

MINUTES

HEPPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday August 11th 2025 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Hepple.

1. Chair welcome
 - 1.1 Attendees
Christopher France Cllr Chair
Ian Wilson Cllr Vice Chair
Jennifer Bates Cllr
Carol Bell Cllr
Annette Evans Clerk
 - 1 Parishioner
2. Chair explained Emergency Procedure, Health, Safety, Housekeeping & Public Participation.
 - 2.1 Parishioner walked out, leaving Hall after being asked not to continue recording on her phone, Parishioner stated "it was a Public Meeting" Chair explained Recording Policy and Vice Chair explained it was not a Public Meeting, it was a Parish Council Meeting held in public where public are welcome to attend
3. Apologies for absence- Lucy Riddell Cllr apology accepted by all due to family illness
Apologies policy Agreed and accepted by all
4. Declaration of any interests and the grant of any dispensations
None
5. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2025
Agreed and accepted as true by all
6. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda
 - a. Chair explained Thank you, cards, had been sent to retiring councillors
7. Chair opened discussion regarding Public Participation Policy emailed to councillors prior to meeting - accepted and agreed by all
8. Chair opened discussion and feedback to adopt the following papers (emailed to councillors prior to meeting)):
 - i. Hepple Parish Council responsibilities - Agreed and Accepted by all
 - ii. Model Standing Orders 2025 Update (England) - Agreed and accepted by all
 - iii. Understanding and preparing to move to GOV.UK. Domain - Vice Chair suggested HPC wait to move to this until compulsory as it will be a big expenditure for HPC - This was agreed and accepted by all
 - iv. Data Protection Policy - detailed discussion, feedback and explanation resulted all agreeing that HPC continue post on HPC Website and Notice Board

9. Chair reported
 - i. NCC LTP has been declined for HPC - we are not the only Parish that has been declined
 - ii. Drainage Hepple Village and Bickerton - still ongoing - JB Cllr appointed to complete and submit Flood Risk Resilience Plan Survey with the help of all
 - iii. Verges – grass cutting - All agreed these are in good order atm
10. Items for information - none
11. Correspondence - none
12. Chair updated all with LR Cllr's response that LR will ensure that the Old Smithy will be water tight and winter proof and will continue to keep a close eye on works
13. Planning - none
14. Finance
 - i. Financial Statement - Chair detailed all expenses adding that due to pending election costs and .Gov Web upgrade we cannot afford, sadly to give donations or incur any other costs - Chair explained the importance of keeping Newcastle Society subscription stating their legal help has been invaluable
 - ii. Bank Statements - Chair confirmed he was in receipt of screen bank statements and Paper Copy of Statement can be viewed with Clerk
 - iii. Additional Signatory agreed to be CB
 - iv. Chair asked CB regarding the standing order 'Go Cardless' CB explained this had been set up prior to her being Clerk - AE explained after much investigation on appointment as Clerk this was for Newcastle Society - more investigation is needed as the cost has increased
15. Meetings attended by councillors or the clerk - Clerk attended Rothbury Cluster meeting - Clerk asked for feedback from all to take to the next Cluster meeting CB asked for time to reflect and prepare. Clerk explained that they were keen to hear from all Parish Cllr's /Clerks and would be welcome to Chair the Cluster meeting in future in turn with other Parish Cllr's. Clerk noted until this meeting she was unaware Thropton Village Hall being emergency hub - question was raised if HVH had plans to offer their Parishioners same - CB explained that as Solar Panels may be years off being installed on HVH this is not on their agenda, furthermore, the availability of volunteer's being able to host such would be very complex
16. Future events - Chair explained Training is open to all - he will attend free training on the move to .Gov Web, JB expressed interest in Training involving Mental Health / Health Issues
17. Any other business - Chair opened discussion regarding DBS, Clerk and Chair have no objection having had enhanced DBS related to past work roles - however JB explained DBS is specific to job title, therefore would be invalid for HPC, noting that she would want to know why this was required before accepting, IW agreed if funded by NCC. JB enquired about Safeguarding policy, Chair and Vice advised this is not applicable to HPC as HPC do not own or manage any premises
18. Time and Date of next meeting - November 3rd 2025 HPH

Annette Evans
Clerk to Hepple Parish Council
Hepple

Signed: C L France (Chair) 3 November 2025