

## **Hepple Parish Council**

Minutes of the Meeting on **Monday 13th May 2024** in Hepple Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

### **1. Public Participation**

2 Parishioner's

### **2. Apologies**

No apologies

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

None

### **4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of 5/2/24 were read, accepted and signed

### **5. Matters arising**

See items below re. drainage and flooding.

### **6. Drainage Hepple and Bickerton**

Drainage and flooding in Hepple Village and at Bickerton was discussed at length. It was noted, again, that this is not a new issue despite regular contact with Northumberland County Council Highways.

Collapsed and blocked drains in Hepple Village especially bottom of Kilnway and leading down the village to Hepple Tower still causing major concern of flooding at Hepple Tower and erosion along Village Hall wall. Collapsed drainage pipe had been fixed but collapsed again.

Communication is ongoing between local landowners, affected village residents and NCC Highways.

The owner at Hepple Tower has kindly agreed to pass on knowledge about the drainage and flooding issues associated with the property.

Mrs Bates (parishioner) asked for acknowledgement, gratitude and praise to her neighbours for their constant help and support throughout several floods. Unfortunately, until all the drainage issues are resolved, further flooding is likely.

The Chair expressed concerns about the ongoing drainage and flooding issues at Bickerton.

**Action:** It was agreed that the Chair will discuss this issue with the appropriate Landowner to maintain his ditch and drains to allow for clear passage of water.

**Action:** The Chair to contact NCC and Cllr Bridget seeking action re drains.

**Action:** Clerk will liaise with NCC appropriate departments to assist with the above.

## **7. Other Matters**

7.1 Speeding throughout the village discussed again. Wheelie Bin 30mph stickers are a good idea, but due to inability to leave bins out 24/7 sticker may be useful elsewhere. Horse Rider signs were discussed due to the high volume of riders through Village, these may help reduce speed as well

**Action:** Chair to investigate Wheelie bin stickers.

**Action:** Clerk to chase NCC on Road speed limit signs that need refurbishment again (these have been requested on numerous occasions previously)

**Action:** Clerk to chase NCC Highways for Horse and Rider signs to be displayed through village

7.2 Mobile Phone Mast's - the new Masts at Charity Hall and Wreighill are now fully operational. However, the new EE mast at Little Tosson does not appear to be operational yet.

**Action:** The Chair to ask Cllr S. Bridget to investigate

## **8. Correspondence**

Masonic letter was noted offering financial contribution towards Defibrillator

**Action:** Clerk to remind Rothbury Masonic Lodge

## **9. Finance**

9.1 Agreed to keep the precept at £1,200.00. Gratitude was extended to Carol Bell for assisting the new Clerk in trying to sort out and gain access to the Bank statements. Due to the difficulty to access online banking it was agreed to give the new Clerk time to clarify previous accounts, prepare accounts, budget and supply current bank statement.

**Action:** Clerk to examine receipts, invoices, payments, bank statements, chequebook to bring accounts correctly up to date.

Pay outstanding invoices

Obtain Authority to become Signatory

Obtain Authority for Online Banking

Assist Chair with Budget and Accounts

9.2 Agreement to renew NALC Subscription agreed

**Action:** Clerk to arrange payment

## **10. Planning**

No known relevant notifications

## **11. Meetings attended**

11.1 Chair and Clerk Attended Coquetdale Parish Cluster Meeting.

11.2 Clerk attended meeting with NALC

## **12. Future Events**

Hepple Village Hall does not have a start date for building work

**Action:** Village Hall Committee to keep HPC updated

### **13. Any other business**

13.1 Ian Glendinning was thanked for his duties as Parish Clerk during the past year and Annette Evans was congratulated and thanked for her acceptance as the new Parish Clerk.

13.2 A councillor asked whether the verges within the village will be cut as the daffodils had now passed.

**Action:** Clerk to chase NCC about verge trimming as Daffodils have now died back.

13.3 The Chair applied for and has The Kings Portrait which requires acceptance to be displayed at HPC Meetings.

**Action:** Village Hall Committee to be asked for Portrait to have permanent position within the Hall.

13.4 Tribute to The Fallen Book agreed to be given to Hepple Village Hall so that it can be accessed safely by public with prior notice.

**Action:** Clerk to put notice on board to advise above

13.1 The Parish Clerk has managed to secure the Parish Council website free of charge this year and is in process of updating.

### **14. Date of next meeting**

Monday, 5th August 2024 at 7pm in Hepple Village Hall

Signed: C L France (Chair) 5 August 2024