00pm		
52/24	**Apologies for Absence –** No Apologies		
53/24	**Declarations of Interest –** no interests declared		
54/24	**Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2024** The minutes were approved with the amendments of wording in 25/24 and 31/24. **Proposed Cllr G Gill** **Seconded Cllr V Furlong** **Approved**		
59/24.02	As the members of the public were attending with regard to the Byway comments, it was agreed to bring this item forward and allow them to speak. *AS declared an interest* Review of definitive Map Bridleway no. 64 – A discussion was undertaken and, the following comment was agreed: *1. `The council would point out that the west end of the claimed route (where it adjoins the C312) does not align with the route labelled "Public Bridle Road" on the map associated with the Thorngrafton Enclosure Award 1797.* *2. It would also point out that all Ordnance Survey maps state that "the representation of a Road, Track or Footpath is no evidence of the existence of a right of way". Therefore, members question whether OS maps can be said to provide documentary evidence.* *3. Upgrading of the proposed route to bridleway would be detrimental to the privacy and safety of the occupants of Birkshaw House and detrimental to the agricultural operation of West End Town Farm, albeit members recognise this is irrelevant to the question of whether a right of way exists.* *4. If the County Council is minded to accept the alleged evidence of Bridleway, the council requests that the County Council simultaneously extinguishes the higher right on the grounds that the higher right is not required for public use.* *5. If the County Council is not prepared to extinguish the higher rights, members request that the County Council immediately imposes a Traffic Regulation Order to prevent use by horses and bicycles due to the unsuitability of the surface.´* **Proposed Cllr G Gill** **Seconded Cllr M Robson** **Approved** *19.30 The two members of the public left the meeting* Definitive Map Modification Order - *Restricted Byway No's 58,63 & 4* A discussion was undertaken and, the following comment was agreed: `*Hot Bank South Road* *1. The section V-U [Moss Kennels to King's Wicket in Haydon Parish] is too steep for horse drawn vehicles, making the route unsuitable as a restricted byway. The proposed restricted byway therefore has no usable entrance/exit at the eastern end.* *2. The eastern end of the route in Bardon Mill Parish, from point U [King's Wicket] to NY789693 [south of Broomlee Lough], is over very soft ground. Horses and mountain bikes would cut up the surface, destroying the footpath for walkers. Use by horses/mountain bikes could be considered only if Northumberland County Council is prepared to construct a stone track.* *3. While there is a stone track from NY789693 [south of Broomlee Lough] to NY 779690, most of the rest of the route is on turf (greensward) which, despite being on firm ground, will cut up when used by horses and mountain bikes in wet weather. This will diminish the experience of walkers.* *4. While we accept that the route is marked 'BR' on the 1888-1913 OS maps, we would argue that the route in its present condition, is unsuitable for horses and mountain bikes, and should not be upgraded from footpath to bridleway or restricted byway.* *Bardon Mill Parish Council, therefore, objects to the Modification Order and would prefer that this route remain a footpath.* **Proposed Cllr G Gill** **Seconded Cllr M Robson** **Approved**		
55/24	**Matters Arising from the minutes of Tuesday 13th August not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.** No Matters.		
56/24	**Public Questions –** no questions		
57/24	**Planning Applications** **<u>For Determination</u>**: 24/03328/COU – Dog grooming salon -Willimoteswick Farm. – No Objection		

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	Proposed Cllr G Gill **Seconded Cllr S Furlong** **Approved** **Determined**: 24/02411/COU – Joiners Shop, Beltingham – change of use from holiday let to dwelling – **GRANTED** 24/02494/VARYCO – The Hott, variation of conditions to allow external to be changed from natural stone to stone coloured render. **GRANTED**
58/24	**Planning Applications -** Northumberland National Park Authority 24NP0044 – Morwood Farm – construction of covered muck store and feed yards. No Objection. **Proposed Cllr G Gill** **Seconded Cllr M Robson** **Approved**
59/24	**Northumberland County Council** **59/24.01** A short update from Cllr A Sharp • The resurfacing in Thorngrafton has been completed. • It would be helpful if the County Council let us know their verge cutting programme and timetable. We have asked for this before but without effect. Cllr Sharp to action. • Ridley Hall road has been marked a couple of times for re-surfacing. Cllr Sharp will try to progress this. • The signs at The Steel are due to be sited. A plan has been drawn up and members asked if they could have a copy. • The 'Welcome to Bardon Mill, Please Drive Slowly' sign has been approved. **59/24.02 –** this item was addressed earlier in the meeting. **59/24.03** Road Maintenance in the parish – the following issues were raised and will either be addressed by Cllr Sharp or submitted on Fix My Street: • There is a blocked drain on Birkshaw Bank with the gully needing cleaned out. • Leaves all over the road need sweeping away.
60/24	**Tree in Memorial Area** As requested, Michael Armer from NCC looked at the tree and reported the following: 'Ash trees at Bardon Mill are showing some early signs of die back but no need for removal at this time, as this is only at an early stage and not causing elevated risk. ' Members agreed to monitor and then have another survey undertaken in 3 years. **Proposed Cllr G Gill** **Seconded Cllr S Furlong** **Approved**
61/24	**A69 –** There has been a recent meeting with a proposal from National Highways to place traffic islands on the crossing points and barrier on the side of the road to encourage pedestrians to use the crossing points. It was agreed to respond and approve the plans. **Proposed Cllr G Gill** **Seconded Cllr C Swinburne** **Approved**
62/24	**Statutory Policies** **62/24.01** Agreed that the clerk would adapt the NALC recommended standing orders and financial regulations to meet local circumstances and bring them to the February meeting to be considered for adoption. **62/24.02** Members approve the Freedom of Information Policy **62/24.03** Members approved the GDPR policy.
63/24	**Joe Morris MP –** Members have been asked if they would like a visit from Joe Morris and if they have any concerns they would like to address. Members agreed that they would like him to attend the next meeting on Tuesday 11th February at 7.30 and that the council meeting would begin at the earlier time of 6.45pm. Members are to send any issues for discussion to the clerk who will produce an agenda prior to the meeting.
64/24	**Broadband** Some 40 properties in the east of the village and in the Scroggwood area had been omitted from the current "Fibre to the Property" installation. Openreach has reported to Henshaw PC that these are currently being surveyed and that they will provide an update when a decision has been made about their inclusion. An item to raise with Joe Morris MP.

