



Minutes of Meeting held on 22 May 2023 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Councillors J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice Chair) D. Finlayson, A. Saunders, J. Benson, C. Kennedy, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr S. Armstrong, County Cllr A. Sharp.

3. Declarations of Interest

None received.

4. Public Questions

None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 April 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 – Clerk has reported the damaged gates and signage on the Rights of Way east of Henshaw to the County Council for inspection and repair.

7.2 Seating – Clerk to inspect.

7.3 Lighting – nothing to report.

7.4 Verges – Clerk to liaise with the County Council to obtain an estimate for additional maintenance.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 Electric Charging Points. The electric supply to the points should be connected in the near future.

8.2 Grazing Land. The land has now been let to Alistair McDonald until February 2024 at a rent of £400. Members expressed thanks to Cllr Sharp for arranging this letting and new agreement.

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 is ongoing with no reported issues.

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 Falcon Grange. Members felt the reply from the County Council (Stage 1 Complaint) did not address any of the issues raised and the Clerk to request further investigation via a Stage 2 Complaint.

10.2 Application No. 23/01524/COU Change of Use of Rough Grazing Land to Commercial Storage Yard – Woodcutting Yard, Ramshaw Colliery, Henshaw. The Clerk read out a letter of objection which highlighted the adverse visual impact and increase in noise to neighbouring property. Members expressed concerns about the loss of agricultural/farmland and the precedent this could set if approved. It was agreed that the Clerk draft a response for consideration which stated that if the County Council are mindful of approving the application then the site would need adequate (visual and noise) screening.

10.3 Application No. 23/01466/LBC for Pinning of Structural Masonry Defects, Reconfiguration and Installation of Air Source Heat Pump – Bastle House. Members did not object to this application but considered that the external heat pump should be adequately screened.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 A69. Work is ongoing to carry out surface repairs and then the footpath opposite Henshaw Garage is to be fully re-laid. Members hoped this was the start of more improvement and safety work and the Parish Council would continue to campaign for such improvements.

11.2 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp is continuing to work with County Highways on additional measure to be introduced at this location.

11.3 Bardon Mill Station Access Road. This item to be removed from the agenda as it is not a Parish Council matter, but the Council would look to assist if residents pursue repairs themselves.

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

12. Redburn Park

12.1 Inspections and Maintenance. Inspection Reports have not been provided to the Clerk for some time, although it is understood they have been carried out. Clerk to follow up and review and if not resolved then the Council would have to look to alternative arrangements. It was also discussed that as the Council no longer has the partnership agreement for the Cemetery Team to undertake maintenance at the park that again alternative arrangement would have to be made. The Clerk reported that the annual RoSPA inspection will be undertaken in June and this should inform the extent of work needed. It was agreed that the Clerk and Chair look to compile a list of suitable tradespeople that could be asked to carry out work. This could be done by asking for expressions of interest via social media, local knowledge etc. This to be considered further via the proposed Redburn Park Community Group.

12.2 Woodland Management. Work to thin out parts of the woodland has been undertaken with future work to look at clearance and replanting with more suitable and diverse species .

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

13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

13.1 The Committee are progressing work on an application for funding to install an external generator.

14. Northumberland National Park

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

15. Henshaw School

15.1 Thanks had been received from the School for the donation of the Coronation Mugs.

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 £10,099.35
- Easement Account £5,620.45

16.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Arthur J Gallagher Ltd (Annual Insurance) £1,271.14.
- Denis Fleming (Wood Chipping at Redburn Park) £345.00.
- Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (Annual Membership) £10.00
- Great North Air Ambulance (Donation) £10.00 (*already paid*).
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £10.00 (*estimate*).
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Shared Assets Agreement) £362.14 (*Income*)

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£8,815.35**.

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 to Member via email which were considered during 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 26 June 2023 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm.

M. A. Smith

Michael Anthony Smith (Clerk)

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 26 June 2023.....