

Hepple Parish Council

Ref 1117

**Minutes of meeting of Hepple Parish Council
held on Monday 6th November 2017 at 8pm at West Hepple Farm**

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

All present expressed thanks to Mr and Mrs Woolley for hosting the meeting in their home, due to the lack of electricity and heating in the village hall.

1. Public Participation

No members of the public were present. The police representative, PC Brimble, was unable to be present due to attending a police incident elsewhere.

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies were required

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

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

5. Matter arising

The clerk reported that:-

- application for a grant to the Green Rigg fund towards the cost of speed indicators has been made. No decision had yet been received
- a new Parish Notice Board has been received and erected by Messrs Hasson, Whitfield and Woolley. Application to the Northumberland National Park for a grant was made towards the cost of the board, to which they kindly agreed, funding over 60% of the total cost. This naturally took some time to complete the necessary formalities. The new board has 3 panels, 1 for Parish business, 1 for Northumberland County Council and Northumberland National Park affairs, and 1 for general public use.

6. Items for Discussion and Potential Decisions

It was decided to donate to the following organisations:-

- £100 Great North Air Ambulance - proposed C France, seconded W Woolley
- £20 to CAN (Community Action Northumberland)
- £20 to Dawn Advice - Citizens Advice Northumberland 01670 853823
- £300 to Hepple Village Hall
- £50 to Hepple Children's Christmas Party
- £20 to Hepple Christmas lights

Clerk

There followed a discussion about the campaign to reopen Rothbury Community Hospital.

The closure by the Northumberland NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in September 2016 has been referred back by the Northumberland County Council Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to the Secretary of State for further consideration, on the grounds of lack of consultation with the Scrutiny Committee, and the overall health benefit to the people of Northumberland.

The Secretary of State will probably ask the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to instigate a review of the situation. It is hoped that a full inquiry will be held locally so that local people can speak at the Inquiry if they so wish. It was agreed that Hepple Parish Council would support a letter asking the panel to do a full local Inquiry.

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is claiming that the hospital closure for the last 14 months has had no detrimental effects on the health of the local population. Hepple councillors have agreed to try to establish up to date evidence that this is not the case. If anyone knows someone who would be prepared to allow evidence of their situation to be made available to the Inquiry, under conditions of strict anonymity, please contact your local councillor, or Katie Scott, campaign coordinator on 01669 621772.

7. Items for Information

No matters raised.

8. Correspondence received

A letter of thanks together with information booklets, for the donation from the parish, was received from HospiceCare North Northumberland

Requests for donations were received from CAN and for the children's Christmas party - see 6 above.

9. Finance

9.1 Budget

The budget to March 31st, 2018 is shown on the website at <http://s3.spanglefish.com/s/33986/documents/accounts/hpcaccountsbudgets1711.pdf>

9.2 Precept

It was agreed to request a precept of £950, which is the same as in previous years.

Clerk

10. Planning

No matters raised

11. Meetings attended by Councillors or the clerk

The parish cluster meeting 14th September was attended by the Vice Chairman, Mr C France and the clerk. The minutes are shown on the website at <http://s3.spanglefish.com/s/33986/documents/parish-council-meetings-agendas/parish-council-meeting-minutes/coquetdale-cluster-minutes/1709.pdf>.

This led to a discussion on potholes on local roads which the clerk was asked to take up with Graham Bucknall, Area Highways Manager (Northern) at Northumberland County Council.

Clerk

12. Future Events

None raised

13. Any Other Business

The Vice Chairman, Mr C France, reported that the Northumberland National Park Local Plan was in the final stages of drafting. It would be presented to the Secretary of State early next year. One of the main problems being addressed was the lack of affordable accommodation for people living and working in the National Park.

If you wish to add your views before the end of the consultation on December 11th, go to <https://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-consultation/>

Mr France also commented that fibre optic broadband has been promised to be installed in the Hepple area by the end of 2018, to include such hamlets as Bickerton and Caistron.

The Chairman., Mr J Hasson, reported that work had started on flood prevention control at the bottom of the village and seemed to be progressing well.

14. Date of Next Meeting

5th February, 2018 at 8pm in Hepple Village Hall.

David McKechnie
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