



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

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

1. Introduction and Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. All in attendance expressed their sadness at the passing of Cllr Benson. The Chair had already asked the Clerk to arrange for flowers to be sent the Benson family and a sympathy card was signed by all to send.

2. Apologies for Absence Cllr D. Finlayson.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 February 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.

6.3 Street Lighting. Light 55HN (Whitegates) has now been repaired.

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. Work to remove the damaged/fallen trees on the site has now been completed.

7.2 Ultrafast Broadband. It was noted that whilst the majority of Henshaw and Bardon Mill was included in the scheme there is a section from Huntercrook to Rufflers Close which has not been done. Cllr Sharp and the Clerk will again make a request to Openreach that this area is included.

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 had asked Peter Dodd Agricultural Services to undertake a visual inspection of the village greens (and the woodland at Towhouse) to ensure no trees were damaged during the recent storms. It was reported this had been done with no additional work needed.

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 An application at Ramshawfield Farm to erect additional storage buildings was discussed with no objections raised.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. National Highways are awaiting funding to install crossing points/additional footpaths and Roadlink will repair the junction surface on the side road out of Henshaw in the next financial year.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership are seeking match funding from Network/Northern Rail to undertake a resurfacing scheme.

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

10.4 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Potholes have been previously reported at Broadacres, Springfield Terrace, and outside Redburn Park. Cllr Sharp and the Chair agreed to follow these up.
10.5 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 in 2025/26. Cllr Gibson asked if consideration could be given to providing soft surfacing in the children's play area to replace the play bark. Clerk to action and report back.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. The latest reports had identified urgent repairs to the small slide in the children's play area. The Clerk had already arranged a site meeting for the following day on this.

11.3 Tree Survey. A full survey had recently been completed. This listed a number of trees to be removed, one of which was to be done immediately (which was actually on County Council land so the cost of the removal was their responsibility). Further work to remove the other trees was agreed with the Clerk to arrange for these to be done in the next month.

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.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 A Committee meeting was arranged to look at maintenance and agree a programme of works.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 The Clerk had contacted Tony Gates who had replied to say he was happy to attend a meeting with the Council to update on matters in the National Park and the Sill. A separate meeting was also being arranged to meet the Sill staff to look at improving the interactive information board.

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 Funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 March was £24,708.36

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Northumberland County Council (Redburn Play Park Inspections x4 Nov-Mar) £191.52.
- Clerk (Wages and Expenses 4th Quarter) £899.19
- HMRC (Tax) £203.60
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donations) £10.00 *Already deducted.*
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £11.00 *Already deducted.*
- Northern Powergrid (Wayleave Agreement) £20.91 *Income to clear.*
- The Bowes Leek Club (Donation for Redburn Park work) £50.00 *Income to clear.*

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£23,484.96**, of which £7,316.96 is operating funds and £16,168 (from £17,500) is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

15.3 Capital Programme. Spend and projects to be reviewed at the May Annual Meeting.

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 advised that a request for a donation towards the running of Haltwhistle Swimming and Leisure Centre had been received. Members suggested an amount of £100 and this would be considered for approval at the April monthly meeting.

17.2 May Elections. Councillors had completed nomination forms prior to the meeting, Clerk had arranged to meet the County Council later in the week for these to be verified and submitted.

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

19. Date and time of next meeting. 28 April 2025 at 7.00pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 28 April 2025.....