

Hepple Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Hepple Parish Council
held on Monday 7th June at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

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

Covid prevention measures were in place.
The chairman welcomed everyone.

1. Public Participation

4 members of the public attended.

2. Apologies for absence

None – all councillors present.

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

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Zoom meeting on February 8th 2021 were read and accepted.

5. Matters arising

The chairman thanked the councillors for persevering with Zoom.

6. Items for Discussion and Potential Decisions

6.1 Mud on road Castron – Flotterton. No reported problems.

6.2 C181- passing places & drainage issues

6.3 Bickerton drains – a repair is needed.

6.4 Flooding to gardens at Castron – the highways department observed the problem occurring while in the area; water was coming off the field, and is the responsibility of the land owner. Draining in that field has been carried out.

6.5 Review of the definitive Map and Statement of public Rights of Way. Informal pre-order consultation. Modifications to Byeway 42 & Bridleway 43. Councillors discussed the proposals and the following points were raised.

Byeway .42: The quoted sources in the proposal documentation are the Elsdon Common Inclosure Award of 1731, Armstrong's, Fryer's and Cary's maps of 1769, 1820 and 1827. The chairman produced Cassini maps of 1864-1869, 1868-1869, 1901 & a modern map, the proposed route, which runs parallel to the road is not marked on any of them. "It was suggested that these may be ancient routes once used by tithe holders and others to move livestock around."

Bridleway 43: No route exists in the proposed position, which goes through a wall with no access point, through an SSSI, very difficult terrain & bogs, then comes to dead end at it's southern point. The public footpaths in the area are clearly marked and well maintained.

The proposed route does not appear on the Cassini maps of 1864-1869, 1868-1869, 1901 or the modern map. It was suggested that the information on the ancient maps referred to in the proposal documentation (Tosson or Hepple Inclosure Award 1806, and Fryer's, Cary's & Greenwood's maps of 1820, 1827 & 1828, 1890's & 1920's) may be tithe routes not public footpaths.

The chairman will do further research into this and draw up a response.
Information for consideration to be with Alex Bell, Definitive Map Officer by Friday 1st October 2021.

6.6 General condition of roads & encroachment of vegetation:

Verge cutting not yet commenced – daffodils are over. Action: clerk to contact highways dept.

Signage on the Trows bank warning of pedestrians on road is faded. Action: clerk to contact highways dept.

Junction sign at Caistron road end has been snapped off. Action: clerk to contact highways dept.

Councillors discussed over hanging hedges, trees, shrubs causing damage to cars – owner of land on which they are based is responsible for cutting back.

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

6.7 Traffic calming measures: A flashing speed sign was requested from the highways budget, but we were informed it would have to be funded by the parish council. These are expensive, some parishes which have had a grant to install them, now cannot afford the maintenance and they are no longer in use.

7. Items for Information

Bridges at Swindon & Swindon Kennels: Swindon bridge works are complete; the road has not yet been closed so the Swindon Kennels work must be still to do.

8. Correspondence received

None.

Email – the clerk receives email relating to large councils all over the country – none of the councillors wish to have these forwarded to them.

9. Finance

The year-end accounts have been completed, there is £1133.37 in the treasurer's account. Accountant, Pete Bates made councillors aware that the PC had a small overspend in the previous 2 years. Expenses such as NALC, Parish Insurance, Cluster Fee etc. are all value for money. An increase in the precept may be necessary; there is a percentage limit on the increase.

10. Planning

10.1 Bickerton cattle shelter – withdrawn.

10.2 Conversion, storage, extension at Holystone Grange – work ongoing.

10.3 Replacement windows & doors, Cherry Tree Cottage, East Hepple, LBC – ongoing, conservation issues, multiple plans exist, work delayed.

10.4 Local Neighbourhood plan – ongoing discussions.

11. Meetings attended by Councillors or the Clerk

"Chris France attended NNP Zoom meeting - update on the latest government's plans to introduce a National Landscape Service . Chris is not standing for NNP Authority unless there is a shortage of candidates. Countrywide discussions about the future development of National Parks are underway."

12. Future Events

None.

13. Any other business

Japanese Knotweed awareness – this was found at the layby near the bridge a year or two back. The County Council dealt with it and none has been seen since. It is not a notifiable weed but is on the awareness list. Action: Chrissie & Stewart to re check area.

14. Date of next meeting

Monday August 2nd 2021 at 7.00pm in the village hall.

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