

Hepple Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Hepple Parish Council
held on Monday 9th May immediately after the AGM in the Village Hall

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

The chairman welcomed everyone.

1. Public Participation

2 members of the public attended.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Buckley

Cllr Whitfield

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

None.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of 7th February 2022 were read and accepted.

5. Matters arising

None.

6. Items for Discussion and Potential Decisions

6.1 Mud on road Caistron – Flotterton. No reported problems, the weather has been very dry. The chairman has spoken to the people concerned and reminded them that a sign should be put up when there is work taking place which causes mud.

6.2 C181- passing places & drainage issues - Cllrs continue to monitor issues on this road. The overgrown shrubs on Whitefield Bank have been cut back.

6.3 B6341 – overgrown shrubs from Swindon junction to Bilsmoor continue to cause problems.

6.4 B6341 - The road markings on the Trow bank have still not been renewed.

6.5 Several issues, including moving 30mph signs & a footpath on Trows bank, have been submitted for inclusion in the Local Transport Plan (details made available at an earlier date).

6.6 Proposed new byways open to all traffic (BOAT) Flotterton & Plainfield. Cllr France has spoken to the farmers affected - they felt that as some of the tracks concerned were the old routes to Upper Coquetdale, it was unlikely they could stop this happening. As a result, the parish council submitted comments and observations only to NCC.

6.7 Proposed new byways open to all traffic (BOAT) Kilnway, byway 38. The parish council have made various comments and objected to this proposal – refer to PC submission. One landowner affected was present at the meeting and said that he had been strongly encouraged by Alex Bell to withdraw his objection. It is not known if other landowners had made objections. If objections are not withdrawn then it goes to the appropriate government office who will write to confirm our objection while at the same time question the validity of the objections which must be based on historical facts and then if the PC

continues with the objection there is the possibility that a public enquiry is held to review all of the facts and evidence – in this case there may be a cost on the HPC. The chairman suggested to allow more time to consider the matter - a holding letter could be sent to Alex Bell; however, after discussion it was felt unlikely that the proposal would be overturned, but the objections and comments made by the PC should be kept on file in case of any future safety issues. The landowner present is considering a response to the situation.

Residents have reported instances of vehicles getting stuck, and even a car towing a caravan attempting to use the route. A no through road sign at the junction with the B6341 was suggested by Alex Bell and it was agreed by the HPC that this would be looked into and ask for a sign to be erected

6.8 Parish Council meeting with highways department. This was a useful meeting. The manhole which is repeatedly blocked has larger inlet pipes than the outlet, and the water which should be cast to the west has all been cast to the east causing huge problems at The Tower. The outlet pipe runs under the road, has also been cleared. The ditch this manhole empties into has been dug outout by the landowner. The water can now flow into the pipe which crosses the haughs to the river. Residents report that clearing the manhole & ditch has made a difference but there hasn't been much rain lately to be sure how well this is working.

Water also runs eastward on the north side of the road. It is eroding the tarmac, starting to undercut the walls of the village Hall yard & School House garden; flows on to Beech Cottage (which is slightly lower than road level) and at risk of water ingress. It appears that the drains on the north side of the road cross the road near East Hepple Cottages as there are no gully's after this point.

Clerk to make sure Highways department is aware of this.

6.9 No update on proposed modifications & additions to Byway 42 & Bridleway 43 have been received by the parish council.

Clerk to write to highways department for a report & timescales for work to be done – verge cutting, overgrown shrubs & drainage issues, water flowing on north side of road.

7. Items for Information

Work on Hepple bridge is underway.

8. Correspondence received

Thank you letters from charities the PC donated to have been received.

9. Finance

The accounts were overseen/prepared by accountant Mr P Bates, who advised that income had exceeded expenditure in the year 2021/22 by £28.26. The clerk has not yet submitted expenses for 2021-22.

Balance in the bank at 30th April £1286.63.

10. Planning

10.1 The village hall extension plan has been approved.

10.2 South Cottage application to renew windows. Application number 22/01484/LBC

11. Meetings attended by Councillors or the Clerk

Chris France attended the Coquetdale Local Neighbourhood Plan meeting; work is still ongoing to formalise the group prior to starting work on developing the Neighbourhood Plan, it is hoped the smaller parishes will join as it means a bigger grant from NCC to develop the Plan and in the longer term to receive a share of the Borderlands Inclusive

Growth Deal Place Programme Towns of which Rothbury is a named recipient for a major share of this fund (£50M). It would cost nothing to join because NCC provides a substantial grant towards developing the Plan and would give Hepple a voice in future plans in the valley.

After much debate it was agreed that HPC would join the group on condition that the councilors and parishioners would be kept informed. The Chair will circulate the latest newsletters from previous events around Northumberland.

12. Future Events

Thursday 2nd June - Lighting of the jubilee beacon & refreshments will take place at West Hepple Farm by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Bill Woolley.

Saturday 4th -June a village afternoon tea will be held at the village hall. There will be competitions, music & pooled tea.

13. Any other business

None.

14. Date of next meeting

Monday 8th August 2022 at 7pm.

Signed: C L France Chair 8 August 2022

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