

## Hepple Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Hepple Parish Council  
held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Mr C France Chair  
Mr J Hasson Vice Chair  
Mrs C Buckley  
MS C Wilson  
Mrs C Bell Clerk

The chairman welcomed everyone.

### 1. Public Participation

1 member of the public attended.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Stewart Whitfield.

### 3. Declarations of interest/grant of dispensation or co-options

None

### 4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were read and accepted as true and correct.

### 5. Matters arising

None.

### 6. Items for Discussion and Potential Decisions

- 6.1 Mud on road Castron – Flotterton. No reported problems.
- 6.2 C181- the manhole cover has been replaced at the bottom of the Clavering Bank. The chairman advised the meeting that drainage is a routine maintenance issue and the maintenance department is aware of them.
- 6.3 C181 Drains on Bickerton Bank – the ditch is blocked as a result of traffic passing and crushing the edges of the ditch. Action – clerk to report.
- 6.4 Review of the definitive Map and Statement of public Rights of Way. Informal pre-order consultation. Modifications to Byway 42 & Bridleway 43. Woodhorn Archive has been closed again due to Covid; when it re-opens the chairman will visit to look at the maps quoted in the documentation provided by the County Council.
- 6.5 C181 Verge cutting is needed as this road is so narrow, over grown verges make it difficult to see clearly. Action – clerk to report.
- 6.6 C181 The edge of the road is collapsing on the parish boundary with Whitton & Tosson; a large hole is developing. Action – clerk to report.
- 6.7 C181 Trees and bushes are encroaching into the road from half way down the Whitefield bank to the junction with the B6341. Action – clerk to report.
- 6.8 B6341 from Swindon to Bils Moor - tree & bushes encroaching onto the road. Action – clerk to report.
- 6.9 Signage - Trows Bank – this has been reported to the Highways Department. The broken Give Way sign at the B6341 Castron road junction has been replaced. However, the sign for Castron has not. Action – clerk to report

- 6.10 Traffic calming measures: The 'SLOW' sign painted on the road at the west end of Hepple is worn off & needs repainting. Action – clerk to report.
- 6.11 Councillors discussed the positioning of the 30mph speed signs; could they be moved to a more effective place. Action – clerk to enquire.
- 6.12 Local Transport Plan.  
Discussion ensued about the need to introduce improved traffic calming measures. The chairman reminded everyone that a few years ago we explored erecting a speed awareness flashing sign, the local highways department stated that the parish would have to fund the sign - which proved to be out of our financial budget. It was agreed that improved and renewed signage on the road and at the west end of the village must take place. Walkers on Trows Bank are continuously having to leap onto the verge when traffic approaches because it is a blind bank and no spare room for walkers. It was agreed that a footpath on Trows Bank must be submitted to the LTP and a strong case made based on the 'Contributes to better safety' criterion. Other ideas were discussed and it was agreed that traffic calming measures must be explored with highways before a major incident happens and put into the LTP. The chairman asked for ideas that could be submitted for the LTP and to contact the Clerk.

Submissions for LTP to be in by 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Items 6.1 to 6.12 to carry forward to next meeting agenda.

There is a facility, which anyone can use, for reporting road issues on the County Council website.

#### 7. Items for Information

- 7.1 Swindon Kennels bridge is open again, though no report on it has been made to the Parish Council.
- 7.2 Hepple Bridge – has not been started yet.

#### 8. Correspondence received

- 8.1 A request for a donation has been made by the charity Victim Support. Councillors regret that they cannot do this as the expenditure for the parish had exceeded income for the last 2 years.
- 8.2 Northumberland & Newcastle Society emailed to let the parish council know the 4<sup>th</sup> August was the final date for submissions of support for the society's concerns as to the soundness of Northumberland County Council's proposals for the Identification of Areas as Suitable for Wind Turbine Development in Northumberland. The councillors agreed that the Proposed Main Modifications especially to draft policy REN2 do not address those concerns. Action – clerk to reply.

#### 9. Finance

Balance in the bank on 31<sup>st</sup> July £980.38.

#### 10. Planning

- 10.1 Replacement windows & doors, Cherry Tree Cottage, East Hepple, LBC – ongoing, conservation issues, work delayed.
- 10.2 Local Neighbourhood plan – Stephen Bridgett working on this which includes all the villages in the valley – ongoing.

Items 10.1 & 10.2 to carry forward to next agenda.

11. Meetings attended by Councillors or the Clerk  
None.

12. Future Events  
None.

13. Any other business  
Japanese Knotweed - the clerk received an email saying this would be done. Councillors confirmed that the work had now been carried out.

14. Date of next meeting  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.00pm in the village hall.

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