

Hepple Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Hepple Parish Council held on Monday 5th February 2024 in Hepple Village Hall

Present: Mr C. France Chair
 Mr J. Hasson Vice Chair
 MS C. Wilson
 Mr S Whitfield
 Mr I. Glendinning Clerk

1. Public Participation

Carole Bell
Annette Evans

2. Apologies

No apologies

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

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of 6th 2023 were read and accepted.

5. Matters arising

See items below re. drainage and flooding.

6. Drainage Hepple and Bickerton

The situation regarding drainage and flooding at the above locations was discussed at length. It was noted that this was not a new issue, but the increasing number of severe weather events means that it is getting worse each time a flood occurs.

It was resolved that the Chairman would write to NCC to request a survey be implemented in order to seek a resolution.

7. The condition of local roads was discussed and it was noted that this situation was prevalent throughout Northumberland. Residents should report potholes when they encounter them.

8. Speeding and traffic calming measures were discussed. The offer for an approaching speed illuminated sign was still valid, but the PC would need to bear the cost of maintenance after 2 years. It was resolved to await the results of a speed survey.

9. It was agreed to pay for the cost of the defibrillator battery replacement and to contact the Coquetdale Masonic Lodge to see if they would make a donation towards the ongoing cost of maintenance. To be sent by the Chairman,

10. Mobile phone masts were now in place at Sharperton and Farnham. 5G signals from O2 and 4G from Vodafone was now available in many places and when the mast at Tosson is commissioned, a further extension of coverage is expected.

11. Polling Station. The village hall may be out of action for use as a polling station in forthcoming elections, due to refurbishment. There is no alternative venue so it was suggested to Democratic Services at NCC that residents use Thropton until the hall is available again.

12. There were no relevant items for information.

13. Correspondence

- Northumbria Police Community Support Officers have offered to attend Parish Council meetings if it was thought to be useful. This was noted and if necessary, Northumbria Police will be asked to attend in the future.
- Town and Parish Spring Meeting was discussed.

14. Finance

The precept has been received and the insurance of £145 has been paid.

15. Planning

No relevant notifications

16. No meetings have been attended

12. Any other business

The clerk, Ian Glendinning, gave notice that he felt he was unable to give sufficient time to the duties as clerk and intended to stand down. Annette Evans indicated that she would consider taking the position.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, 6thth May 2024. This will also be the AGM and the annual Meeting.