



Minutes of Meeting on 28 April 2025 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

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

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

2. Apologies for Absence Cllrs V. Gibson and D. Finlayson.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 March 2025 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. The footpath from Falcon Grange to the A69 has been reported to the County Council to see if it can be resurfaced as there is an unmade section which is usually muddy or waterlogged. It was also raised that the gate at the entrance to the Right of Way next to the Roman Hall (Henshaw) was possibly needing attention. Clerk agreed to inspect and follow up.

6.2 Seating. A new seat has now be installed in Henshaw. A request is to be made to the County Council to see if a new seat can be installed at the Towhouse bus stop (opposite the shelter).

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report

6.4 Verge Maintenance. There are a few verges near to Henshaw School and Towhouse which are left uncut. Clerk to see if the County Council can include these in the grass cutting programme. Cllr Armstrong and the Clerk have asked for the blocked drains on the verge opposite Towhouse Green to be cleared.

6.5 Noticeboards. A replacement noticeboard for Henshaw has been installed. All Members expressed their thanks to David Hall who has provided and installed this (and the new bench) and only charged £40 for both.

6.6 Litter bins. The County Council have again been asked to repair the bin at Henshaw School. A request was also made to see if a bin could be provided close to the Bardon Mill Station. Clerk to liaise with Bardon Mill Parish Council and the County Council to look at options.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Grazing Site. It was agreed that the existing tenancy agreement be extended for another year and the Clerk to send an invoice for this year's rent.

7.2 Ultrafast Broadband. Openreach have confirmed that the programme is now complete. The Parish Council and Cllr Sharp expressed disappointment that there were numerous outlying properties not included and efforts would continue through the County Council to press for more comprehensive ultrafast provision.

8. Village Greens

8.1 Henshaw Village Green. The tarmacked section of the access road across the green has deteriorated rapidly over the past few months with numerous potholes. Chair and Clerk to meet on site to look at required repairs.

8.2 There is a tree/bush starting to spread from Towhouse Green across the path. Clerk and Cllr Armstrong agreed to remove this and to cut back the overgrown verge opposite.

8.3 Bardon Mill Village Green. It was reported that the Northumbrian Water Authority had recently carried out work on the paved area next to the green but that the paving slabs were now uneven. Chair and Clerk to inspect and follow up.

9. Planning Applications and Issues

9.1 There were no general planning matters raised.

9.2 Planning Application 25/01034/FUL. An application to extend the delivery area and provide additional storage at the Errington Reay Pottery has been received. Clerk to review and provide details to Members for comment.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. The Clerk has contacted Roadlink to chase up repairs to the junction on the side road out of Henshaw which is deteriorating quickly.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership are seeking match funding from Network/Northern Rail to undertake a resurfacing scheme.

10.3 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. This has been agreed and work should start soon.

10.4 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Potholes have been attended to Broadacres.

10.5 Wellbank, Henshaw. An update is awaited from the County Council on proposed works.

11. Redburn Park

11.1 General Maintenance. Work completed in April includes replacement of play bark, and general repairs and replanting. The Clerk advised that a site meeting will be held in May to look at a programme of repair and improvements works for 2025/26. It was also reported that there was a marked increase in litter (particularly cigarette butts) in and around the park. Clerk to look at putting up additional signage.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. The latest report had noted a few minor issues. Clerk to arrange for repair work as soon as possible.

11.3 Tree Survey Work. All work recommended in the recent tree survey has now been completed.

11.4 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.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 Nothing to report.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 Clerk to arrange a meeting at the Sill to review the interactive signboard, and to invite Tony Gates (Chief Executive) to a future Council meeting.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 Potential re-marking of parking layout, and repairs to the boundary wall, have been raised with the School.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

15.1 Funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 April was £32,188.96

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Storey & Dodd Limited (Accountancy Services) £51.60
- Forvis Mazars LLP (Audit Review of Accounts 2023/24) £252.00
- PPH Hire & Supplies Limited (Supply of Play Bark for Redburn Park) £312.00
- Northumberland Association of Local Councils (Membership Fees) £242.09
- Mark Watson (Redburn Park Maintenance and Repairs) £684.00
- Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (Membership Fees) £20.00
- Society of Local Council Clerks (Membership Fees) £110.00
- Mr D Hall (Replacement Bench & Noticeboard, Henshaw) £40.00
- Haltwhistle Swimming & Leisure Centre (Donation) £100.00

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£30,477.27**, of which £14,309.27 is operating funds and £16,168 (from £17,500) is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

15.3 Capital Programme. Spend and projects to be reviewed at the May Annual Meeting.

15.4 Work will be done in May to complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Review 2024/25 with the Internal Auditor. This will be presented to the May monthly meeting for consideration and approval.

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.

17.2 May Elections. An election for Henshaw Parish Council is not required as there were only 6 nominations submitted (for a total of 7 seats) so all were elected.

17.3 Councillor Vacancy. There will be a vacancy on the Parish Council after 1 May Election date. Clerk to place adverts on noticeboards for anyone interested who could then be interviewed and co-opted onto the Council.

17.4 It was agreed that the Council purchase a silhouette 'Tommy' to coincide the VE celebrations. This could be sited on the entrance into Redburn Park.

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

19. Date and time of next meeting. The Clerk advised that is a legal requirement for the Parish Council to hold its Annual Council meeting within 4 to 14 days of the Election. There would also need to be the usual Monthly Meeting at the end of May. Agreed the Clerk to make the necessary arrangement and confirm dates as soon as possible.

The Chair gave thanks to Councillor Kennedy (who had not stood for re-election) for his years of service on the Parish Council. All in attendance expressed their thanks and wished him well for the future.

The meeting finished at 8.10pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 27 May 2025.....