



Minutes of Meeting held on 28 February 2022 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present; Councillors J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson, D. Finlayson, A. Saunders, C. Kennedy, J. Benson, S. Armstrong, County Councillor A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk), 2 Members of the Public.

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

All Present.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Oliver (Potential land ownership issue re Falcon Grange).

4. Public Questions

Two residents from Falcon Grange attended the meeting (as they had at previous meetings) on behalf of a number of residents to again voice their concerns about the lack of progress and feedback from the County Council with regard to this estate such as the condition of the access road and drains, land ownership and responsibilities, and installation of bollards by one of the residents to block off parking bays. The Clerk and Cllr Sharp provided an update and advised that a recent email from the County Council indicated they did not own land here and had no responsibility for the issues on the estate. Agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Sharp would respond to express disappointment at the position and continue to seek clarification. Clerk to circulate email to those present.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 24 January 2022

5.1 These were read and approved.

6. Matters arising and actions from previous minutes

6.1 All matters were covered in the meeting.

7. General Amenities (Footpaths, Access, Seating and Lighting)

7.1 An update was given on the outstanding works:

- Overgrown trees and bushes in the area have been cut back.
- Most of the gates on the right of way between the Roman Hall (Henshaw) and Brockalee were to be replaced but likely this would not be until April/May.
- Additional lighting is needed on the approach to Bardon Mill from Redburn and Cllr Sharp has agreed to fund this from his Member Allowance.
- Drainage works are still to be done on the road to Scotchcoulthard and would be actioned along with repairs to the road in Wark Forest/Grindon Green.
- Clerk to contact Roadlink for an update on possible work to improve the footpath next to the A69 (opposite Henshaw Garage).

8. Maintenance Programme

8.1 Village Greens. A complaint has been received from a resident in Henshaw regarding the worsening condition of the main village green with particular reference to a works van being parked fully on the green with a request that 'No Parking Signs' be erected. (This vehicle was removed the same afternoon). The Clerk advised that this was a common problem throughout the County (and Country) in the fact that such areas and villages were built before motor vehicles were in existence. If alternative parking is not available there is no option to vehicles being parked partly on the greens otherwise the narrow roads would be blocked. This has its own problem in that cars parked fully on the road caused larger vehicles to mount the opposite green to pass causing churning and damage. Reference was made to the fact that the easements granted were usually for right of access not an easement to create a parking space on the green. Agreed the Clerk would reply to the resident to advise that the situation would be monitored but that finding a permanent solution is an almost impossible task.



8.2 General maintenance. The access road in Henshaw still needs further repair work and the Clerk to arrange this now the weather is improving.

9. Planning Applications

9.1 It was reported that an 'Article 13' Notice had recently been placed in the Hexham Courant to notify of an intended planning application to convert the former Joiners Shop in Henshaw to a single dwelling. Clerk to circulate application when received.

10. Highway Matters

10.1 A69 Issues. Guy Opperman MP has advised he recently met with the Chief Constable regarding these issues and would provide a further update in due course.

10.2 A further meeting between the joint Parish Councils and National Highways is to be held.

10.3 There have been a number of complaints made recently regarding the designated Timber Route which runs along Park Lane. There has recently been an increase in the numbers of wagons and this presents a danger to other users (walkers, cyclists, horse riders as well as other vehicles) given the narrow stretches and numerous bends. The Clerk has written to the County Council and been advised there is a review underway.

10.4 Road through Wark Forest. There is an unclassified road through Wark Forest from Scotchcoulthard to Whygate which is in both Henshaw and Wark Parish Council areas. This road (which is a 'forest' road rather than a general thoroughfare for vehicles) is now in such a poor condition that it is impassable by anything other than 4x4 vehicles. The Clerk has written to the County Council who advised repairs are scheduled (see 7.1). Wark Parish Council are still looking for more substantial repairs as this was a popular route for vehicles from Wark to Haltwhistle etc. Chair and Clerk to discuss further to see what can be done.

11. Redburn Park

11.1 The Clerk advised that the monthly inspections were continuing as planned.

11.2 The small Memorial Seat in the children's play park has now been replaced. This was donated and installed by the Cemetery Team who undertake the maintenance work at the park. Agreed the Clerk write to the Burial Committee to express their thanks and gratitude for this kind gesture.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 The hall continues to be well used with bookings stretching into next year.

12.2 A recent problem with the heating has been attended to and the wooden flooring (which could need replacing) is being monitored to see when/if works will be needed.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 Cllr Gibson advised that the Park Authority were working with Historic England to identify ancient ruins and features which would be recorded and mapped. Cllr Saunders provided an update on the Management Plan which is being finalised and would set out the policy on matters such as conservation and biodiversity.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 An update on the school was given by Cllr Sharp and Cllr Finlayson. It was reported that even though COVID restrictions were easing there was still very limited contact/connectivity between the community and the School which made organising events and social interaction difficult and this needs to be addressed.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

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

- Current Account £3,518.14
- Easement Account £5,361.92

15.2 Income Received Between Meetings (already credited):

- Application for VAT Exemption £877.89
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Shared Assets Agreement) £398.13



- Northern Powergrid Wayleave Agreement £20.91

15.3 Payments to approve:

- Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee (Works at Redburn Park) £21.40
- Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee (Inspections at Redburn Park) £74.80
- PPH Hire & Supplies Ltd (Materials for Redburn Park) £7.80

15.4 The Clerk advised that following the above transactions the estimated Parish Account would be £3,414.14.

16. Members Issues

16.1 A meeting is to be arranged between Henshaw and Bardon Mill Parish Councils to discuss ideas and proposals for the Jubilee Celebrations. The WI are also looking to hold events and would be invited to the meeting.

16.2 A further meeting is also to be arranged between the two Parish Councils to discuss Broadband issues. The County Council representative will also be attending.

16.3 Signal Box. It was again noted that the Signal Box continues to deteriorate despite this now being a listed building. Clerk to raise this with County Council and Historic England.

17. Northumberland County Council Councillor Update

17.1 Cllr Sharp had updated on relevant issues throughout the meeting.

18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

18.1 There has been a new Vicar appointed for the area, Canon Steve Wright. An invitation to the licencing and installation of the Vicar has been received and Cllr Gibson to attend as Parish Council representative.

19. Any other relevant business

No additional items were raised.

20. Date and time of next meeting Monday 28 March 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 28 March 2022.....

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