



Minutes of Meeting 23 October 2023 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Oliver (Chair), A. Saunders, J. Benson, S. Armstrong, D. Finlayson, M. A. Smith (Clerk)

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs V. Gibson, C. Kennedy, County Cllr A. Sharp.

3. Declarations of Interest

None received.

4. Public Questions

None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 September 2023

These were read and approved.

6. Outstanding/Ongoing Repairs

6.1 No additional matters other than those on the agenda.

7. General Amenities

7.1 Footpaths – The two informal footpaths from the A69 into the village (either side of Starbucks) have been strimmed but not to a good standard. These need to be sprayed with weedkiller. Clerk to contact the County Council.

7.2 Seating – all inspected and report to be circulated. Repainting or treatment of all seats to be undertaken in early 2024.

7.3 Lighting – the defective light near to Whitegates has again been reported to the County Council.

7.4 Verges – the verges within the village are to be included in the Village Green maintenance contract with the County Council from 2024. The roadside verges (Park Lane/ Well Bank to the Sill) are to be cut back in the next few weeks.

7.5 The dog waste bag dispensers are all empty and the Clerk to arrange for these to be refilled with existing stock and order additional as required.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 Electric Charging Points. The Clerk to ask the County Council for details of usage to date.

9. Village Greens

9.1 The road at the west end of Henshaw still needs attention and the Clerk/Chair to meet on site.

9.2 The 2023 grass cutting/maintenance has been completed for the season.

9.3 Woodland and Trees. The Clerk is to seek estimates for tree surveys for the Village Greens and the woodland at the grazing site and report back on costs.

9.4 Clerk to arrange a site meeting to look at encroachment issues and unauthorised developments on the Towhouse Village Greens.

9.5 A request has been received from Northumbrian Water for access to the Towhouse Village Green to install a temporary generator if there are power failures to the existing pumping station. Agreed Clerk to request additional details on this such as estimated frequency it would be needed, reinstatement etc.

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 Falcon Grange (Unmade road). The Clerk advised he is still working on this and would prepare a briefing note to Members on the whether it was beneficial to continue to pursue this matter.

10.2 The Clerk advised that the planning application to provide 4 additional holiday lets, and change the use of existing holiday accommodation to residential at Hadrian's Garden Villas has been refused.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 A69. National Highways are in discussion with the Police to see if the average speed cameras zone can be extended west to include the section past Bardon Mill and Henshaw.

11.2 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp had provided details of options to reduce speeding along this section of road. Members considered that gateway signs which included the 40mph speed limit and warning of 'pedestrian crossing points' was the preferred option. Clerk to reply to Cllr Sharp.

11.3 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. Awaiting options from the County Council.

11.4 Bardon Mill Station Access Road. This is an ongoing issue with the Council position that Members would consider a donation to a private scheme of repairs. However it was agreed that the Clerk should write to all parties (Network Rail, County Council, Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership etc) to try and help facilitate a scheme.

11.5 Members agreed to support Community Rail Partnership's application for charitable status.

12. Redburn Park

12.1 Inspections. Agreed that the monthly reports are still undertaken by the Haltwhistle Burial Team.

12.2 Maintenance. Work has been completed to replace fence posts at two of the entrance gates. Further work is required to replace missing fence rails and the Clerk to order the necessary materials. Additional play bark has been delivered and arrangement to be made for this to be spread across the children's play park area as soon as possible. The Noticeboard at the entrance to the park needs new Perspex fitted.

12.3 Woodland Management. Work will recommence in October/November to thin out the woodland.

12.4 It has been reported that a 'BMX' bike trail/jumps is being created in the woodland next to the car park. It was agreed an inspection would be undertaken as soon as possible as there are health and safety concerns over such an unapproved/managed development.

12.5 Complaints have been received about dogs been taken onto the playing field and the children's play park area. Dogs are allowed in the park but not onto these two areas and the notices to this effect are obviously being ignored. Cllr Finlayson to put a Facebook posting to advise of the restriction.

12.6 Park Management Arrangements. The Clerk advised that there were maintenance and repairs needed in the Park as existing assets, fencing, Pitman's Trail etc continued to deteriorate. It was agreed that a meeting involving the joint Parish Council's, Cllr Sharp and the Village Hall be held in the near future to consider management arrangements and planned maintenance going forward.

13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

13.1 The Committee had recently hosted the Annual General Meeting and planned actions include attracting additional user groups and an 'invite day' to seek out additional volunteer and funding ideas. The hall has recently be repainted and the Committee are progressing a potential application to fund the installation of an emergency generator.

14. Northumberland National Park

14.1 Cllr Saunders gave an update on the recent developments.

15. Henshaw School

15.1 Plans for improved parking arrangements and layout are still awaited. Concerns were again expressed about the condition of a section of the boundary wall which continues to deteriorate. Clerk to contact Cllr Sharp and the school on this.

16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

16.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 October 2023 as follows:

- Current Account £13,698.61
- Easement Account £5,620.45

16.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Mark Watson (Gate post repairs at Redburn Park) £296.40
- Books Accountants (Accountancy Services) £48.00
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £12.00 (*estimated*)
- GNAA (Donation) £10.00

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£13,332.21**

16.3 Work is ongoing to close the Easement Account and transfer into bank account.

17. Northumberland County Council Update

17.1 The Clerk updated on the correspondence received from the County Council on the recent Town and Parish Conference. This event had been a success and proposals were that there should be additional events in future. Agreed that the Chair (or any Member) and Clerk would make efforts to attend all future events.

18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

18.1 No further matters were raised.

19. Items to be included on the next Agenda

No items raised.

20. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 27 November 2023 at 7.00pm. The meeting finished at 8.04pm.

M. A. Smith

Michael Anthony Smith (Clerk)

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 27 November 2023.....