

Hepple Parish Council

Ref 1116

Minutes of meeting of Hepple Parish Council held on Monday 14th November 2016 at 8pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Mr J Hasson	Chairman
	Mr C France	Vice Chairman
	Mrs C Buckley	
	Mr W Woolley	
	Mr D McKechnie	Clerk

Also present were Councillor Glen Sanderson and Tony Gates, Chairman and Chief Executive respectively of Northumberland National Park Authority.

1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome, apologies for absence and declarations of interest/grant of dispensations or co-options

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed all present, especially Mr Sanderson and Mr Gates from the NNPA.

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1.2 NNPA

Mr Sanderson and Mr Gates described the current situation of the NNPA.

Consultation on the management plan for the NNPA is currently underway, and is considered to be a shared vision with the local population. Clive Coyne (Head of Forward Planning): 01434 611547 is leading the consultation, and the team can be emailed at planning@nnpa.org.uk. See more at: <http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/about/planning/contact-the-planning-team/>.

A five year business plan is currently being developed. Whilst Government funding is protected and index linked for the next 4 years, it will cover only about 50% of the annual £4 to £5 million spent by the NNPA, so that between £1.5 and £2.5 million needs to be raised annually.

A unique £15 million project, the Sill Landscape Delivery centre, (<http://www.thesill.org.uk/>) is expected to contribute significantly to the fund raising.

This centre, based near Hadrian's Wall, will take advantage of the 1.5 million people annually who walk along the wall, but will also point people to the attractions of other parts of Northumberland, such as Coquetdale, the Cheviots and the North Tyne valley.

The aim is to reconnect people to the landscape, by creating 30, 000 activity days per year. By 2020, every schoolchild in the county will have spent at least one day in the countryside.

A question was raised about major wind farm developments. The National Park policy is that no major developments will be allowed in the National Park, unless they can't be sited anywhere else, although individual turbines will be approved, especially in isolated off grid areas.

1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th August 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

1.4 Matter arising

i) Green Ring Wind Farm Development Benefit Fund. The Vice Chairman reported that the committee making the decisions on grants was incomplete, had made no decisions yet, and had issued no guidelines on the basis for deciding on grants. It was agreed we must wait to be advised on what develops.

ii) A map showing the Hepple Parish Council boundary was shown and discussed. A similar map may be seen online at <http://map.northumberland.gov.uk/Boundaries/>. Enter 'Hepple' click on 'Layers' and 'Parish'.

iii) the final bund at the top of Kiln track is now in place, and the committee were very grateful and thanked Mr Woolley and his son for their excellent work

iv) Superfast Broadband at Hepple could still evolve according to our County Councillor, Mr Steven Bridgett, from 'clawback moneys', but BT are disputing the use of this money.

v) Vera Baird project. It was agreed that a poster would be put on the website, and the clerk would copy the latest letter on the Police and Crime Plan from Vera Baird to Mrs Buckley. Meetings are planned on the Priorities for Policing at County Hall, Morpeth 6pm November 23rd, or people may complete a survey before December 16th at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/giveyourviews.

2. Correspondence received²

i) BT phone box. It was agreed that the council would not object to the removal of the phone box. Discussions centred around that only 1 call in the previous 12 months had been made, and that 999 calls can be made from mobile phones even though no signal is available for non emergency calls.

ii) Control of Dogs. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 requires all councils to replace any existing dog control orders with a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) before 20th October 2017. Northumberland County Council are inviting comments on this matter. The papers will be circulated to councillors.

iii) Household Waste Centres. Opening time changes affected smaller centres such as Wooler, and no changes were made to the Alnwick waste centre.

iv) Bus route changes. There are now less buses running between Thropton and Morpeth, so anyone planning a bus journey should check the current timetables.

v) Northumberland County Council are inviting comments on the latest version of the Northumberland Local Plan. As this is solely concerned with housing developments at South east Ponteland it was agreed that Hepple Council would not comment. Comments may be submitted at <http://northumberland-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/spd/seponteland/draft2>. The latest plan is at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/News/2016/Nov/Have-your-say-on-modifications-to-Northumberland-L.aspx>.

3. Finance

3.1 Financial Report

Date	Description	Payments	Receipts	Bank Balance
8/8/16	Balance b/f			£989.30
1/9/16	Donation to CAN	£20.00		£969.30
16/9/16	Precept part 2 received		£475.00	£1444.30
5/11/16	NCC - Parish Insurance	£164.21		£1280.09
14/11/16	Balance c/f			£1280.09

Payments Agreed and Due

Donation to Village hall	£300.00	£980.99
Donation to Christmas lights	£20.00	£960.99
Donation to Xmas party	£50.00	£910.99

3.2 Budget

The budget for the remainder of financial year 2016-2017, and that for 2017-2018 were agreed. (attached)

3.3 Precept

³ It was agreed the precept should remain at £950 for the financial year 2017-2018.

4. Planning⁴

Construction of estate storage shed at rear of Woodside Cottage, Sharperton NE65 7AR

This was thought to be acceptable and no objections were raised.

5. Meetings attended by Councillors or the clerk

The Chairman and Vice Chairman reported on their attendance at the Parish Cluster meeting on 6/10. This was attended by the leader of Northumberland County Council, Mr Grant Davey, who spoke about the role of Arch, the company which handles the property interests of Northumberland County Council. (<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/About/Partners/Arch.aspx>)

The clerk reported on meetings attended:- Glanton Parish Council 26/9, NALC AGM 1/10, and Northumberland Town and Parish Council AGM. At the latter the main emphasis was on the need to save £50 million per year, to make up the shortfall in central government funding.

A training session attended by the clerk on 'Transparency for Local Councils' on 8/11 emphasised the importance of putting as much information on the parish council website as possible, so that local residents can be fully informed on what is happening in the parish.

All the recommendations and suggestions arising from that session were adopted by the council. Whilst information will still be posted on the notice board, the website should become the main information source in future.

6. Any Other Business

The Vice Chairman indicated that it may be possible to obtain funding for a replacement notice board from the Northumberland National Park Authority.

The current notice board is too small and in poor repair. When the telephone box is removed there will be space for a larger one.

The Vice Chairman will pursue the matter with the Northumberland National Park Authority

7. Next Meeting

8pm on Monday 6th February, 2017 in the Village Hall.⁵

⁴ www.parish-council.com/Hepple/