



Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 24 July 2023 in Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

Present: Councillors J Oliver (Chair), V. Gibson (Vice Chair), A. Saunders, J. Benson, C. Kennedy, S. Armstrong, M. A. Smith (Clerk).

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr D. Finlayson and County Cllr A. Sharp.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Benson re 16.2 (took no part in agreeing payment to M.Benson).

4. Public Questions

None received.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2023

5.1 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 footpaths from the A69 (either side of Starbucks) into the village have still not been cleared/strimmed. Clerk to chase up County Council.

7.2 Seating – Clerk to inspect and complete inspection report.

7.3 Lighting – nothing to report.

7.4 Verges – concerns were again expressed regarding the lack and/or quality of maintenance within the village and on the roads/junction up to the National Park. Agreed the Clerk discuss this further with Cllr Sharp and the County Council.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 Electric Charging Points. These are now operational.

8.2 Grazing Land. Clerk to arrange an inspection of the small woodland on this site.

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 is ongoing with no reported issues.

9.3 As with 8.2 the Clerk to look at woodland management on the green west of Towhouse.

9.4 A request by the Bardon Mill Pottery to use the Village Green for the November Fair was agreed with no licence fee required as the Fair benefits local businesses, and the charge to stallholders was being donated to charity. All future requests to be considered on an ad hoc basis. Clerk to arrange the appropriate licence.

10. Planning Applications and Issues

10.1 Falcon Grange. The Clerk advised he has a response to the Freedom of Information request and this would be looked at as soon as possible.

10.2 Planning Application No. 23/02312/FUL First Floor Side Extension at 3 Hawthorn Terrace, Redburn. No objections were raised to the proposal.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

11.1 A69. Feasibility studies are being carried out by National Highways to look at additional footpaths and crossing points. They are also in discussion with the Police to see if they 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 is continuing to work with County Highways on this.

11.3 Bardon Mill Station Access Road. Following further discussion regarding the poor condition of the access road, it was again agreed that this is a private road and it is not the Parish Council's responsibility to organise repair. Members stated that they would consider a donation if a private scheme was proposed. Also agreed that the Clerk undertake further land searches in this vicinity to look at the ownership of the roads around the green and also write to National Rail to see if they would lead on a repair scheme bearing in mind the road is called 'Station Road' and is the main access to the station.

11.4 Work will be undertaken on the road to Scotcoulthard shortly to repair the cattle grids and drainage.

11.5 Local Transport Plan (Capital Programme) 2023/24. The County Council have asked the Parish Council for any priority schemes (up to 3) they would like to be considered. These were agreed as,

- i. Adoption of Station Road, Bardon Mill
- ii. Resurfacing of Park Lane which has been badly damaged by timber wagons
- iii. 20mph limit through rural villages.

12. Redburn Park

12.1 Inspections and Maintenance. The Monthly Inspections are continuing as planned. The RoSPA report has been completed and the Clerk and Chair to review and look at works needed as a result of this and report back as soon as possible.

12.2 Woodland Management. Work will recommence in October to thin out the woodland/remove the non-native species. Suggested that this include clearance of areas and replanting of natural woodland.

12.3 Creation of Redburn Community Park Group. Clerk to arrange first meeting in August.

13. Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall

13.1 The Committee are progressing work on an application for funding to install an external generator.

14. Northumberland National Park

14.1 Cllr Gibson and Cllr Saunders gave an update on the recent developments which included a trip to Walltown to look at the park, walks, and activities.

15. Henshaw School

15.1 The recent School Fair had raised £363.10.

15.1 Clerk to ask Cllr Sharp for an update on the traffic survey and repairs to the boundary wall.

16. Report by Clerk on Financial Matters

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

- Current Account £8,130.77
- Easement Account £5,620.45

16.2 Expenditure and Income to approve/note:

- Clerk (Reimbursement for IT Equipment) £549.00
- M. Benson (Maintenance Work at Redburn Park) £50.00
- Great North Air Ambulance (Monthly Donation) £10.00
- HSBC (Bank Charges) £14.00
- Village Hall Committee (Annual Donation £750.00 (Agreed May – still to clear)
- Licence Fee (Grazing Land) £400.00 (*Income*)

Estimated balance following outstanding transactions **£6,957.37**

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

17. Northumberland County Council Update

17.1 Cllr Sharp had provided updates by email prior to the meeting.

18. General Matters and Correspondence since last meeting

18.1 Nothing to report.

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 25 September 2023 at 7.00pm. The meeting finished at 8.04pm.

Signed and Approved at the Meeting held on 25 September 2023.....