

Hepple Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Hepple Parish Council held on Monday 5th August 2024 in Hepple Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present Cllrs	Mr C. France	Chair
	Mr I. Wilson	Vice Chair
	Ms C. Wilson	
	Mr S. Whitfield	
	Mr J. Hasson	
	Ms A. Evans	Clerk

1. **Public Participation**

2 Parishioners

2. **Apologies**

No apologies

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

None

4. **Draft Minutes of the meeting held 13th May 2024**

The Draft minutes of 13/5/24 were read

5. **Matters arising from the Draft minutes**

Draft minutes to be amended for clarity and re-presented for agreement

6. **Items for Discussion and potential decisions**

6.1 Chair met and discussed drainage issues with the owner of Hepple Tower with the Landowner who's field is opposite Hepple Tower. The landowner explained that a field drain is either blocked or collapsed, he is waiting for a local field drainage company to fix.

6.2 The collapsed drainage pipe at the bottom of Kilnway has been re-renewed. And grass seeded over.

6.3 Collapsed/rotten drains remain a major issue throughout the village.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with NCC Highways Manager.

6.4 It was noted that some Potholes have been resurfaced especially along the Bickerton road to Rothbury, including the bridge at Bickerton.

6.5 Grass Verges have been cut twice.

6.6 Wall foliage has been weeded (without weedkiller). Very long grass on verges along west end of village requires cutting due to poor visibility and pedestrians.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with NCC Neighbourhood Services Manager.

6.7 Existing speed awareness road markings have been re-painted.

6.8 Road Signs have been cleaned.

Fire Hydrant's hidden by overgrown foliage have been cleared.

6.9 Speeding continues to be a concern to residents within the village.

Action: Submit to Local Transport Plan (LTP)

6.10 Permission was granted for Clerk to submit non valid HPC paperwork to Northumberland Archives, NCC on 21st August 2024. subject to adhering to legal, private and confidential Council Administration rules and regulations

Action: Clerk sought volunteers to assist with sorting through papers.

6.11 30mph / Please Slow Down (wheelie bin) stickers are available

Action: Clerk to continue applied pressure on NCC for Additional Road Markings, Additional 30mph signs, Pedestrians in Road, warning sign, new Speed survey, Horse warning signs, trees to be cut back where obscuring road signs.

6.12 It was noted that the NCC pole placed at the bottom of Kilnway carrying the No Through Road Sign, is severely corroded and requires replacing.

Action: Clerk to alert NCC Highways.

7. Items for Information

Mobile Phone Mast's - Despite Chair reaching out to EE Public Affairs and Cllr S. Bridget, there is still no response from either or any further information

Action: The Chair to continue to ask Cllr S. Bridget and investigate

8. Correspondence

8.1 Clerk reminded Rothbury Masonic regarding their potential offer to contribute towards Defibrator - they confirmed they will put this on their topic for their next meeting

Hospice Correspondence requesting donation

8.2 Hospice Care North Northumberland asked for a donation

Action: donation agreed £25.00

Agreement to continue supporting prior agreed charities - if funds available and permission must be sought from full Parish Council.

9. Finance

Budget and current bank statement discussed. Clerk has clarified previous accounts, prepared new accounts, paid all outstanding invoices - some of which were year 22-23, hence the duplication of some payments. Previous Clerk did not seek any expenses. Clerk made several appointments and meetings with HPC Bank, with several application forms submitted, signed by existing signatories, persistence has finally, resulted in Clerk gaining approval from HPC Bank to be approved to receive correspondence, bank and make BACS payments.

Chair thanked Clerk for assistance with trying to obtain online banking and access to statements etc.

Action: Clerk to continue seeking application for Online Banking

10. Planning

All Planning has been forwarded appropriately and timely by Clerk via email and sought response via email.

10.1 Northumberland National Park application submitted by Hepple Whitefield Estate for new ponds - No objections.

10.2 Northumberland National Park submitted application on behalf of NCC Highways for new road bridge at Swindon Kennels Bridge - No objections.

10.3 It was noted that a Planning application had been submitted, prior to new clerk taking up her role to extend Hepple Church Yard to the South.

Clerk to continue to forward all Planning requests

11. Meetings attended

The Clerk had arranged a meeting with NCC Highways Senior Officer in Hepple, attended by the Chair, J Hasson and Clerk included a walkabout - which was very positive resulting in several long-standing issues being attended to note in item 6 above.

12. Future Events

Village Hall building work – continuing to work towards an acceptable start date.

Action: Village Hall Committee to advise once date is confirmed

13. Any other business

13.1 NCC Highways Transport Plan2024-25.

Chair provided examples of what had been funded this last year in the Rothbury district – Flotterton bank towards Sharperton and Rothbury Crossing.

The following ideas were agreed for submission:

- A. Permissive Footpath via field on village west end to included styles etc.
- B. Drainage review and replacement Hepple Village
- C. Water puddling to the East of the village on the bank – creating dangerous road conditions.
- D. Develop a form of speed restriction in the centre of the village – physical?

Action: Chair to develop proposal and send to Clerk for submission. Chair sought other ideas for inclusion. There is no guarantee that they will be included in the plan.

13.2 Royal Countryside Fund Launched. Possible funding for the community

Action: Clerk to place poster on Notice Board.

13.3 The Chair applied and has received a copy of the Kings Portrait to be hung in the Village Hall or during formal Parsh meetings.

Action: After a debate it was agreed to ask the Village Hall for permission.

14. Date of next meeting

Monday, 4th November 2024 at 7pm in Hepple Village Hall

Signed: C L France (Chair) 4 Nov 2024