



Minutes of Meeting held on 26 April 2022 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Councillors J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice Chair), A. Saunders, C. Kennedy, J. Benson, D. Finlayson, County Councillor A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk), 2 Members of the Public.

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr S. Armstrong.

3. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

4. Public Questions

The Clerk and Cllr Sharp provided an update on the issues at Falcon Grange and advised that the County Council are still reviewing the position with regards to stopping up orders and maintenance responsibilities. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to progress the matters relating to maintenance and adoption of the estate road and 3 public parking bays but matters such as ownership and stopping up orders were something for the County Council to resolve.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 28 March 2022

5.1 These were read and approved.

6. Outstanding/Ongoing Repairs

- The new gates on the RoW from the Roman Hall to Brockalee should be in place by the end of May.
- Additional lighting on the approach into Bardon Mill from Redburn was to be done (and paid for from Cllr Sharps Member Allowance) but it was agreed that adjacent resident be consulted before proceeding.
- Drainage work on the road to Scotchcoulthard and road repair on the road into Wark Forest should be undertaken in late May or early June.

7. General Amenities

- Footpaths – nothing to report.
- Seating – inspection report to be completed.
- Lighting – the recent work to cut back and thin out trees around lighting columns has improved lighting in the area.
- Verges – nothing to report.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 Queens Jubilee. A request by the WI to plant 3 acer bushes on Bardon Mill village green was agreed. A sample of the mugs to be gifted to Henshaw School was shown and Cllr Saunders agreed to see if it was possible to have these inscribed as from 'Henshaw and Bardon Mill Parish Councils. The Village Hall are looking to organise Jubilee events and may make a request for a donation from the Parish Council.

8.2 Bardon Mill & Henshaw Carnival. This is to take place on 18 June and it was agreed the Council would contribute by paying the insurance premium for the event (usually around £100).

8.3 The County Council have a scheme to fund the provision of charging points. The Clerk has sent a request for points to be provided at the entrance to Redburn Park (with some additional parking to be created) and the parking bays next to Bardon Mill village green.

8.4 The Clerk had provided a report on the deterioration of the Signal Box at Bardon Mill, which is now a listed building, to the Heritage Railway Trust, County Council, and Historic England and responses were awaited.

8.5 A meeting to discuss Broadband provision was to be rescheduled for some time in May.

8.6 It had previously been agreed that the current agreement for the Grazing Land at Redburn be cancelled and re-let on a current/competitive rental. Cllr Sharp agreed to discuss this with the current user with a view to allowing use for until the end of the year on a revised/competitive rent and then taken back and advertised to let.

9. Village Greens

The first cut of the season has been done. It was agreed that the Council continue with the current arrangement with the County Council but consider comparing prices and services for next year.

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 Falcon Grange had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

10.2 NNPA application from Stable House to be distributed again by the Clerk for Members to consider.

10.3 The Clerk to contact the County Council for an update on the situation at Townhead Farm.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 An update on matters regarding the A69 was given by the Clerk who advised a response from the Chief Constable was awaited, minutes from the last meeting with National Highways had not yet been received, and that there is a survey underway on 'non-motorised' user provision in this area.

11.2 A request has been made for renewal of the junction markings at Henshaw and along the narrow road from Huntercrook as the junction with Park Lane.

11.3 The Speed Warning Sign at Reburn was to be checked as it may need a replacement battery.

11.4 Representation has been made to Northern Trains about the low standard of improvements to the station and the condition of the access road. These concerns are shared by the TVCRP who are actively seeking further improvements. Guy Opperman MP has been asked to support these concerns.

11.5 Road widening at Broadacres. This is a long-standing issue to widen the estate road by taking part of the central grassed area. Chair to meet Cllr Sharp on site to see if progress and actions can be agreed.

11.6 Timber Route along Park Lane. The Parish Council have been advised a review of designated routes is underway and the Clerk had submitted further details and photographs on this issue.

12. Redburn Park

12.1 Inspection and maintenance continues on a monthly basis.

12.2 The Clerk, Chair, and Cemetery Team had held site meetings to look at future work and repairs with a number of work items identified. A list was to be prepared and costed for consideration. It was also agreed that the Parish Councillors would meet at the park for a 'work-day' to undertake general maintenance, tidying, and painting. Clerk to arrange and ask Bardon Mill Parish Council if they would assist.

13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

The hall continues to thrive with numerous events and weekend bookings.

14. Northumberland National Park

The Parish Council have been consulted on the draft Management Plan. Agreed the Clerk would circulate this for Member comment and compile the response.

15. Henshaw School

The new Headteacher has started and is keen to open up the School to the community again with face to face interaction and events.

16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

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

- Current Account £ 9,129.99
- Easement Account £ 5,361.92

16.2 Receipts and accounts paid and for payment:

- Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee (Replace Henshaw noticeboard) £39.40
- Northumberland Association of Local Councils (Subscription & Website Fee) £226.47
- JC & C MacDonald (Redburn Hedge Maintenance 202, 2021 & 2022) £420.00
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly donation) £10.00 – already paid.
- HSBC (Bank charges) £10.00 – already paid.
- *Northumberland County Council (1st Precept instalment) £7000.00 – Credit*

The estimated balance of the current account following these transactions is **£8,444.12**

16.3 Work is ongoing to change details and account holders of the Easement Account.

16.4 The Clerk confirmed that work on the Annual Governance and Accountability Review was underway and the year-end accounts would be put forward for consideration at the May Annual Meeting. It was also agreed that Nick Partington, who has previously acted as Internal Auditor, be asked if he would undertake this role again.

17. Member Issues

Nothing further was raised than previously discussed.

18. Northumberland County Council Update.

Cllr Sharp had provided updates throughout the meeting.

19. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

19.1 NALC updates. NALC provided regular updates on matters which affect Local Councils on both a regional and national level. Clerk to highlight ones most relevant when circulating.

19.2 Training. The Clerk advised of the current list of training available to Members and would circulate these again for any Member to consider attending.

20. Any other relevant business

All matters were considered during the meeting.

21. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be both the Annual and Monthly Meetings and will be held on either the 23rd or 30th May. Clerk to confirm as soon as possible.

M. A. Smith

Michael Anthony Smith (Clerk)

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 30 May 2022.....