



## **Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 24 August 2020 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall**

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

### **1. Introduction and Welcome.**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested all present adhered to the guidelines and restrictions in relation to Covid-19.

### **2. Apologies for Absence.**

Councillor S. Armstrong. The Council considered and agreed to the waiving of the six month rule regarding non attendance at meetings and to review this again (if necessary) in three months' time.

### **3. Declarations of Interest.**

None received.

### **4. Public Questions.**

None received.

### **5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 24 February 2020.**

5.1 These were read and approved.

### **6. Matters arising and actions from previous minutes.**

6.1 All matters were to be covered in the meeting.

### **7. General Amenities (Footpaths, Access, Seating and Lighting).**

7.1 The Clerk provided an update on the Memorial Seat. Following the collection of the donations, the final cost attributable to each Parish Council (Henshaw and Bardon Mill) to be £247.75.

7.2 The benches at Towhouse and Brockalee have now been repaired.

7.3 The footpath leading from Riverdale down to Bardon Mill is cracked and falling away at one side. Clerk to report this to the County Council.

### **8. Maintenance Programme.**

8.1 Verge cutting. There had been an issue with the verges leading up to The National Park not being cut but following complaints they have now been done. In future years the Parish Council would request at least 2 cuts, one of which to be early in the season. The Parish Council owned cutter would be used if/when issues were identified between cuts or in specific areas.

8.2 General maintenance. It was raised that areas and verges within the villages were not being attended to. This to be reported to the County Council but the Parish Council may have to arrange for some areas to be maintained themselves.

### **9. Planning Applications.**

9.1 The Clerk advised no applications had been received.

9.2 The Clerk provided an update on the planning applications received between February and August which had been actioned and responded to following email consultation.

### **10. Highway Matters.**

10.1 A69 Issues. The Clerk to contact Guy Opperman and Guy Dobson regarding the road noise and speed cameras as the issue had been put on hold during the Covid-19 crisis.

10.2 As a result of complaints regarding vehicle speeds past The Bowes and Village Shop the County Council had been asked to put in place 20mph limit and flashing signs. Cllr Sharp to chase this up.

10.3 Cllr Gibson reported a problem with potholes at Gibbs Hill and again Cllr Sharp to action.

### **11. Redburn Park.**

11.1 The Clerk gave a verbal update on progress and the work still to do. All work should be completed in the next 2 weeks and final costs presented at the September meeting.

11.2 General issues. No further issues were raised.



## **12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall.**

12.1 A brief update was given on the hall which had now opened to allow activities to start again.

## **13. Northumberland National Park.**

13.1 A 'tourist sign' can be erected near to the Sill to direct people to the local services in Henshaw and Bardon Mill. Clerk would consider the wording and circulate to Members for consideration.

13.2 The Sill has now re-opened and the café is under new management.

## **14. Henshaw School.**

14.1 A brief update was given on the school.

## **15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters.**

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

- Current Account £4,534.91
- Easement Account £5,361.92

15.2 Payments approved:

- Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee (Redburn Park Improvements) £437.60 & £1045.80
- PPH Hire & Supplies (Redburn Park Improvements) £127.22
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Memorial Seat including donations) £372.75

15.3 Budgets.

- The Clerks report on budgets was considered and approved.

## **16. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20**

All of the relevant statements and papers were presented by the Clerk for consideration. These were discussed, approved and the relevant sections signed by the Chair and Clerk ;

16.1 Report of the Internal Auditor

16.2 Annual Governance Statement

16.3 Draft Annual Accounts

16.4 Accounting Statement and Explanations of Variances

16.5 Certificate of Exemption

These documents would now be uploaded onto the Councils website and the Clerk to complete the necessary return to the external Auditors.

## **17. Members Issues.**

17.1 No additional issues were raised.

## **18. Northumberland County Council Councillor Update.**

18.1 Councillor Sharp had updated on relevant matters during the meeting.

## **19. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting.**

19.1 The Clerk advised of the resignation of Pam Robbie and the process to be followed to appoint a new Councillor. All Members expressed their sincere thanks for the time and effort that Pam had put into the Parish Council and that she would be a big miss.

## **20. Any other relevant business.**

No additional items were raised.

**21. Date and time of next meeting** to be Monday 28 September 2020 at 7.00pm.