



Minutes of Meeting 28 May 2024 held in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice-Chair) S. Armstrong, A. Saunders, C. Kennedy, D. Finlayson, J. Benson, County Cllr A. Sharp, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

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

2. Apologies for Absence All in attendance.

3. Declarations of Interest Cllr Oliver (item 9.1)

4. Public Questions None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 April 2024 These were read and approved.

6. General Amenities

6.1 Footpaths. Nothing to report.

6.2 Seating. Repainting or treatment of all seats to be undertaken in the next few months. Agreed that G. Benson be asked to undertake this work.

6.3 Lighting. Nothing to report.

6.4 Verges. The Clerk advised plans have now been received from the County Council of areas they could cut/maintain (to be paid for by the Parish Council). Clerk to circulate for consideration. With regard to the roadside verges up to the Sill, and at junctions onto the Military Road, it was reported these were now overgrown. Clerk to action with the County Council.

6.5 Noticeboards. Agreed the Henshaw noticeboard be replaced as it was no longer fit for purpose.

6.6 Litter bins. Several require repair/repainting and agreed that the Clerk arrange for this work.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Grazing Site Woodland Thinning. Work will commence on this site once the weather and ground conditions improve.

7.2 Broadband Provision. This scheme is now progressing as enough residents had 'signed up' to receive the improved service. Openreach will carry out works. Clerk would continue to discuss this with Openreach and provide updates and timescales.

8. Village Greens

8.1 Tree Surveys Work. Clerk is seeking prices for the work recommended in the report.

8.2 Henshaw Village Green. Chair and Clerk are to look at the condition of the access road and report back for consideration.

8.4 Electricity Supply at Towhouse Green. Clerk to arrange a site meeting with Northumbrian Water to progress the proposed work and recent incidents of overflows affecting nearby properties.

9. Planning Applications and Issues

9.1 NNPA application for additional holiday accommodation at Vallum Villa. Following discussion on this application, the Clerk to review the information available and provide details to Members for further consideration.

10. Transport and Highway Matters

10.1 A69. There has still been no response from National Highways and the Clerk has written to Guy Opperman MP. Agreed Clerk to follow this up as soon as possible.

10.2 Bardon Mill Station Road Access. Cllr Sharp is meeting with the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership and would provide an update thereafter.

10.3 Speed Limit at Twice Brewed. Cllr Sharp advised that the proposal to install gateway signs has been agreed and would chase up timescales.

10.4 Additional road markings at Bardon Mill. This has been agreed and Cllr Sharp would follow up.
10.5 The battery for the 30mph Speed Warning Sign adjacent to Redburn Park has been installed.
10.6 Road Maintenance and Potholes. Clerk reported drainage issues, potholes and road damage, on Wellbank and agreed this be referred to the County Council. There is also a large pothole adjacent to Springfield Terrace which needs attention.

11. Redburn Park

11.1 Monthly Inspections. The first report has been received and Clerk to chase next inspection.
11.2 General Maintenance. The hedging at the park has been cut back and other maintenance would be arranged once the annual RoSPA report is received in June.
11.3 Capital Programme. Significant investment for Redburn Park has been allocated in the Council's capital programme.
11.4 Redburn Community Park Group. This is a developing idea and would seek input from the community to improve facilities at the park and seek out external funding opportunities. Clerk to progress this as soon as possible as it was to align with the capital programme.

12. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

12.1 The hall continues to be very well used with regular classes and bookings.
12.2 Cllr Finlayson is to progress the application for provision of an emergency generator and chase up final quotes and estimates for the grant application.

13. Northumberland National Park

13.1 An update to be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

14. Henshaw School

14.1 All is progressing well at the School

15. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

15.1 Estimated funds held by the Parish Council as at 18 May 2024 as follows:

- Operating Account £25,035.14
- Former Easement Account Monies £5,620.45

15.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Peter Dodd Fencing & Agricultural Services (Village Green Tree Survey) £840.00
- ESI Ltd (Supply and Replacement of Speed Warning Sign Battery) £181.82
- Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd (Annual Insurance) £1,394.79
- North Air Ambulance Donation (already paid) £10.00
- HSBC Bank Charges (already paid) £15.25

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£28,238.98**

15.3 The Monthly Financial Report was considered by all Members and it was agreed that in future the balance would be split as Operating Funds and a ring fenced capital programme budget of £17,500. Therefore this currently is Operating Funds **£10,738.98**, and Capital Fund **£17,500**

16. Northumberland County Council Update

16.1 Cllr Sharp had updated on all matters during the meeting.

17. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

17.1 Update by Clerk. All matters had been covered in the meeting and all general information and updates (CAN news, NALC newsletter etc) had been circulated by email.

18. Items to be included on the next Agenda As the Parish Council had now agreed to undertake or pay for additional maintenance (eg grass cutting, strimming, cutting back vegetation) it would be useful to purchase a battery powered strimmer which either Members or the Clerk could offer to use to undertake ad hoc work. Agreed Clerk to seek prices and report back for consideration.

19. Date and time of next meeting. 24 June 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 8.25 pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 24 June 2024.....