



## **Minutes of Meeting 25 November 2024 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice-Chair), S, Armstrong, C. Kennedy, A. Saunders, J. Benson, County Cllr A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

**1. Introduction and Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence** Cllr D. Finlayson.

**3. Declarations of Interest** None received.

**4. Public Questions** None received.

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 October 2024** These were read and approved.

### **6. General Amenities**

6.1 Footpaths. Nothing raised.

6.2 Seating. A new seat has been ordered for Henshaw.

6.3 Street Lighting. Light 55HN (opposite Whitegates) is still not working and has been reported.

6.4 Verge Maintenance. Final cuts for the season have been completed.

6.5 Noticeboards. A replacement noticeboard for Henshaw has been ordered.

6.6 Litter bins. The County Council have again been asked to repair the bin at Henshaw School.

### **7. Miscellaneous**

7.1 Grazing Site. Arrangements are underway to agree a 3 year licence.

7.2 Ultrafast Broadband Provision. This is now being rolled out with some properties already on the new service. Further details of areas which will be included is awaited from Openreach.

### **8. Village Greens**

8.1 Henshaw Village Green. Estimates are being sought to put a new top surface on the tarmacked section of the access road across the green but it was agreed this would not be progressed until the issue of the alleged/unauthorised Riding School is resolved.

### **9. Planning Applications and Issues**

9.1 A Tree Preservation Order is being confirmed for trees at Vallum Villa at Twice Brewed.

9.2 No other planning applications have been received.

9.3 The Clerk has received a number of further complaint regarding the alleged use of a property in Henshaw as the address/base of a 'riding school' business. These complaints included congested and unauthorised parking, horse mess left along the village road, and noise/nuisance. These would be referred to the County Council to be investigated as a matter of urgency. Clerk to write to the owners about misuse and damage to the Village Green.

### **10. Transport and Highway Matters**

10.1 A69. Work is underway to lay a quieter top surface from Bardon Mill to Henshaw.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. Awaiting update from the Community Rail Partnership.

10.3 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp advised that the proposal to install gateway signs has been delayed because of a backlog of works.

10.4 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. This has been agreed and Cllr Sharp would follow up.

10.5 Road Maintenance and Potholes. A number of potholes have reappeared because of poor repairs and these will be reported to the County Council. Resurfacing of Park Lane to start soon.

10.6 Wellbank, Henshaw. Work to improve drainage and road condition on Wellbank is underway but concerns were raised regarding the work at the Henshaw junction which has resulted in a significant roadside ditch and bund which seems excessive and is very unsightly. Clerk to follow-up.

## **11. Redburn Park**

11.1 General Maintenance. Agreed that Mark Watson be asked to repair the fence to the rear of one of the goalframes (and install a gate) and remove the damaged fencing in the hawthorn hedge along the main road with additional hedging planted where there are gaps.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. Reports are being undertaken on a monthly basis by the County Council. These are circulated to Members for consideration, and any recommended work will be considered at the subsequent Parish Council meeting.

11.3 Redburn Community Park Group. This is a developing idea and would seek input from the community to improve facilities at the park and seek out external funding opportunities. Agreed the Clerk arrange a Community Meeting along with the Village Hall representatives.

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

12.1 The hall continues to be very well used with regular classes and bookings. Cllr Sharp hoped that a meeting would be held soon to assess repairs and review finances. Henshaw Members have not yet made a contribution to the hall (previously agreed an annual £750 donation) and agreed to consider further once a report/request was received from the Village Hall. It was noted that the driveway needs weeds/vegetation clearing and Clerk to action. Cllr Oliver also to look at possible lighting (delayed or sensor activated) of the driveway.

## **13. Northumberland National Park**

13.1 Cllrs Gibson & Saunders gave a brief update on developments in the National Park and Sill.

## **14. Henshaw School**

14.1 Cllr Sharp agreed to see if the new parking arrangements/markings is to be progressed. Concerns were again raised regarding the unstable section of the boundary wall.

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

15.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 November was £31,669.25

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Peter Dodd Contracting (Tree Removal & Pruning) £1,116.00 (Capital Programme Works) Reissue as original cheque cancelled.
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donations) £10.00 *Already Deducted.*
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £10.00 *Estimated.*

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£30,993.25**, of which £14,765.25 is operating funds and £16,168 (from £17,500) is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

15.3 Capital Programme. Main spend to come in 2025 with a number of works proposed.

15.4 Precept. The Clerk presented a report on budgeting and spend for the current year, and the anticipated spend in 2025/26. Based on the increase in maintenance of Redburn Park, and the costs of grass cutting, Members made a preliminary decision to increase the budget by 3% but this to be reviewed in January once invoicing and estimate were received from the County Council regarding the grounds maintenance contract.

## **16. Northumberland County Council Update**

16.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates throughout the meeting.

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

17.1 Update by Clerk. The Clerk advised of the following matters,

- Pottery Christmas Fair. Unfortunately the November Fair had been cancelled due to expected storms and would not be re-arranged. Any money raised from stall booking etc would be donated to charity and the Pottery would send details to the Clerk

**18. Items to be included on the next Agenda.** Nothing raised.

**19. Date and time of next meeting.** 27 January 2025 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.15 pm.

***Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 27 January 2025.....***