



Minutes of Meeting held on 27 June 2022 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Councillors J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice Chair), A. Saunders, J. Benson, S. Armstrong (joined at item 6) County Councillor A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr C. Kennedy.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Finlayson (Item 16, payment to Village Hall), Cllr Benson (Item 16, payment for Carnival Insurance)

4. Public Questions

No questions were raised.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting and of the Annual Meeting held on 30 May 2022

5.1 These were read and approved.

6. Outstanding/Ongoing Repairs

6.1 Additional lighting on the approach into Bardon Mill – Chair to speak to adjacent resident before Cllr Sharp arranges for this work.

6.2 Drainage work on the road to Scotchcoulthard and road repairs in Wark Forest are underway.

7. General Amenities

7.1 Footpaths – overgrown vegetation along the Right of Way paths had been reported to County Council and Roadlink for action. Cllr Sharp had also asked for paths in the villages to be sprayed with weedkiller.

7.2 Seating – to be inspected to assess if any need repainting.

7.3 Lighting – nothing to report (additional light for Bardon Mill covered in item 6).

7.4 Verges – many of the verges through the village and on the roads heading up to the Military Road and Steel Rigg need cutting back. The County Council had cut some of these but they have grown back quickly. Agreed the Chair would arrange for an additional cut using the Council (part owned) verge cutter.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 Feature Well at Huntercreek. This had recently been repaired with the canopy fully replaced. Although not a Council asset it was agreed a donation of £50 be made for this work.

8.2 Bardon Mill & Henshaw Carnival. This had taken place on 18 June and the Council (together with Bardon Mill Parish Council) had arranged the insurance cover. A letter of thanks from the organiser was read out by the Chair.

8.3 A meeting to discuss Broadband provision was to be rescheduled for some time, hopefully in July.

9. Village Greens

9.1 The regular maintenance by the County Council is ongoing.

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 No update has been provided by the County Council regarding the issues on Falcon Grange and the Clerk to continue to press for a response.

10.2 Planning Application 22/01935/FUL for Land West of Townhead Farm, Tow House – Conversion to 2 Dwelling Houses. No objections were made to this application.

10.3 There were no further planning matters to discuss.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 The Clerk advised that updates on the A69 were awaited.

11.2 The speed warning sign at Redburn needs a replacement battery and the Chair was arranging this.

11.3 Northern Trains have replaced the windows in the waiting room with safety glass and seating/lighting would be installed in the near future.

11.4 Road widening at Broadacres. Chair to meet Cllr Sharp on site to see if progress can be made.

11.5 Timber Route along Park Lane. The County Council are currently reviewing the routes.

11.6 NCC Transport Programme 2023/24 – agreed the 3 priorities for the area to be 20mph limits through the residential areas, yellow lines along one side of the road on the approach into Bardon Mill from Redburn, and road widening at Broadacres.

12. Redburn Park

12.1 Inspection and maintenance continues on a monthly basis.

12.2 The Jubilee Clean Up had taken place with the park much improved but there was still a lot to be completed. Agreed that a further clean up day be arranged in early August.

12.3 RoSPA Report – the annual report has been received with recommendations for work to be done. Agreed Clerk and Chair to meet with Cemetery Team to arrange this work as soon as possible.

13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

13.1 The hall continues to thrive with numerous events and weekend bookings.

14. Northumberland National Park

14.1 The draft Management Plan is still being reviewed with further meetings in July and September.

15. Henshaw School

15.1 Interaction between the community and school is improving with events and workshops underway.

16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

16.1 Funds held by the Parish Council were confirmed as follows:

- Current Account £7,248.64
- Easement Account £5,361.92

16.2 Receipts and accounts paid and for payment:

- Hiscox Insurance via Gallagher Brokers (Carnival Insurance) £442.00
- PPH Hire & Supplies (Redburn Park Materials) £200.50.
- Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall (Donation towards Jubilee events) £60.00
- Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA Inspection at Redburn Park) £142.80.
- Clerk (Wages, expenses & reimbursements for IT equipment) £903.76.
- HMRC (Tax Contribution) £162.40
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly donation) £10.00 – already paid.
- HSBC (Bank charges) £10.00 – already paid.

Still to clear:

- JC & C MacDonald (Redburn Hedge Maintenance 2020, 2021 & 2022) £420.00.
- Society of Local Council Clerks (Annual Membership) £98.00.
- Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (Annual Membership) £10.00.
- The Books Accountants (Payroll) £42.00.
- Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall (Room Hire) £283.50.

Income to credit

- Grazing Land licence fee £565.00.

The estimated balance of the current account following these transactions is **£5,048.68**

16.3 Work is ongoing to change details and account holders of the Easement Account.

17. Northumberland County Council Update.

17.1 Cllr Sharp outlined the recent report on Northumberland County Council and had provided updates on work items and progress throughout the meeting. He had recently met with County Council staff to chase up ongoing issues.

18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

18.1 The Clerk advised that all correspondence and updates had already been circulated for information.

19. Items to be included on the next Agenda

19.1 Empty property at Hindley Steel. This property, which is owned by the Forestry Commission, has been empty for a number of years and would continue to fall into disrepair if not let or sold. Clerk to see what information he could find on this and report back to the next meeting.

20. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 25 July 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.57pm.

M. A. Smith

Michael Anthony Smith (Clerk)

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 25 July 2022.....