



Minutes of Meeting 30 September 2024 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Oliver (Chair), A. Saunders, C. Kennedy, S. Armstrong, 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 and Cllr V. Gibson.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 July 2024 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. Nothing to report.

6.2 Seating. Repainting of all seats has been completed. Members expressed their thanks to Martyn Benson for the high standard of work.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report.

6.4 Verge Maintenance. Cuts to roadside verges to be undertaken in the next few weeks.

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

6.6 Litter bins. Repainting of most bins has been completed. The County Council to attend to the bin outside Henshaw School.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Grazing Site. Work to thin the woodland is almost complete and the tenancy of this site has been agreed and will be completed once the rent of £400 is received.

7.2 Ultrafast Broadband Provision. This item was taken at the start of the meeting. Representatives of Openreach attended to outline the delivery of the ultrafast scheme and answer any questions. Extensive work has been completed to install the fibre cables and residents who signed up to the scheme would be contacted soon to confirm vouchers and have the link installed into the property. Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of provision to outlying properties in the north of the area, and that certain areas (eg Scroggwood) appear to have been missed. Openreach to provide some more definitive plans and further details/information prior to the next meeting.

8. Village Greens

8.1 Tree Maintenance. The majority of work has been completed with the tree line on the road into Towhouse extensively cut back. Minor works to trees on the various village greens to take place in the next week. It was agreed that the safety fence adjacent to the woodland at Towhouse would be repaired.

8.2 Henshaw Village Green. The Clerk has asked the County Council for an estimate to provide surface dressing on the tarmacked section of the access road across the green.

8.3 Electricity Supply to Pumping Station at Towhouse Green. No further details have been received from NWL and it was agreed this item be closed.

8.4 A request has been received from the Pottery to use the Bardon Mill Village Green on 24 November for the Christmas Fair. This request was agreed with the Clerk to arrange the licence.

9. Planning Applications and Issues

9.1 The Clerk has been contacted regarding the alleged use of a property in Henshaw as the address/base of a 'riding school' business. Agreed this be referred to the County Council.

9.2 Two Northumberland National Park planning applications had been received, variation of conditions at the Sill (Ref 24NP0099) and conversion of existing outbuildings at Gallowshield Rigg (Ref 24NP0055). Both were considered with no applications being raised.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. A site meeting with National Highways and the Police has been arranged for the 14 October at 11.00am.

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

10.3 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp advised that the proposal to install gateway signs has been agreed and would chase up timescales.

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 request is to be submitted to the County Council to see if the road surface through the Village could be considered for resurfacing.

10.6 Wellbank, Henshaw. Work to improve drainage and road condition on Wellbank is underway.

11. Redburn Park

11.1 General Maintenance. In addition to work required in line with the RoSPA report, general repair work such as fencing repairs to the playing field boundary fencing has been completed and strimming and cutting back trees done to open up the Pitmans Trail.

11.2 Monthly Inspections. Reports are being undertaken on a monthly basis by the County Council. These to be circulated to Members for information.

11.3 RoSPA Report 2024. A site meeting had been held to look at actioning the recommended works. Urgent work has now been completed to repair the swings, remove exposed concrete bases and trip hazards, and renewal of all playpark areas.

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. 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 advised that there is still funding available for works at the hall if grant applications are submitted. Cllr Oliver agreed to progress this with the Village Hall Committee.

12.2 Agreed that the Clerk, Cllr Oliver and Cllr Finlayson to meet and discuss progressing the application for grant funding to install and emergency generator.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 The Sill currently has an exhibition regarding the Sycamore Gap tree.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 Nothing to report.

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

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

- Bank Account £29,105.23
- Building Society Account £5,620.45

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- PPH Hire & Supplies Ltd (Paint and Materials for bench painting) £121.70.
- Clerk (Wages and Expenses 2nd Quarter) £1051.16.
- HMRC (Tax on wages) £193.80.
- Mark Watson (Urgent Safety Works at Redburn Park) £1352.40
- North Air Ambulance Donation (already paid) £20.00
- HSBC Bank Charges (estimate/already paid) £23.00
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Recharge on Shared Assets April – July 2024) £876.95 *Income*.
- Grazing Land Fee £400 *Income*.
- Northumberland County Council 2nd Precept £8,470.00 *Income (already credited)*.

Estimated balance (bank and building society account) following above transactions is **£33,283.57** (of which £15,783.57 is operating funds and £17,500 ringfenced for the Capital Programme).

15.3 Capital Programme. There has been no expenditure on the capital programme to date with the first identified work to be the work recommended in the 2023/24 Tree Survey and fencing repairs at Towhouse (see 8.1).

15.4 The Clerk confirmed that the External Audit has now been completed and outlined the recommendations of the Auditor for future accounting.

15.5 The Clerk is continuing efforts to close the Cumberland Building Society Account and paperwork was signed by the Chair and Vice Chair to hopefully conclude this matter and have the funds released for deposit into the bank account.

16. Northumberland County Council Update

16.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates throughout the meeting and gave an update on grants that could still be forthcoming for applications from the Village Hall.

17. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

17.1 Update by Clerk. The Clerk advised that the Council strimmer has now been purchased and would be used for adhoc maintenance. There were also high-viz vests with 'Henshaw Parish Council' printed on the rear to be worn (both for safety and to promote the Parish Council).

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

19. Date and time of next meeting. 28 October 2024 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 28 October 2024.....