



Minutes of Meeting held on 25 October 2021 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

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

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

All present.

3. Declarations of Interest

None received.

4. Public Questions

None Received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 27 September 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 Cllr Sharp provided an update on matters progressed with the County Council:

- The new Bardon Mill sign would be replaced soon with nearby bushes cut back.
- A new grit bin is to be placed at Broadacres.
- Repairs are needed to a third gate on the right of way between the Roman Hall and Brockalee.
- There is still a problem with broken glass on the path next to the bottle banks outside of Redburn Park. This to be referred to the County Council again.
- The lighting at Redburn (near to Bardon Mill) is still obscured by tree branches. The Chair agreed he would cut these branches back.
- A request had been received for additional lighting on the bend opposite Falcon Grange. The Clerk to write to the County Council on this.
- Drainage works are still to be done on the road to Scotchcoulthard.

8. Maintenance Programme

8.1 Village Greens and Grassed Areas are being maintained satisfactorily.

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.

9. Planning Applications

9.1 No applications have been received.

10. Highway Matters

10.1 A69 Issues. A meeting between the Parish Council and Guy Opperman MP is being arranged to look at the ongoing problems on this stretch of road and in particular the reversal of the decision by Highways England regarding installation of safety barriers adjacent to Falcon Grange. Cllr Sharp has also contacted the Police for support.

10.2 Bollards have been installed on the parking spaces next to Falcon Grange meaning cars are now parked on the road on this bend which has restricted sight lines. This is being looked into by the County Council and would hopefully be resolved soon.

10.3 The access road at Falcon Grange has exposed/raised drains as a result of the road not being completed and adopted. There was also an issue as to ownership at this location as it appeared the County Council still own some of the land. Agreed the Clerk and Cllr Sharp would look at this further.

10.4 There are numerous potholes on Broadacres which need repairing. Cllr Sharp to refer this to the County Council.



11. Redburn Park

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

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

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

12.2 Complaints have been received about cars being driven into the car park late at night. Agreed the gate should remain locked when the hall was not in use and additional warning signs regarding CCTV to be erected to deter drivers.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 Cllr Gibson advised she had recently visited properties in the National Park who had benefitted from a pilot scheme where funding had been made available to bring derelict farm buildings back into use (for both small and larger scale projects). The funding for this was now closed but based on the success of the scheme there may be more money made available in future.

13.2 The work at Greenlee was progressing with a proposal to invite the local Parish Councils along to see what is planned.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 Work has restarted to finish repairs to the school roof.

14.2 A request had been received from the school for assistance towards the cost of new picnic benches and bird table. The school is struggling to arrange the usual fund raising activities due to COVID-19 restrictions. The total cost was quoted at £450 and Cllr Sharp had already agreed a £200 donation. The Members agreed to contribute £150 and it was hoped that Bardon Mill Parish Council would make a donation for the remainder.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

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

- Current Account £8,407.86
- Easement Account £5,361.92

15.2 Payments still to clear:

- Works at Reburn Park £274.15

15.3 Payments to approve:

- Society of Local Council Clerks (Course Fees) £144.00
- Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection Fees) £40.00
- Books Accountants £42.00
- Royal British Legion (Wreath) £40.00

15.4 Payments agreed during meeting:

- Haltwhistle Town Council (Payment re Bark for Redburn Park) £214.50
- Henshaw Primary School (Donation) £150.00
- Trip and Treats (Donation) £50.00

15.3 The Clerk advised that following the above transactions, and those still to clear, the estimated Parish Account would be £7453.21

15.4 With regard to the Easement Account the Clerk advised that efforts were continuing to have this Account amended and updated with details of the current Members and Clerk. Unfortunately this was proving to be very difficult as the Cumberland Building Society wanted a lot of background information and evidence which was difficult to obtain. An update on this would be given to the next meeting.

16. Members Issues

16.1 A request had been received from the 'Trip and Treats' group who provided a day trip and meal for aged persons in the area. Agreed that a £50 donation be made.



17. Northumberland County Council Councillor Update

17.1 Councillor Sharp had provided updates on various matters during the meeting.

18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

18.1 An update had been received from the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership regarding developments at Bardon Mill Station. Improvements are to be made to the station such as upgrades to the Shelters on Platforms 1 and 2 and the TVCRP were seeking any ideas from the Parish Councils and possibly funding contributions. Following discussion it was felt that the TVCRP were best placed to lead on the improvements and it was not considered that the Parish Council should be contributing to funding any works. It was however considered that improvements should include resurfacing of the access road and additional lighting provided as well as the promised increases in frequency and quality of services. Agreed the Clerk respond accordingly.

18.2 Concerns had been raised about the condition of the recently 'listed' Signal Box and that there may have been work done to remove fixtures and fittings after the listing and that it will now fall into disrepair. Agreed the Clerk write to Historic England for further advice on how listed buildings are supposed to be managed/maintained by the owner.

18.3 It had been previously noted that the letting of the grazing land next to Redburn Park had not been reviewed for some considerable time and that the licence/tenancy fee no longer represented a good return (and that the land is being sub-let). It was agreed that the current arrangement be terminated and the land advertised for tender.

19. Any other relevant business

No additional items were raised.

20. Date and time of next meeting Monday 29 November 2021 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 29 November 2021.....

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