



Minutes of Meeting held on 25 September 2023 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Councillors J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice Chair), A. Saunders, J. Benson, C. Kennedy, S. Armstrong, D. Finlayson, County Cllr 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 24 July 2023

5.1 These were read and approved.

6. Outstanding/Ongoing Repairs

6.1 No additional matters other than those on the agenda.

7. General Amenities

7.1 Footpaths – The two footpaths from the A69 (either side of Starbucks) into the village have been cleared/strimmed but not to a good standard.

7.2 Seating – all have now been inspected and a report to be circulated before the next meeting.

7.3 Lighting – there is a light out near to Whitegates and this to be reported to the County Council.

7.4 Verges – the verges both within the villages, and those on the roads leading up to the National Park, are only cut twice a year by the County Council. This is not considered to be enough as they are often overgrown. The Clerk advised this has been discussed with the County Council and if more cuts are required then this will have to be paid for by the Parish Council. Estimates to do additional cuts to coincide with the Village Green maintenance have been requested for further consideration by Members.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 Electric Charging Points. The installation of additional signage to notify people of the availability of these charging points is to be looked into.

9. Village Greens

9.1 The road at the west end of Henshaw still needs attention and the Clerk/Chair to meet on site.

9.2 The 2023 grass cutting/maintenance is ongoing with no reported issues.

9.3 Woodland and Trees. The Clerk is to seek estimates for tree surveys and report back on costs.

9.4 Clerk to arrange a site meeting to look at encroachment issues and unauthorised developments on the village greens.

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 Falcon Grange. The Clerk advised he is still working on this and the response to the Freedom of Information request and this would be looked at as soon as possible.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 A69. Feasibility studies are being carried out by National Highways to look at additional footpaths and crossing points. They are also in discussion with the Police to see if they average speed cameras zone can be extended west to include the section past Bardon Mill and Henshaw.

11.2 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp is continuing to work with County Highways on this.

11.3 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill, Again Cllr Sharp is progressing this.

11.4 Bardon Mill Station Access Road. This is an ongoing issue with the Council position that Members would consider a donation to a private scheme of repairs.

11.5 Work has been completed to replace the cattle grids and the section of road adjacent to Scotchcoulthard. It is hoped that repairs to the drainage issue will be undertaken soon.

12. Redburn Park

12.1 Inspections and Maintenance. The Monthly Inspections are continuing as planned. The RoSPA report has been completed and the Clerk and Chair to review and look at works needed as a result of this and report back as soon as possible.

12.2 Woodland Management. Work will recommence in October to thin out the woodland/remove the non-native species. Suggested that this include clearance of areas and replanting of natural woodland.

12.3 There is work required to replace fencing/fence posts and the Clerk to arrange these works.

12.4 Creation of Redburn Community Park Group. This is an ongoing initiative to look at future management of the park.

13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

13.1 The Committee are progressing work on an application for funding to install an external generator.

14. Northumberland National Park

14.1 Cllr Saunders gave an update on the recent developments.

15. Henshaw School

15.1 Cllr Sharp advised that improved parking arrangements and layout were being drawn up.

16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

16.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 September 2023 as follows:

- Current Account £14,987.37 (includes second Precept instalment)
- Easement Account £5,620.45

16.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Clerk (Wages) £712.56
- Tax to HMRC £178.20
- Books Accountants (Accountancy Services) £48.00
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £24.00
- GNAA (Donation) £24.00
- Village Hall Committee (Annual Donation £750.00 (Agreed May – still to clear)
- Licence Fee (Grazing Land) £400.00 (*Income*)

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£13,698.61**

16.3 Work is ongoing to close the Easement Account and transfer into bank account.

17. Northumberland County Council Update

17.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates during the meeting and hoped to have some information and plans for the proposed signage/road markings at Twice Brewed and Bardon Mill for the next meeting.

18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

18.1 A request had been received to place a memorial plaque on one of the benches on Bardon Mill Village Green. No objections were raised with a reply to the applicant to contact Cllr Benson to identify a suitable bench.

19. Items to be included on the next Agenda

No items raised.

20. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 23 October 2023 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.07pm.

M. A. Smith Michael Anthony Smith (Clerk)

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 23 October 2023.....