



Minutes of Meeting 24 February 2025 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice-Chair), A. Saunders, J. Benson, D. Finlayson, 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

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 January 2025 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. The footpath from Falcon Grange to the A69 has an unmade section which is often muddy and waterlogged. Clerk to report this to the County Council to see if it can be resurfaced.

6.2 Seating. A new seat will be installed in Henshaw in the next few weeks. It was also suggested that a seat is considered at the Bus Stop in Tow House (on the opposite side from the shelter). Clerk to check with the County Council to see if this is acceptable.

6.3 Street Lighting. Light 55HN (Whitegates) is still not working and has been reported (again).

6.4 Verge Maintenance. Nothing to report .

6.5 Noticeboards. A replacement noticeboard for Henshaw will be installed in the next few weeks.

6.6 Litter bins. The County Council have again been asked to repair the bin at Henshaw School.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Grazing Site. Arrangements are underway to agree a 3 year licence.

7.2 Ultrafast Broadband. It was noted that whilst the majority of Henshaw and Bardon Mill are included in the scheme there are a few outlying areas (such as Huntercreek along to Rufflers Close). Cllr Sharp and the Clerk to take this up with the County Council and Openreach.

8. Village Greens

8.1 Henshaw Village Green. Estimates are to be sought to put a new top surface on the tarmacked section of the access road across the green.

8.2 The Clerk has arranged a meeting with Peter Dodd Agricultural Services to agree a further inspection of the village greens to ensure no trees were damaged during the recent storms.

8.3 The request from Bardon Mill Pottery to use the village green for the May Spring Fair was approved.

9. Planning Applications and Issues

9.1 Complaints have been received from residents regarding the Bardon Mill Pottery levelling part of the adjoining field for storage of pots and materials. Clerk asked to check with the County Council if permission has been obtained for this.

9.2 There were no planning applications to consider.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. The Clerk reported that he had contacted National Highways about the proposed scheme to install crossing points and additional footpaths and is awaiting a response, and Roadlink regarding the condition of the single width road at the west end of Henshaw as the section which joins the A69 is badly eroded.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership have asked if the Parish Council would commit to making a contribution to the funding to pay for resurfacing of the Station Road. It was agreed a sum of £750 would be made if a scheme is progressed.

10.3 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp advised that work has now been completed.

10.4 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. This has been agreed and work should start soon.

10.5 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Potholes have been previously reported at Broadacres, Springfield Terrace, and outside Redburn Park (where the surface is badly eroded). Cllr Sharp and the Chair agreed to follow these up.

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

11. Redburn Park

11.1 General Maintenance. Clerk to arrange a site meeting with Councillors to look at works and possible improvements for 2025/26.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. Reports are being undertaken on a monthly basis by the County Council with no issues raised requiring follow-up work.

11.3 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.

11.4 As with 8.2 (above) a site meeting was to be held to arrange a fully survey of the woodland.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 A Committee meeting is to be held to look at maintenance and agree a programme of works.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 It was agreed that the Clerk contact Tony Gates (Chief Executive) to seek a meeting with him to discuss a few issues at The Sill (such as the interactive information board and the 'no dogs' policy)

14. Henshaw School

14.1 Cllr Sharp gave an update on the School and reported that pupil numbers were high with the possibility that a further extension to provide an additional classroom may be needed.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

15.1 A report on Finances to be circulated with the meeting minutes.

15.2 The only expenditure approved was a payment of £129.00 to Denis Fleming for work to remove the damaged trees at Redburn Park woodland.

15.3 Capital Programme. Report to be circulated with Minutes.

16. Northumberland County Council Update

16.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates throughout the meeting.

17. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

17.1 Update by Clerk. The Clerk reminded Members that Local Council Elections were being held in May 2025 and details of the programme etc would be circulated in due course.

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

19. Date and time of next meeting. 24 March 2025 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 24 March 2025.....