

Hepple Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Hepple Parish Council held on **Monday 4th November 2024** at Coquetdale House, Hepple at 7.00pm

Present Cllr's	Mr C. France	Chair
	Mr I. Wilson	
	Ms C. Wilson	
	Mr S. Whitfield	
	MS A. Evans	Clerk

1. Public Participation

1 Parishioner's

2. Apologies

Apologies J Hassan

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

None

4. Draft Minutes of the meeting held 5th August 2024

The Draft minutes of 05/08/24 were read approved by all, signed by the chair.

5. Matters arising from the Draft minutes

None bar those that are in items for discussion.

6. Items for Discussion and potential decisions

6.1 Archives submitted, accepted and Inventory Certificate from Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn shown to all. Archive documentation will continue to be presented to Northumberland Archives as and when appropriate, meeting legal guidelines.

6.2 Signage Proposal from Highways was shown to all and agreed. The proposal showed many new road signage that Hepple does not currently have, such as Horse and Rider Signs, Foot Pedestrians, Additional Signage 30 MPH.

6.3 Mobile Phone Mast (EE) Chair explained the Mast needed to connect over another Landowners Land, thus needing additional legal documentation, a new trench has been dug and is covered – however the commission date is still unknown.

A Parishioner raised Health concerns, directed to Phone Mast Power, affecting Metallic Implants, Pacemakers, Teeth Fillings, Hip Replacements. Raising questions about NCC Insurance and accountability for illness due to radiation.

Chair thanked Parishioner for submitting documentation, raising concerns, explaining that as NCC has already approved and started the planning process, sadly HPC has no power over this.

6.4 Masonic Donation for Defibrillator has been credited to HPC Bank – CW asked if this was ongoing to cover future years – Clerk explained it was not, as Donations need to be submitted and requested on a year-to-year basis. CW suggested the possibility of Hepple Village Hall discounting the hire charge for HPC, with proceeds going towards Defib. Clerk suggested and asked all for additional ideas as to who to ask for donations from

6.5 LTP has been submitted, awaiting response from NCC

6.6 Current Email Data issues from Proton were discussed, the main issues being that the free package HPC have, does not allow enough storage, email addresses need to be individually inserted along with daily archiving, is very time consuming and ineffective. These issues did not occur previously as Proton was not the exclusive email for HPC and subsequently it has been agreed all emails to be forwarded to all HPC.

Alternatives were discussed along with costs and decision was made and agreed by all to switch to Collie Dog Computers, as they are local, cost effective and can offer support service beyond that of online/telephone

ACTION:-

- Clerk to continue Archiving to Woodhorn
- Clerk to inform NCC acceptance of New Road Signage proposal, push for its urgent installation and liaise accordingly to ensure it is done
- Chair to continue to investigate EE Mast at Little Tosson and when operational.,
- HPC to propose who Clerk should approach for Donations towards Defib, CW to propose to HVH committee the possibility of discount for HPH hire to put towards Defib future costs.
- Clerk to investigate Defib expiry and how other Parish's Defib costs are met
- Clerk to initiate Email change over to Collie Dog Computers

7. Items for Information

N/A

8. Correspondence

Further requests for donations were discussed, however, it was agreed donations will be reviewed next year
Letter from Local resident was read by Chair, requesting HPC support to be put in writing to NCC to show our support to the local Farming community

IW raised for discussion Free Tree offer

Action

- Chair to respond to Parishioner's letter
- Free Tree Poster to be put onto Hepple Board so as all individuals can take advantage should they wish to do so

8.1 Charitable Donations to be agreed

Action

Clerk to respectfully reply, explaining to submit requests again next year for consideration

9. Finance

The precept was agreed by all to remain £1,200.00

Current Bank Statement showing current Balance of £2,464.79 was shown to HPC, Statement agreed as correct

Online Banking – Clerk has successfully arranged for online banking.

Action

- Chair to assist Clerk to produce financial legal spreadsheets

10. Planning No recent planning applications submitted.

Action

- Permissive Footpath - Chair to approach L/O to ask approval – SW indicated another L/O to be approached as land appears to cross there as well

11. Meetings attended

11.1 Chair, IW & Clerk have attended meetings held at Clerks home with NCC Neighbourhood Services Manager & NCC Area Highways Manager, very productive meeting physically walking them through Hepple to note issues of drainage, speeding, overgrown foliage and grass verges
Chair attended Parish Conference at County Hall 9th September 2024, Many Town Councillor's attended, many with very high precepts, Attention was drawn towards the many empty properties, , when there is a shortage of homes and social housing is being put at the forefront.

12. Future Events

CW updated that Village Hall building work is underway and on time and going very well, possibility for possible archive storage when loft of hall is boarded. Toilets and entry to Hall will be wheelchair friendly. Volunteers requested for help to clean HPV in time for 20th November Event.

13. Any other business

Eco rural area Poster on Hepple Village Board

Kings Portrait is still with Chair – declined by HVH to be hung on wall

CW raised a question regarding an electric wire across river, it was noted this had been done by Holystone Farmer – who presumably sort permission from L/O and Bridge NCC Department has, as suggested by Clerk when the Farmer approached HPC for advice as his Cows were accidentally straying. It was further noted that due to riverbank erosion– boundaries are in dispute and difficult to pinpoint. It was also noted that a meeting between all L/O and Holystone was work in progress.

L/O's have responsibility to clear their ditches on the road side verges, it was noted this is often overlooked Since being appointed **Clerk, AE** has achieved the following, Grass Verges have been cut 4 times, walls weeded without weedkiller, Fire Hydrants have been exposed, Road markings have been repainted, Road signs have ben cleaned and New Signage has been proposed by NCC, Overgrown Foliage opposite Kilnway, side of road, previously forcing walkers onto the road, has been cut, enabling walkers to seek refuge from the road. Clerk has successfully invited NCC officials to attend to meet to discuss HPC issues.

Special Mention, gratitude and appreciation to Parishioner **Mr Wooly**, for his excellent volunteer work mending potholes and resurfacing West Kilnway track, his contribution, hard work and effort has not gone unnoticed and has made a great difference to this access road – thank you very much from HPC.

Much appreciation to **Ian Wilson** for the emergency use of his home to hold this meeting, due to Hepple Village Hall being unavailable due to building works.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 3rd February 2025 at 7pm in Hepple Village Hall

Signed: C L France (Chair) 3 February 2025