

HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of Meeting 28 July 2025 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice-Chair), A. Saunders, S. Armstrong, 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 Cllrs D. Finlayson and L. Welsh.

3. Declarations of Interest Cllr Oliver for Item 12 and Item 13.3, and Cllr Gibson for Item 13.3.

4. Public Questions The owner of Hadrians Wall Campsite was granted permission to speak about the NNPA planning applications to allow motorhomes to be parked in NNPA car parks (Item 13.3). He outlined the reasons for objecting to this proposal which were then considered as part of the Members consideration. The item 13.3 was brought forward but remains in place on these Minutes for ease of reference.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 June 2025 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. The footpath from Falcon Grange to the A69, and from Broadacres to the A69 are overgrown with weeds and vegetation. This will be reported to the County Council but the Clerk agreed that he would use the Council strimmer to cut these if he could.

6.2 Seating. Nothing to report.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report

6.4 Verge Maintenance. For 2024/25, the Parish Council had paid for additional services of the County Council to cut adhoc verges and grassed areas through the villages. This was at the cost of £1,152.38 but Members considered it has made a big difference to the appearance of the area. It was agreed that the County Council again be asked to undertake this work in 2025/26.

6.5 Litter bins. The County Council have still not repaired the bin at Henshaw School. Clerk and Chair to look at undertaking this work ourselves.

6.6 Dog Bag Dispensers. A supply of refill bags has now been delivered and the dispensers will be refilled as soon as possible. There is an additional dispenser which is to be placed near to Bardon Mill Village Green.

6.7 Bus Stop at Towhouse. A new seat for the Towhouse bus stop has been ordered and would be delivered soon. Clerk to arrange for this to be installed.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Grazing Site. The £400 rent has now been received for this site and the agreement extended for a further year.

8. Village Greens

8.1 Henshaw Village Green. The Chair and Clerk have met on site to look at the potential repairs and were arranging for estimates and options and would report back as soon as possible.

8.2 General matters. An enquiry has been received from the sellers Solicitor regarding access and maintenance across the village green to Lynnburn Cottage. There was an agreement for such usage and the Clerk would respond accordingly.

9. Planning Applications and Issues

9.1 The Clerk advised that the applications from the Errington Reay Pottery for change of use from residential to office, and the additional building and new delivery layout, had been granted.

9.2 Planning Application 25/02398/FUL Enclosure of Clay Store Building at the Errington Reay Pottery Works. This application was discussed with no objections raised.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. The Clerk was asked to seek an update on proposed improvements to the road crossings and footpaths and any results of further speed surveys by the Police.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership have submitted the updated quote for repairs to Network and Northern Rail to seek match funding.

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

10.4 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Road markings have been repainted since the patch repairs and it was still hoped that full resurfacing would be carried out at some point in the near future. Many gullies and drains still need clearing.

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

10.6 Access road through Wark Forest. The Clerk had submitted comments to the County Council and a response was awaited.

11. Redburn Park

11.1 General Maintenance. This would continue as required.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. The latest report had only recently been received, along with the RoSPA Annual Inspection. Clerk to review both and circulate as soon as possible.

11.3 New facilities. The Clerk was still looking at ideas and prices for soft play area surfacing to replace the wood chipped areas, It was also asked if the Clerk could look at prices and examples of new facilities such as a bike track. An example of a park near Malton was given.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 There are a number of works planned such as repair/replacement of the hall floor, heating system, and solar panels.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 Work to update and improve the interactive signboard is ongoing.

13.2 Cllrs Saunders and Gibson have been appointed as Parish representatives on the NNPA board.

13.3 Planning application. Change of use of part of the existing car park to a mixed use car park providing limited motorhome overnight stays for up to 2 vehicles at the Sill. As outlined in item 4, this matter was discussed early in the meeting. Following lengthy debate it was agreed that the Parish Council would submit an objection to this application. The wording will be available to view in full on the NNPA planning portal.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 All was reported to be going well at the School with no issues to report.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

15.1 A draft report on Finances was presented by the Clerk (figures have been updated post meeting following receipt of the July bank statement). Funds held as at 18 July are £26, 145.49.

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Northumberland County Council (Playpark Inspections) £198.68.
- Northumberland County Council (Additional Grounds Maintenance) £1,152.38.
- Storey & Dodd (Accountancy Services) £60.00.
- Bardon Mill Village Hall (Donation) Cheque Reissue £1,000.00.
- RoSPA (Redburn Park Annual Inspection) £158.40 .
- Glasdon UK Limited (Seat for Towhouse Bus Stop) £702.00.
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00. *Pre-approved and accounted for.*
- HSBC (Charges) £11.00. *Already accounted for.*
- Grazing Site Annual Fee £400.00 (*Income – still to credit*).

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£22,273.03** of which £5,773.73 is operating funds and £17,500 is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

15.3 Capital Programme. This programme is reviewed each year and is to ensure funding originally acquired from the granting of easements is used on physical projects rather than general spend. The current projects identified are to resurface the access road across Henshaw Village Green, improve and extend the Pitman’s Trail, and to provide soft surfacing around the children’s play equipment at Redburn Park.

15.4 Banking arrangements. The new bank mandate has been completed and the Clerk to submit this to the HSBC.

16. Northumberland County Council Update

16.1 Cllr Sharp provided updates throughout the meeting and gave details of the grants which had been made by the Smiths Trust.

17. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

17.1 Update by Clerk. Clerks hourly rate has increased to £13.47 per hour effective from 1 April 2025.

17.2 Request for Financial Assistance (Citizens Advice Northumberland). It was agreed that a donation of £75.00 be made as this was an organisation which helped a lot of resident in the area.

18. Items to be included on the next Agenda. Clerk to invite Joe Morris MP to a future meeting.

19. Date and time of next meeting. This will be on Monday 22 September 2025 (no meeting is to be held in August).

The meeting finished at 8.38pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 22 September 2025.....