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## Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 27 January 2020 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present; Councillors J Oliver (Chair), J. Benson, A. Saunders, V. Gibson, C Kennedy, S. Armstrong, P. Robbie, County Councillor A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

### 1. Introduction and Welcome.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies for Absence.

All in attendance.

### 3. Declarations of Interest.

None received.

### 4. Public Questions.

None received.

### 5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 25 November 2019.

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 The overgrown ivy/planting at the Forge, and hedging on the southside of Redurn Bank between Broadacres and Greengates, have previously been reported to the County Council as they are blocking the public footpaths. No action has been taken so the Clerk to contact the County Council again.

7.2 The grassed area at Broadacres continues to be an issue. Previous discussions regarding widening the road to allow easier access for vehicles seemed positive but to date no further action has been taken by either Karbon Homes or the County Council. Clerk and Cllr Sharp to follow up.

7.3 The Council seat near Brockalee has not yet been repaired. Clerk to arrange for this to be done as soon as possible.

7.4 Bardon Mill Parish Council are providing a commemorative seat next to the War Memorial as part of VE Day. It had been suggested that local businesses and organisations be asked if they would be willing to give a donation to the cost of the bench. The Clerks of the two Parishes have drafted a letter/poster and this would be sent out in the near future.

7.5 The Clerk had received an email from a local resident asking if a second bus shelter could be provided on the north side of the road at Towhouse as people were having to use the existing shelter for both stops and then hurry across the road as the bus arrives. The Members supported this request and the Clerk to look into the matter further to see if a new shelter could be sited on the north side given that the footpath and verge are very narrow.

7.6 Concerns had previously been raised about the lack of bus timetables despite new poles and boards being installed some time ago. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had offered to assist with the posting of timetables and any future new ones. The County Council have turned down this offer and say they will progress this themselves.

### 8. Maintenance Programme.

8.1 One of the smaller village greens at Tow House has been damaged by a vehicle and trailer delivering logs. There is also a problem with dog fouling related to the same property. The Chair agreed to speak to the resident concerned.

8.2 General maintenance. No further matters were raised.

### 9. Planning Applications.

9.1 The Clerk advised no applications had been received.



## **10. Highway Matters.**

**10.1** A69 Issues. A letter has been sent to local businesses and organisations to see if they will provide a letter of support to the campaign to improve safety on this increasingly dangerous road. It is understood that Henshaw School are also asking parents about any problems associated with the A69 junction at Towhouse.

**10.2** The Clerk had received an email asking if a new path could be installed on the north side of the A69 to make access to the new Spar minimarket easier from Henshaw. The Members fully supported this request and Clerk to write to Highways England.

**10.3** Cllr Sharp advised he was meeting with County Highways to look at the possible introduction of 20mph limits in the local villages.

## **11. Redburn Park.**

**11.1** The Clerk advised that inspections by the Cemetery Team were being undertaken each month.

**11.2** New signage prohibiting dogs on the playing field and play areas have been installed.

**11.3** Some of the play equipment is in need repair or replacement (such as the basketball backboard and hoop). Clerk to review to see if there is funding available for new equipment and/or to obtain prices for repairs.

**11.4** A request had been received to see if it was possible to erect fencing at the eastern end of the playing field to allow dogs onto the area and through to the Pitman's Trail. Agreed this be looked at further to see if it was feasible and the cost of doing so.

**11.5** A letter had been received from a pupil at Henshaw School asking if flowers could be planted at the park as part of a school project. Members agreed to this but suggested that the arrangements be passed to the Village Hall Committee who had undertaken planting in the woodland areas and had similar proposals for the entrance.

**11.6** An email had been received concerning the bins at the park. The metal bin has been damaged by a vehicle and is in need of repair. This would be reported to the County Council. The bottle bin doors keep coming open and this had been actioned by the Chair recently as it is also a County Council responsibility. The two wheelie bins keep blowing over and need securing.

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

**12.1** The 'Village Hall' direction signs have been installed.

## **13. Northumberland National Park.**

**13.1** Members again expressed their disappointment regarding the displays/events at The Sill and it is understood that the new tenants are being sought for the café. It was proposed that a meeting should be held with the Authority for an update on plans at the Sill and better communication with the local Parish Councils.

**13.2** It was raised that when The Sill was being developed a 'tourist sign' advising visitors of the availability of local services would be erected but this has never happened. Clerk to look into this further.

## **14. Henshaw School.**

**14.1** An update was given by Cllr Sharp and Cllr Robbie on events and activities at the school.

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

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

- Current Account £3,299.89
- Easement Account £5,361.92

**15.2** Accounts and transactions since November meeting:

- Wages £643.98
- HMRC £155.40
- Great North Air Ambulance £20.00
- ICO (Data Protection Registration) £35.00



## 15.3 Payments to Credit:

- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Shared Facilities Agreement) £297.00.

## 15.4 Budgets.

- The Clerks report on budgets was considered and approved.

## 15.5 Precept

- It was initially agreed at the November meeting that the Parish Council Precept be kept at the present level of £10,000. Following further review of the current year's accounts and the estimates for 2020/21 this was formally agreed.

## 16. Members Issues.

**16.1** It was raised that the parking area at Bardon Mill appeared to be used by people parking there 'long stay' and there were generally no spaces available for 'short stay' visitors. Agreed this be discussed again at a future meeting.

**16.2** It was noted that the Bardon Mill Signal Box has been 'stripped out' and Members were concerned that it could soon be demolished. Clerk to chase up the listed status application.

## 17. Northumberland County Council Councillor Update.

**17.1** Councillor Sharp had provided updates as appropriate during the meeting and would follow up any issues as required.

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

**18.1** The Clerk read out a letter of thanks which had been received from the Bardon Mills Playing Fields Association regarding the recent donation made by the Parish Council.

**18.2** A letter has been sent to the Mayor of the North of Tyne Combined Authority and to Northern Rail regarding the rail service to Bardon Mill Station.

## 19. Any other relevant business.

No additional items were raised.

**20. Date and time of next meeting** to be Monday 24 February 2020 at 7.00pm.

***Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 24 February 2020.....***