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65/24 **Reports on Financial Matters**

65/24.01 Bank reconciliation, Income & Exp as at 30thSeptember 2024

65/24.02 Accounts for pay as at 12th November 2024

BARDON MILL PARISH COUNCIL				
BANK RECONCILIATION	*Appendix 1*		**65/24.01**	
BANK	**£**	**£**	**£**	
Balance as at	**30/09/2024**			
Current Account			£9,048.61	
Plus outstanding lodgements				
Less outstanding payments	HSBC		9.00	
	Henshaw PC		£876.95	
NET BANK BALANCES AT	**30/09/2024**		**£8,162.66**	
The net balances reconcile to the Cashbook - receipts and payments account - for the year as follows				
CASH BOOK	**£**		**£**	
Opening Balance as at 1st april 2024	5701.67		£5,701.67	
			£5,701.67	
Add: Receipts in the Year	£5,180.00			
Less Payments in the Year	£2,719.01			
Closing balance per Cash Book [Receipts & Payments]			**£8,162.66**	
as at	**30/09/2024**			£0.00
Payments for 12th November 2024				
British Legion		50.00	Poppy Wreath	
HSBC		24.00	Nov-Jan	
ICO		35.00	DDR in December	
Henshaw PC		569.20	Redburn Park - inspections and maintenance	
Henshaw PC		-133.00	Recharge for grass cutting at Memorial	
G Gill Espenses		14.40	Perspex for bus shelter	
Total Payments to Approve		**559.60**		
Receipts				
NCC precept		2590.00	05-Sep	

The payments of £559.60 were approved with the inclusion of £14.40 for G Gill.

Proposed Cllr S Furlong **Seconded Cllr C Swinburne** **Approved**

It was agreed that the fuel for the Brush cutter would be re-imbursed to Cllr Furlong and, he would donate it back to the council. The amount of £300 will be included in the accounts.

Proposed Cllr G Gill **Seconded Cllr M Robson** **Approved**

A letter of thanks is to be written to Mark Teasdale for the repair of the bus shelter and Frank Furlong for the upkeep of the grass around the memorial. Residents had remarked how good the area was on Remembrance Day.

65/24.03 Budget proposal and precept for 2025-2026

The budget was discussed and approved and the precept for next year was set at £5336. This will actually have the effect of a decrease in a Band D house council tax of £0.47p

Proposed Cllr C Swinburne **Seconded Cllr G Gill** **Approved**

65/24.04 Internal Auditor - the previous auditor is no longer available. The clerk has been in contact with an auditor, David Newman, who has recently added internal auditing to his business. Advice has been received from SLCC that internal audits of councils with precepts under £25k have not always been as thorough as they could be and that engaging an auditor professionally is the preferred option. David has estimated the cost to be £100 plus VAT. Members agreed this recommendation.

Proposed Cllr V Furlong **Seconded Cllr C Swinburne** **Approved**

65/24.05 Online Banking – It was agreed to set up online banking with the clerk as the primary user and 2 councillors as authorisers. Cllrs Marie Nixon and Graham Gill agreed to be added.

Proposed Cllr S Furlong **Seconded Cllr M Robson** **Approved**

65/24.06 National Joint Council Pay Agreement 2024-2025 - A 2.5% pay increase backdated from 1st April 2024 was agreed by NJC. Members agreed for this to be included in the next salary payment

66/24 **Correspondence received since last meeting -** Noted

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67/24	**Closure of Cemetery at St Cuthberts –** Resolution to request that Northumberland County Council take over responsibility in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 s.215(3) The council approved the resolution. **Proposed Cllr S Furlong** **Seconded Cllr G Gill** **Approved**
68/24	**Any other relevant business** No Matters
69/24	**Dates and times of next meeting** Tuesday 11th February 2025 – 6.45pm Henshaw Church Hall. The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed Chair Date 11th February 2025