

Hepple Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Hepple Parish Council
held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

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

The chairman welcomed everyone.

1. Public Participation

2 members of the public attended.

2. Apologies for absence

Mrs C Buckley.

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

J Hasson, S Whitfield & C Wilson - Trustees of Hepple Village Hall.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 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. Monitor this and roads in general.
- 6.2 C181- the manhole cover has been replaced at the bottom of the Clavering Bank.
- 6.3 C181 Drains on Bickerton Bank – Included in LTP for 2022-23.
- 6.4 Review of the definitive Map and Statement of public Rights of Way. Modifications to Byway 42 & Bridleway 43. Chris France has been unable to get an appointment at Woodhorn Archive to look at the maps quoted in the documentation provided by the County Council. The Parish Council response saying that these areas had sufficient paths already so no new ones were needed, has been submitted. See Chairman's letter – attached.
- 6.5 C181 Verge cutting is needed as this road is so narrow. When B6341 is closed most of the traffic (including large lorries) is diverted onto this road. Vehicles travelling in opposite directions get stuck in ditches trying to pass each other because they cannot see where the ditches are. Action – clerk to report.
- 6.6 C181 The edge of the road is collapsing on the parish boundary with Whitton & Tosson; the large deep hole has been filled with gravel. Action – monitor for gravel washing out during winter rains.
- 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 press Highways Dept to take action.
- 6.8 B6341 from Swindon to Bilsmoor - tree & bushes encroaching onto the road. Action – clerk to press Highways Dept to take action.

- 6.9 Signage - Trows Bank – this has been reported to the Highways Department. Include in LTP 2022-23. Action – clerk to press Highways Dept to take action.
- 6.10 The ‘SLOW’ sign painted on the road at the west end of Hepple is worn off & needs repainting. this has been reported to the Highways Department. Included in LTP 2022-23. Action – clerk to press Highways Dept to take action.
- 6.11 Re-positioning of the 30mph speed signs; this has been reported to the Highways Department. Included in LTP 2022-23.
- 6.12 Local Transport Plan. A copy of submissions of 2022-23 to go on website & noticeboard. Action – clerk.

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. Request update from Highways dept. Action – clerk
- 7.2 Hepple Bridge – work ongoing.

8. Correspondence received

- 8.1 Elancity – brochure for traffic control systems.

9. Finance

Balance in the bank on 31st October 2021 £1412.18.

- 9.1 Parish Insurance not yet requested/paid. Action – clerk to enquire into this.
- 9.2 Councillors agreed to maintain the following expenditure:

- NALC Subscription
- Spanglefish website
- Northumberland & Newcastle Society (NNS)
- Defibrillator expenses
- Village Hall rent & lights

Charities etc:

- Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS)
- Hospicecare
- Stephen Carey Fund (defib)
- Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB)
- Community Action Northumberland (CAN)

Hepple parish residents benefit from the work of the above charities.

- 9.3 Increasing the parish precept, which has been unchanged for many years was discussed. An increase from £950 to £1200 per annum, remaining at this level for the next 2-3 years, was proposed by councillor Hasson & seconded by councillor Whitfield. Vote : Increase agreed by all councillors.

10. Planning

- 10.1 Replacement windows & doors, Cherry Tree Cottage, East Hepple, LBC – work is now complete.
- 10.2 Local Neighbourhood Plan – Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan is under development, and is likely to take a couple of years. The county council have granted £10,000 towards the plan development. In due course Hepple will have the opportunity to be part of this; at present no fee is payable. Councillors wished the chairman to continue attending the meetings to have an input, and to continue attending Cluster meetings.
- 10.3 Village Hall Planning Application 21/03948/FUL. To build an extension for 2

accessible toilets & storage. 3 councillors declared an interest – as trustees of the Village Hall Charity, so it was not possible to submit comments to planning department as Hepple Parish Council.

10.4 & 10.5

Hepple Tower Planning Application 21/04108/FUL & 21/04109/LBC – reinstatement of fire destroyed garage. Parish council fully supports this application.

11. Meetings attended by Councillors or the Clerk

Chairman :

11.1 Cluster meeting in October – police reported that crime levels had remained about the same with the exception of reports of domestic violence and alcohol related incidents increasing. Concerns were also being expressed about the speed of lorries on the Rothbury to Weldon Bridge road.

11.2 Coquetdale NP – see 10.2.

11.3 Parish Finance Online meeting – banks are starting to charge parish councils for accounts; the parish may need to set up a reserve for things such as, increased electricity costs, sudden out of the blue expenses, in case of a major incident or Covid restrictions.

There is a continual move away from cheques to internet banking, which involves setting up measures to safeguard parish money. Spending over £100 must be published to the public & financial records retained for 6 years.

12. Future Events

None.

13. Any other business

13.1 Archiving of parish records at Woodhorn – ownership would remain with Hepple Parish – they would be available to the public and stored in the correct conditions. Councillors agreed the clerk could start this process.

14. Date of next meeting

Monday 7th February 2022 at 7.00pm in the village hall.

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