

Hepple Parish Council Ref 0816

Minutes of meeting of Hepple Parish Council held on Monday 8th August 2016 at 8pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Mr J Hasson	Chairman
	Mr C France	Vice Chairman
	Mr S Whitfield	
	Mrs C Buckley	
	Mr D McKechnie	Clerk

Apologies were received from Mr W Woolley

The minutes from the May meeting were read. The balance figure b/f at 31/3/2016 was corrected to £587.95, to correspond to the bank statement and audit, and the balance c/f figure to £1062.95. The corrected minutes were agreed and signed.

Matters arising

Mrs C Buckley will provide an invoice to the clerk for the website renewal fee.

Clerk to email to Mrs C Buckley the newspaper article on CRAG handing their petition to our MP, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, noting especially her comments on the desirability of a neighbourhood plan.

The Chairman gave an update on highways issues.

- concrete bunds are now in on the Kiln track - a very good job has been done
- Mr Woolley has agreed to cut and create a new bund, to rectify and realign the track area at the North Gate, which will be done by the end of August
- the Chairman met with the highways manager regarding the pooling of water at the bottom of the village. Currently this is being progressed to reduce overall by up to 70% the amount of water getting on to the road.

Correspondence

CAN

It was agreed to donate £20 to Community Action Northumberland (CAN). They provide an excellent advice and help system to parishes. Clerk to action.

Local Transport Plan Programme Priorities 2017-2018

Hepple Parish has requested every year for more than 10 years that a footpath be provided from Kiln Road to the Coquet bridge. Over that period the speed, volume and weight of traffic, particularly timber carrying trucks, has increased significantly. The urgent need for this footpath must be stressed. It has been on the plan for many years with no action taken. At that point the road is too narrow for a truck, a car and a pedestrian.

Because of the increased speed volume and weight of traffic, we also need Traffic Speed Indicators at the both ends of the village. Clerk to action.

Green Rigg Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

This £36,000 per year fund covers a ten mile radius from the Green Rigg Wind Farm in Birtley Parish, Northumberland. Community groups, charities, parish councils and schools can apply for a grant of up to £5,000 for a range of projects, with the exception of ongoing running costs of an organisation. Priority is given to applications that come from, or benefit residents within, [a three mile radius of the wind farm](#). The southern part of Hepple Parish at Billsmoor lies within the 10 mile radius. Groups should apply to www.communityfoundation.org.uk.

The clerk was asked to bring to the next meeting a map showing the extent of Hepple Parish for councillors and any other interested parties to inspect.

It was decided that the Parish Council should apply for notice boards for Hepple and Flotterton, and Traffic Speed Indicators in case we are unsuccessful via the Local Transport Plan Programme. Clerk to action.

The parish hall needs new curtains and double glazing. Clerk to speak to Bessie re applying.

The parish church has a number of financial needs. Clerk to speak to Mrs M Tasker-Brown about an application.

The Vice Chairman will advise the clerk on the best approach to obtaining a grant. This information will be available to other groups who wish to apply for a grant.

Survey on Community Led Housing

This survey from the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) was concerned with affordable housing, second homes and housing problems generally.

After discussion it was decided to thank NALC for the opportunity to complete the survey, but that currently it was not applicable to our parish.

Financial Report

Balance b/f	£1062.95
Payment to NALC	£73.65
Current balance	£989.30

Planning

It was noted that the conversion of Farnham Park Bungalow into two workers agricultural dwellings had been approved by the Northumberland County Council.

The applications to modify section 106 applied to West Croft Hepple and to remove condition 4 to allow residential use of Beeswing Lodge, Billsmoor Foot were still awaiting councillors comments, which have subsequently been submitted.

Any Other Business

Superfast Broadband for Hepple

Many people in Hepple Parish find that broadband speed is inadequate for many business and domestic tasks. It is slow and unreliable for such things as streaming or transferring large amounts of data.

Unfortunately Hepple is not currently part of the superfast fibre roll out programme. (see <http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk/availability-checker/>).

This site says:- “We are working hard to secure further funds to extend the coverage, and will update the website as things change. If your broadband speeds are preventing you doing what you need, then you may be interested in finding out more about satellite broadband services, which are available throughout the county. Visit <http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk/satellite> for more details.”

However, since the meeting, the chairman has spoken to Steven Bridgett, our Northumberland County Councillor, who believes there are currently unused surplus funds which he has agreed to try to allocate to superfast broadband for Hepple Parish.

Police Commissioner’s Project

Mrs C Buckley agreed to get more information regarding Police Commissioner, Vera Baird’s project concerning domestic abuse.

Next Meeting

8pm on Monday 14th November 2016 in the Village Hall