



## Minutes of Meeting 24 November 2025 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs V. Gibson (Chair), D. Finlayson, L. Welsh, S. Armstrong, K. Baron, A. Saunders, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

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

**2. Apologies for Absence** Cllr J. Oliver, and Cllr. A. Sharp.

**3. Declarations of Interest** None received.

**4. Public Questions** None received.

**5. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 27 October and 4 November 2025** These were read and approved.

### **6. General Amenities**

6.1 Footpaths. The footpath from Benton House to Starbucks is regularly muddy and waterlogged. The Clerk has contacted the County Council several times without success. Clerk asked to look at options such as the Parish Council arranging work themselves including clearing away the mud and covering the surface with gravel etc.

6.2 Seating. Clerk to arrange inspection and repainting as required in Spring 2026.

6.3 Street Lighting. Nothing to report but it was raised that the speed warning sign outside Redburn Park needs a new battery.

6.4 Verge Maintenance. The County Council are going to undertake a final cut of the roadside verges leading up Wellbank and Park Lane to the Sill.

6.5 Litter bins. Clerk to see if a new bin can be acquired to replace the damaged one at the entrance to Redburn Park. There is broken glass around the recycling bins outside Redburn Park. Clerk to ask the County Council to check and clear the area.

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 patch repairs and were arranging for estimates and options and would report back as soon as possible.

7.2 Village Green update. The grass cutting for the season is complete. There is a Christmas Fair to be held utilising the Village Green at Bardon Mill on Sunday 30 November.

7.3 Request for Community Library cabinet. A request has been received to site a small wooden case/cabinet on the Bardon Mill Village Hall opposite the Village Tearoom which would be filled with books for people to borrow and share etc. Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the case/cabinet and it's installation for the community to use.

7.4 Christmas Lights. Local residents who install the Christmas Lights on the trees on Bardon Mill Village Green have advised that they intend to do fundraising in 2026 to buy new lights. It was suggested that the Parish Council could assist and look to buy and store the new lights. This matter to be brought back to the Council next year.

### **8. Planning Applications and Issues**

8.1 There were no general matters to discuss.

8.2 No applications were received in November.

## **9. Transport and Highway Matters**

9.1 A69. The Clerk advised that National Highways have stated that there is no funding at present for the crossing points and additional footpaths. Clerk to chase up at the start of the next financial year.

9.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership continue to chase up Network and Northern Rail to seek match funding for the much needed road resurfacing.

9.3 Road Maintenance and Potholes. No significant matters were reported but it was noted that the County Council will no longer be providing grit piles, but these could be requested via the 'Fix My Streets' website.

9.4 Wellbank, Henshaw. Work has been carried out to remove the unsightly bund on the entrance to Henshaw but the cleared soil and debris has been left on site. Clerk to contact the County Council again. The road at Wellbank needs resurfacing as it is not level and the surface water flows away from any of the drains and down onto the A69 junction. Concerns were also expressed regarding the 'blind' bend just up from the Roman Hall. It was feared there will be a head on collision at this location if something is not done. Clerk to raise this with the County Council Highways department.

## **10. Redburn Park**

10.1 General Maintenance. This has now been completed until after the winter but any emergency works would continue to be carried out. Works to remove and chip storm damaged trees in Redburn Park woodland and on the adjacent grazing site have now been completed.

10.2 Monthly Inspections. These continue to be submitted, circulated, and reviewed 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 the last meeting but it was noted that tractors were again parked on the land. Clerk to follow up and report back.

10.4 It was noted that local children continued to create bike trails in the Redburn Park woodland which was not permitted and is a danger/hazard to general use of the park and woodland. Clerk to look at having any unauthorised work removed and consider signage to ban bikes in the woodland.

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

11.1 Lease to Village Hall Project Group. Following the decision at the Extra Ordinary Meeting on 3 November, the Clerk would continue to work with the Village Hall Group and appoint Solicitors to progress the change to the lease arrangements.

11.2 The Village Hall committee have been successful in obtaining grant funding for a new heating source and solar panels. It was hoped funding would also be forthcoming for the replacement of the hall floor.

## **12. Northumberland National Park**

12.1 Cllr Saunders advised that dogs are now permitted in the café at the Sill. Members expressed disappointment that the Sill does not advertise such matters more widely and work closer with local groups and Parish Councils (such as the recent Christmas Fair which had taken place and no one at the meeting was aware of this). Cllr Saunders agreed to raise this at the next NNPA meeting.

## **13. Henshaw School**

13.1 No matters to report.

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

14.1 A report (which was updated post meeting and is recorded here) was presented by the Clerk with funds held as at 18 November being £28,636.93.

14.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Clerk (Expenses) £84.99
- Northumberland County Council (Additional Grass Cutting Services) £1,152.38
- Northumberland County Council (Play Park Inspections x 4 July-October) £201.07
- Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection Registration) £47.00

- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Shared Assets Contribution for Memorial Site maintenance) £133.00.
- Denis Fleming (Tree Work at Redburn and Grazing Site) £345.00
- Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal) £50.00 *Previously approved but not cleared.*
- Tynedale Talking Newspaper (Donation) *Previously approved but not cleared.*
- Martyn Benson (Maintenance Work) *Previously approved but not cleared.*
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00. *Pre-approved and accounted for.*
- HSBC (Charges) £5.00. *Already accounted for.*
- Bardon Mill Parish Council (Income for contribution to shared assets work) £325.19

Estimated balance following above transactions is **£26,823.68** of which £9,323.68 is operating funds and £17,500 is ringfenced for the Capital Programme.

14.3 Capital Programme. This programme is reviewed each year and is to ensure funding originally acquired from the granting of easements is used on physical projects rather than general spend. The current projects identified are to resurface the access road across Henshaw Village Green, improve and extend the Pitman’s Trail, and to provide soft surfacing around the children’s play equipment at Redburn Park.

14.4 Precept 2026/27. The Clerk advised that the information has recently been received from the County Council for the precept submission. The Clerk to circulate a report on spend and budgets in December for consideration and the precept would be set at the January meeting.

**15. Northumberland County Council Update**

15.1 Cllr Sharp had sent apologies and was not at the meeting but had spoken to the Clerk to ask for any issues to be sent to him to see if he could assist.

**16. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting**

16.1 Update by Clerk. A safeguarding review with the HSBC had recently been completed. Thanks have been received from the Tynedale Talking Newspaper and Sport Tynedale for the recent donations.

16.2 Data Protection. This will be renewed in early December with the Information Commissioners Office.

16.3 Crow Hall Engagement Event. This is to be held on 15 December in the Village Hall.

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

**18. Date and time of next meeting.** This will be on Monday 26 January 2026.

The meeting finished at 7.52pm.

**Approved and Signed at the Meeting held on 26 January 2025.....**