



Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 28 September 2020 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

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

1. Introduction and Welcome.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and re-iterated the restrictions and guidelines that were in place for the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Councillors S. Armstrong & V. Gibson.

3. Declarations of Interest.

None received.

4. Public Questions.

None received.

5. Councillor Vacancy

The County Council had advised the Clerk that there had been no application received for the holding of an election and therefore the Parish Council could proceed to appoint a new Member by co-option. The usual procedure would then be to post an advert for applications however it was considered that as there are only a few meetings left until full Council Elections (May 2021) and an advert would mean a new Councillor would not be in place until almost the end of the year that the Parish Council would look to appoint a suitable candidate as soon as possible. The Clerk advised that Debbie Finlayson had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor and following discussions and consideration it was agreed that Debbie be offered a role on the Parish Council. This was duly accepted a Cllr Finlayson took her seat in the meeting.

6. Frequency of Meetings.

A suggestion had been put forward by one of the Councillors that due to the continuing pandemic, bi-monthly meetings would be a sensible proposition to reduce risk at physical meetings and the difficulty in organising virtual meetings. The Clerk would continue to seek approvals and conduct business electronically as had been done successfully since March. This was agreed so the remaining meetings for 2020/21 to be November, January and March.

7. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 24 August 2020.

7.1 These were read and approved.

8. Matters arising and actions from previous minutes.

8.1 All matters were covered in the meeting.

9. General Amenities (Footpaths, Access, Seating and Lighting).

9.1 The overgrown ivy/planting blocking the footpath in Towhouse has still not been attended to. Clerk to take this up again with the County Council.

9.2 The footpath from Redburn to Bardon Mill is cracked along a significant section of its length. Clerk to take this up again with the County.

10. Maintenance Programme.

10.1 Village Greens and Grassed Areas. The cuts have taken place but often leave a lot of cuttings due to the rapid growth of the grass over the summer months.

10.2 General maintenance. No further matters were raised.

11. Planning Applications.

11.1 The Clerk advised no applications had been received.



12. Highway Matters.

12.1 A69 Issues. The Clerk had contacted Highways England, Roadlink, local MP, and the County Council to ask for a meeting to discuss extending the speed camera zone to include our area and to consider re-surfacing the road which is increasingly noisy. Highways England have responded positively and the Clerk to chase up the other parties and progress accordingly.

12.2 General Highways Issues. It was reported that both Well Bank and Park Lane were becoming narrower because of 'verge creep' and sections were in need of maintenance to cut back trees and shrubs. The Clerk had already contacted the County Council on this and asked for this to be looked at. There is funding for a scheme called 'Hedge to Hedge' which seemed suitable for this matter and this would be pursued by the Clerk.

13. Redburn Park.

13.1 The Clerk updated on the improvement works at the park and that all work was nearing completion. Monthly inspections were being undertaken as scheduled.

13.2 It was asked if there could be a new play area created at the park for younger children to use when learning to ride a bike such as a small 'race' track. Clerk to look at this and whether external grant funding would be available.

13.3 The Clerk reported that a section 101 agreement with Haltwhistle Town Council (and the Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee) had been drafted for the provision of playground services. It was agreed in principle that this should be progressed with the Clerk to distribute further details for final approval in due course.

14. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall.

14.1 The hall has re-opened for activities and classes but not for events such as weddings and parties. This was being managed in line with COVID-19 guidelines.

15. Northumberland National Park.

15.1 The 'tourism sign' to advise visitors to the Sill etc of the availability of local services in Bardon Mill/Henshaw was being designed by the County Council and would be circulated by the Clerk for consideration in due course.

15.2 The interactive board created by the Sill about local business and attractions in the wider area was now ready to be used.

15.3 An update on the Sill was given by the NNPA representative.

15.4 It was confirmed that the Local Plan for the National Park was now approved.

16. Henshaw School.

16.1 An update was given on events and activities at the school.

17. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters.

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

- Current Account £7,276.04
- Easement Account £5,361.92

17.2 Payments approved:

- Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee (Redburn Park) £136.30
- Wages £861.16
- HMRC £215.40
- Expenses £185.29
- PPH Hire & Supplies £199.41

17.3 Payments to Credit:

- Field Rent £190.00.

17.4 Budgets.

- The Clerks report on budgets was considered and approved.



18. Members Issues.

18.1 It is still disappointing the the development at Falcon Grange was still not complete with the properties standing empty. It was reported that this is due to a dispute over ownership and finances and there was no action that could be taken to resolve this.

19. Northumberland County Council Councillor Update.

19.1 Councillor Sharp provided an update as follows;

- Cllr Glen Sanderson has been appointed as Leader of the County Council.
- There was an increased amount of Highway Work/Repairs now being undertaken.
- The request for a 20mph limit near the Bowes (and indeed the rest of the village) was being progressed.

20. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting.

20.1 The Clerk had advised on all matters be email or during the meeting.

21. Any other relevant business.

No additional items were raised.

22. Date and time of next meeting to be confirmed.

Approved at the Virtual Meeting held on 28 September 2020.....

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