

HENSHAW PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of Meeting 23 March 2026 held in the All Hallows Church, Henshaw

Present: Cllrs J. Oliver (Chair), Cllr V. Gibson, D. Finlayson, K. Baron, A. Saunders, County Cllr A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

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

2. Apologies for Absence Cllrs S. Armstrong and L. Welsh.

3. Declarations of Interest None received.

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 23 February 2026 were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. The footpath next to Benton House is going to be tarmacked by the County Council.

6.2 Seating. A donation has been offered for a new bench to be sited in Redburn Park. Clerk to continue with arrangements and a suitable location.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report.

6.4 Verge Maintenance. The 2026 programme will start at the beginning of April.

6.5 Litter bins. There are no litter bins on the section between Redburn Park and Broadacres. Clerk to check costs of a new metal bin to be sited near to Springfield Terrace.

6.6 Dog Bag Dispensers. The dispensers will be refilled as soon as possible. There is an additional dispenser which is to be placed near to Bardon Mill Village Green.

7. Village Greens

7.1 Henshaw Village Green. The Chair and Clerk have met on site to look at the potential resurfacing and are awaiting estimates for the resurfacing.

7.2 Village Green update. The tree survey was undertaken a few years ago and will be refreshed over the next few months to ensure trees are in good condition and/or any work is undertaken.

7.3 Bardon Mill Village Green. Approval has been granted to site a small, shared library cabinet on the green. Clerk to liaise with the group wanting to provide this as they are still looking for someone to make the cabinet.

8. Planning Applications and Issues

8.1 No planning matters were raised.

8.2 No applications have been received in February or March.

9. Transport and Highway Matters

9.1 A69. Roadlinks management contract is about to end with National Highways taking back all responsibilities. Concerns have been raised as it seems likely that the litter bins in the laybys are to be removed. Cllr Sharp is going to raise this with National Highways directly.

9.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. Network and Northern Rail are still looking for the availability of funding and would hopefully come to a (positive) decision soon.

9.3 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Potholes reported on 'Fix My Street' at Ramshawfield.

9.4 Wellbank, Henshaw. The road needs resurfacing as surface water flows away from the drains and down onto the A69 junction. Clerk to raise this with the County Council again.

10. Redburn Park

10.1 General Maintenance. This has now been completed until after the winter with a list of repairs and improvements to be drawn up in the Spring.

10.2 Monthly Inspections. The reports continue to be circulated to Members with any recommended work undertaken.

10.3 Unauthorised Use and Encroachment onto Western Edge of Woodland. The area had been cleared following this being raised at a previous meeting. Clerk is obtaining definitive plans for the Land Registry to check the extent of the Parish Council ownership.

11. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

11.1 Lease to Village Hall Project Group. Clerk is liaising with the Solicitors to progress the change to the lease arrangements.

11.2 Update on Activities and Events. The hall remains closed whilst works to the floor are completed. It is anticipated the new floor will be laid in the next few weeks.

12. Northumberland National Park

12.1 An update was given on general matters by Cllrs Gibson and Saunders.

13. Henshaw School

13.1 It was reported that the Parish Council used to be more involved in activities and events at the school but had not been invited to anything for a number of years. Cllr Sharp agreed to raise this at the next Governors meeting.

14. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

14.1 A report was presented by the Clerk with funds held being £24,938.11.

14.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Northumberland County Council (Playground Inspections) £201.07
- Northumberland County Council (4th Quarter Grounds Maintenance) £1152.42
- Clerk (Council Laptop Reimbursement) £585.00
- Clerk (4th Quarter Pay and Expenses) £1149.30
- HMRC (Tax) £284.20
- Bardon Mill Village Hall (Donation) £2,000.00
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00. *Pre-approved and accounted for.*
- HSBC (Estimated Bank Charges) £10.00. *Already accounted for.*
- Northern Powergrid (Wayleave Payment) £21.91 (Income)
- Bowes Leek Club (Donation to Play Park) £150 (Income).
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (3rd Quarter Shared Assets Contribution) £354.18

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£19,566.12** of which £3,066.12 is operating funds and £16,500 is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

14.3 Capital Programme. £1000 allocated as part of the donation to the Village Hall (floor repairs).

15. Northumberland County Council Update

15.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates throughout the meeting but advised that the library changes consultation was ongoing.

16. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

16.1 Update by Clerk. Information and updates had been sent to Members by email.

16.2 Website and Email Account. Arrangements are progressing for the new website and .gov email.

16.3 IT Policy. A draft of the new policy had been circulated. The policy was considered and agreed.

16.4 Council Laptop. This has now been purchased.

16.5 Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk to make arrangement for this and issue invites.

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

18. Date and time of next meeting. This will be on Monday 27 April 2026.

Approved and signed at the meeting held on 27 April 2026.....