HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

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HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 27 July 2026 held in the Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), A. Saunders, S. Armstrong, County Cllr A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk)

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

2. Apologies for Absence Cllrs V. Gibson, L. Welsh, K. Baron, D. Finlayson.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received**.**

5. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 22 June 2026 were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. The path at Benton House is to be tarmacked.

6.2 Seating. The repainting is underway and should be completed soon.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report.

6.4 Verge Maintenance. The verge at Towhouse, opposite to the main village green needs clearing as it is overgrown and blocking sightlines. Additionally, the verge on the northern roadside on the bank leading from Redburn to Bardon Mill is encroaching into the road and narrowing the road width. Clerk to contact the County Council (again) on these matters.

6.5 Litter bins. The Clerk to progress the request for a new bin near to Hawthorn Terrace.

6.6 Dog Bag Dispensers. The dispensers will be refilled as soon as possible.

7. Village Greens

7.1 Henshaw Village Green. Awaiting estimates for the resurfacing of the central access road. Clerk and Chair to seek alternative quotes for consideration.

7.2 Village Green update. No matters were raised.

7.3 Tree Survey. Follow up work is still to be done at Henshaw to remove and/or cut back trees. Clerk to chase up this work before making the payment for completed work.

7.4 Library Cabinet at Bardon Mill Village Green. This has now been installed.

7.5 Christmas Lights. Lights have been installed on the Bardon Mill Village Green in previous years by local volunteers. New lights are going to be bought (using donations). Members agreed to seek costs to provide an external electricity point next to the EV charging points.

8. Planning Applications and Issues

8.1 No applications have been received in June.

9. Transport and Highway Matters

9.1 A69. National Highways have installed signage to deter people from leaving rubbish in the lay-bys which seems to be working. Clerk was asked to write to National Highways to see if the improvement scheme to provide safer crossings and additional footpaths is still a possibility.

9.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. Cllr Sharp has been advised that match funding may be forthcoming from National/Network Rail and further updates are awaited.

9.3 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Resurfacing has been completed to Park Lane. The Council are still pressing for resurfacing to Wellbank and through the area (Henshaw Church to Bardon Mill).

9.4 Speed Warning Sign. Chair agreed to arrange for a replacement battery for the sign.

10. Redburn Park

10.1 RoSPA Report. The annual RoSPA report has been received and is being reviewed by the Clerk who will consult Members on the repairs needed.

10.2 Monthly Inspections. Reports received each month with any recommended work undertaken.

10.3 Woodland Improvement Scheme. The Clerk advised that 3 quotes have now been received to thin the woodland has started making enquiries about external funding and potentially undertaking a joint scheme with the Village Hall. Clerk to update Members as the scheme progresses.
10.4 The Memorial Seat has been ordered and will be installed within the children's play area.
10.5 The fencing within the park is in needs of maintenance (wood preserver) and Clerk to arrange for this to be done using a local trade.

11. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

11.1 Lease to Village Hall Project Group. The Parish Council have taken on management and maintenance of the woodland.
11.2 Update on Activities and Events. Funding has been obtained for the new blinds, and the solar panels have meant a significant reduction in electricity charges. A BBQ and activity day has been arranged for the 8 August to celebrate, and give thanks, for the successful funding drive to pay for the additional costs of installing the new floor.

12. Northumberland National Park

12.1 No matters were discussed as there have not been any meetings or updates.

13. Henshaw School

13.1 The Headteacher is leaving and arrangements are underway to seek a replacement.

14. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

14.1 A report was presented by the Clerk with funds held (18 July) being £26,793.65.
14.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Storey & Dodd Limited (Accountancy Quarter 1) £72.00.
- PPH Hire & Supplies Limited (Materials) £25.49.
- Hugofox Limited (Website build) £238.80.
- Peter Dodd Contracting (Tree Removal/Maintenance) £2304.00 *Payment withheld pending completion of works.*
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00. *Pre-approved*.
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £4.00*.*
- GoCardless (Website & Email) £2.99 *Pre-approved.*

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£24,136.37** of which £7,636.37 is operating funds and £16,500 is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.
14.3 Capital Programme. The main projects in the programme are the resurfacing of the access road at Henshaw (west-end village green), woodland clearance and extension to the Pitman's Trail.
14.4 An application has been submitted to move the Parish Council to online banking.

15. Northumberland County Council Update

15.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates throughout the meeting and provided an update on the Smiths Trust which has provided numerous grants to local projects and groups.

16. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

16.1 Update by Clerk. A donation of £100 has been received from the 'Annual Ball Race' towards the running costs of Redburn Play Park. Clerk to pay this into the account and send a letter of thanks.
16.2 Clerks Contract. The amended contract was agreed and signed.
16.3 Website. The Clerk is now able to update and manage the new website.
16.4 Community Governance Review. A suggestion about a possible change to the Council boundary has been sent from the County Council. Clerk to respond to object to any change and to seek further details on why this has been proposed.

17. Items to be included on the next Agenda. Nothing raised**.**

18. Date and time of next meeting. Monday 28 September 2026.

Signed and approved at the Meeting held on 28 September 2026…….