



Minutes of Meeting 24 June 2024 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

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

1. Introduction and Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence Cllr S. Armstrong.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 June 2024 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. Nothing to report.

6.2 Seating. Repainting of all seats to be undertaken in the next few weeks. Agreed that G. Benson be asked to undertake this work. The damaged seat in Henshaw will be replaced in the near future.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report.

6.4 Verges Maintenance. Following requests from the Parish Council, the County Council have recently cut the roadside verges up Wellbank and Park Lane to The Sill, along the section between Redburn Park and Bardon Mill, and the small area east of Broadacres.

6.5 Noticeboards. A replacement noticeboard for Henshaw has been ordered.

6.6 Litter bins. Several require repair/repainting and agreed that the Clerk arrange for this work.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Grazing Site Woodland Thinning. Work will commence once the ground conditions improve.

7.2 Broadband Provision. Clarification had been sought from Openreach on the coverage and timescales for the upgraded service but the information received was not clear. Agreed the Clerk to ask Openreach for further details and ask if a representative could attend the next meeting.

7.3 Additional Maintenance of Verges and Grassed Areas. Following a recent meeting with the County Council, an estimate has been received whereby the County Council will undertake more frequent cuts, and include additional areas, and recharge the Parish Council for this. Before anything is agreed, Members asked the Clerk to obtain additional information and plans.

7.4 Purchase of Council Strimmer. Agreed the Clerk be authorised to seek advice from supplier and order a suitable strimmer which would be used for ad hoc maintenance work.

8. Village Greens

8.1 Tree Surveys Work. Clerk is seeking prices for the work recommended in the report.

8.2 Henshaw Village Green. The Clerk has asked the County Council for an estimate to provide surface dressing on the tarmacked section of the access road across the green.

8.3 Electricity Supply to Pumping Station at Towhouse Green. Awaiting further details from NWL.

9. Planning Applications and Issues

9.1 There were no updates on planning or new applications to report.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. There has still been no response from National Highways or Guy Opperman MP. Agreed Clerk to follow this up as soon as possible.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. Cllr Sharp is to meet with the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership and would provide an update thereafter.

10.3 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp advised that the proposal to install gateway signs has been agreed and would chase up timescales.

10.4 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. This has been agreed and Cllr Sharp would follow up.

10.5 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Clerk has reported the issues on Wellbank to the County Council. There is also a large pothole adjacent to Springfield Terrace which needs attention.

11. Redburn Park

11.1 Monthly Inspections. Reports are being undertaken on a monthly basis by the County Council.

11.2 RoSPA Report 2024. The Annual Report has recently been received and this recommended numerous works such as laying additional play bark, replacing fencing, cutting back vegetation etc. A site meeting (Clerk and Members) has already been held to assess and action the required works.

11.3 Maintenance and Planned Works. Maintenance to be undertaken in line with the monthly inspection and RoSPA reports, with planned works to fall under the Capital Programme heading.

11.4 Redburn Community Park Group. This is a developing idea and would seek input from the community to improve facilities at the park and seek out external funding opportunities. Clerk to progress this as soon as possible as it was to align with the capital programme.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 The hall continues to be very well used with regular classes and bookings.

12.2 Cllr Finlayson is progressing the application for provision of an emergency generator.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 An update to be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 All is progressing well at the School

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

15.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 June 2024 as follows:

- Bank Account £23,749.27
- Easement Account £5,620.45

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- DRH Builders (Redburn Park Works) £796.14
- Playsafety Limited (Annual RoSPA Inspection of Redburn Park) £160.80
- Clerk (Wages and Inspections) £1,044.22
- HMRC (Tax Contribution) £218.40
- North Air Ambulance Donation (already paid) £10.00
- HSBC Bank Charges (already paid) £9.00
- HMRC (VAT Exemption Claim 2023/24) £1,490.23 (*Income – already credited*)
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Shared Assets Contribution) £427.00 (*Income – to credit*)

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£27,577.16** (of which £10,077.16 is operating funds and £17,500 ringfenced for the Capital Programme).

15.3 Capital Programme. There has been no expenditure on the capital programme to date with the first identified work to be the work recommended in the 2023/24 Tree Survey.

16. Northumberland County Council Update

16.1 Cllr Sharp advised that applications to upgrade Rights of Way to Restricted Bridleway status on land south of Gallowshieldrigg and Wealside to Gibbs Hill have recently been approved.

17. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

17.1 Update by Clerk. No additional items as all matters had been covered in the meeting and all general information and updates (CAN news, NALC newsletter etc) had been circulated by email.

18. Items to be included on the next. Nothing raised

19. Date and time of next meeting. 22 July 2024 at 7pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 22 July 2024.....