



## Minutes of Meeting held on 24 April 2023 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Councillors J Oliver (Chair), D. Saunders, A. Saunders, J. Benson, C. Kennedy, S. Armstrong, County Councillor A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

### 1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr V. Gibson.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Oliver and Cllr Finlayson regarding contribution to Village Hall (both are Committee Members).

### 4. Public Questions

None received.

### 5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 March 2023

5.1 These were read and approved.

### 6. Outstanding/Ongoing Repairs

6.1 No additional matters other than those on the agenda.

### 7. General Amenities

7.1 Footpaths – nothing to report.

7.2 Seating – Clerk to inspect.

7.3 Lighting – light which is not working near to Henshaw School has been reported.

7.4 Verges – many of these in the area are left overgrown and untidy. Clerk to liaise with the County Council to obtain an estimate to include these with the annual grass cutting contract.

### 8. Miscellaneous

8.1 Electric Charging Points. The electric supply to the points should be connected next week.

8.2 Kings Coronation. The mugs to be donated by the joint Parish Councils have arrived and will be delivered to the school on Friday.

8.3 Grazing Land. The current letting of this site has expired but the tenant of adjoining land has expressed an interest in taking on this site as well. As it would take a few months to advertise the site (when it would stand vacant) it was agreed that this be let to the adjoining tenant on a full market rent until next February when the matter will be considered again.

### 9. Village Greens

9.1 The road at the west end of Henshaw still needs attention and the Clerk/Chair to meet on site.

9.2 The 2023 grass cutting/maintenance has started.

### 10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 Falcon Grange. The Clerk circulated a draft letter to be submitted to the County as a formal complaint. Agreed this should be submitted.

10.2 An application to build 4 holiday cabins at Hadrians Villas (near Rufflers Close) was discussed with no objections to the proposals.

### 11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 A response has been sent to Roadlink to say that the Parish Council is grateful for the resurfacing and additional footpaths, but crossing points will pose a risk to safety whilst this is still a 60mph stretch of road and residents should be consulted on re-siting of crossing points.

11.2 Cllr Sharp has met with the County Council to look at additional speed warning features at Twice Brewed, possible options for lowering speeds through Bardon Mill, and addressing the parking issues at Henshaw School. Further updates will be provided as matters progress.

11.3 Bardon Mill Station. The ownership of this road is unknown, and the Parish Council have no responsibility to undertake repairs. It was considered that as there are several residential properties accessed by this road, the owners should be the ones who organise any repair as they will benefit from resurfacing. The Members stated that they would consider a contribution to work if requested.

11.4 Work will be undertaken on the road leading to Scotcoulthard at the end of May.

## **12. Redburn Park**

12.1 Inspections are continuing monthly.

12.2 Woodland Management. Work is progressing to thin and clear the woodland and the chipping of all the branches (including those removed as part of general tidying last year) will be completed shortly. Members expressed thanks to the contactor and Graham Gill for all their efforts.

12.3 Creation of Redburn Community Park Group. Clerk to progress this as soon as possible.

12.4 Repairs are needed to the seat on the zipwire slide and the basketball hoop. Clerk to organise.

## **13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall**

13.1 The Committee are progressing work on an application for funding to install an external generator, and estimates for this are being organised.

## **14. Northumberland National Park**

14.1 Cllr Saunders and County Cllr Sharp gave an update on the recent developments.

## **15. Henshaw School**

15.1 New fencing has been installed. There is still a section of wall near the entrance which needs attention and Cllr Sharp would raise this with the headteacher.

## **16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters**

16.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 April 2023 as follows:

- Current Account £11,752.28
- Easement Account £5,620.45

16.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Society of Local Council Clerks (Membership) £101.00.
- National Association of Local Councils (Subscription & Website £228.94
- Bardon Mill Village Hall (Annual Donation) £750.00
- Books Accountants (Financial Services) £42.00
- Great North Air Ambulance (Donation) £10.00 (*already paid*)
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £8.00 (*already paid*)
- JC&C MacDonald (Hedge Maintenance) £576.00 (*already approved – still to clear*).
- Haltwhistle & District Burial Committee (Inspections) £77.90 (*already approved – still to clear.*)
- Northumberland County Council (Precept 1 of 2) £7,700 (*Income*)
- Northern Powergrid (Wayleave Agreement) £20.91 (*Income*)
- Darts Club Donation for Redburn Park (*Income*)

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£10,099.35.**

16.3 Work is ongoing to close the Easement Account and transfer into bank account.

## **17. Northumberland County Council Update.**

17.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates on work items and progress throughout the meeting.

## **18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting**

18.1 The Clerk has circulated general updates via email between meetings.

## **19. Items to be included on the next Agenda**

No items raised.

**20. Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting is on Monday 22 May 2023. This will be the Annual Meeting at 6.30pm followed by the Monthly Meeting at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.17pm.

***Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 22 May 2023.....***