



## Minutes of Meeting held on 29 November 2021 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present; Councillors J Oliver (Chair), A. Saunders, C. Kennedy, J. Benson, S. Armstrong, M. A. Smith (Clerk), Representative from Wark Parish Council, 2 Members of the Public.

### 1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Councillors V. Gibson and D. Finlayson, County Councillor A. Sharp.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Oliver (Potential land ownership issue re Falcon Grange), Cllr Saunders (Access road through Wark Forest).

### 4. Public Questions

Two residents from Falcon Grange attended the meeting to ask for Parish Council support regarding the numerous issues with regard to this estate. This related to the condition of the access road, land ownership and responsibilities, and installation of bollards by one of the residents to block off parking bays. They themselves have written to the County Council but have not yet received any meaningful response. The Clerk outlined that the Parish Council were aware of these ongoing problems and had also contacted the County Council for answers but have also not had a full response. Agreed Clerk to continue to pursue this matter and keep Members and the residents updated.

### 5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 25 October 2021

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 Many of the outstanding items were with the County Council to action and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the County Council again (and speak to Cllr Sharp) regarding:

- The new Bardon Mill sign had been replaced but the nearby bushes have not been cut back.
- A new grit bin has not yet been provided at Broadacres.
- Repairs are still needed to gates on the right of way between the Roman Hall and Brockalee.
- A request had been made for additional lighting on the bend opposite Falcon Grange.
- Additional lighting is needed on the approach to Bardon Mill from Redburn.
- Drainage works are still to be done on the road to Scotchcoulthard.

### 8. Maintenance Programme

8.1 Village Greens cutting/maintenance was now complete for 2021.

8.2 General maintenance. The access road in Henshaw still needs further repair work carried out and this would be arranged and undertaken as soon as possible.

8.3 The trees blocking the lighting at Redburn (towards Bardon Mill) would be undertaken by the Parish Council once the weather conditions improve.

### 9. Planning Applications

9.1 Consultation 21/04533/FUL Rose Cottage, Redburn. Application to create vehicle access and parking bays has been received and circulated for comment.

9.2 Application Withdrawn 21/02465/FUL Cragside House, Bardon Mill. Application to convert timber cabin from hairdressing salon to holiday accommodation has been withdrawn.

### 10. Highway Matters

10.1 A69 Issues. A meeting between the Parish Council and Guy Opperman MP is still being arranged and the Clerk to chase this up. Clerk was also asked to contact Highways England again



to request review of the decision not to install safety barriers adjacent to Falcon Grange. Work is taking place west of Henshaw to provide a hardstanding for police vehicles and traffic cameras.

10.2 The issue regarding installation of bollards at Falcon Grange (which is a highway safety issue as vehicles are now being parked on the narrow which has restricted sight lines) is being progressed and was discussed in item 4 above.

10.3 The access road at Falcon Grange has exposed/raised drains as a result of the road not being completed and adopted and again is being progressed and was discussed in item 4 above.

10.4 The potholes on Broadacres have been patched but concerns were raised that this would only be a temporary solution and they would soon wash out. A more comprehensive 'cutting out' and resurfacing is needed. Clerk to contact the County Council on this.

10.5 Road widening at Broadacres. Works have been outstanding for many years now on the proposed road widening which would see part of the grassed area taken up and surfaced/curbed to create easier and safer turning for vehicles on the estate. It was understood there was agreement reached between Karbon Homes and the County Council on this with disappointment expressed that things seem to have stalled again. Agreed the Clerk follow this up as soon as possible.

10.6 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. A representative from Wark Parish Council attended to advise that 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. In addition, there have been instance when the route has been blocked by the Forestry Commission who undertake tree felling operations in this area. It is unclear where maintenance responsibilities lie as it could be either the County Council or the Forestry Commission (it is also a NCN cycle route 68 'Pennine Cycle Way' and work has been done by Sustrans in the past). Agreed the Clerk look into this matter further and liaise with Wark Parish Council where necessary.

## **11. Redburn Park**

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

11.2 There is an ongoing problem with the bins on the road at the entrance to the park. This related to broken glass on the path and road, caused when the bins are emptied, and the rubbish and recycling bins (which are for use by 'hirers' of the Village Hall) are often full and overflowing. The County Council have recently replaced the glass recycling bin which had a split in the base which may have caused the broken glass, and this would be monitored over the next few weeks. The Clerk to review the siting and need for the recycling and rubbish bins and report back to Members.

11.3 The noticeboard at the entrance has now been repaired.

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

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

12.2 New signage is to be ordered advising the hall and car park are monitored by CCTV to deter drivers who are parking in the grounds on evenings.

## **13. Northumberland National Park**

13.1 Cllr Saunders gave an update on the Sill and the National Park.

## **14. Henshaw School**

14.1 A letter of thanks had been received from the Head Teacher and pupils for the Parish Council contribution to the towards the cost of new picnic benches and bird table.

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

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

- Current Account £7,723.21
- Easement Account £5,361.92

15.2 Payments still to clear:

- Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection Fees) £40.00



- Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal) £40.00
- Henshaw Primary School (Donation for Equipment) £150.00
- Trip and Treats Fund (Donation) £50.00

15.3 Payments to approve:

- Society of Local Council Clerks (Course Fees) £144.00
- Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee (Redburn Park Inspections) £37.40

15.4 The Clerk advised that following the above transactions, and those still to clear, the estimated Parish Account would be £7261.81.

## **16. Members Issues**

16.1 Clerk requested to follow up all the actions which the County Council had committed to do as many of these have been ongoing for some considerable time.

## **17. Northumberland County Council Councillor Update**

17.1 As many of the outstanding issues and work items were the responsibility of the County Council the Clerk to speak to Councillor Sharp to see if these could be actioned as soon as possible.

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

18.1 The Clerk reported that he had successfully completed the Introduction to Local Council Administration course and was to undertake the next stage on Local Government Financing in December.

## **19. Any other relevant business**

No additional items were raised.

**20. Date and time of next meeting** Monday 24 January 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

***Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 24 January 2022.....***

Michael Anthony Smith, Clerk to Henshaw Parish Council

c/o 1 Wilsons Cottages, Henshaw, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 7EN. Tel: 01434 344647

Email: [henshawparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:henshawparishclerk@outlook.com) Web: [www.northumberlandparishes.uk/henshaw](http://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/henshaw)