

Hepple Parish Council

Ref 1811

**Minutes of meeting of Hepple Parish Council
held on Monday 12th November 2018 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

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

1. Public Participation

Mrs C Bell was present as a member of the public

2. Apologies for absence

All councillors were present

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

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

5. Matters arising

The Vice Chair, Mr France, produced a Pedestrian and Vehicle Risk Assessment of the stretch of road between Hoxne and West Hepple junction. Councillors were asked to pass to Mr France any comments on the document. The Clerk will forward the final document to the appropriate person/department at Northumberland County Council.

Action **Councillors, Clerk**

6. Items for Discussion and Potential Decisions**The Future of Hepple Parish Council**

The Chair made several points in favour of continuing with the Parish council as at present, and not disbanding or amalgamating with an adjacent council. The main ones were:-

- the Parish Council currently has control over Parish matters which other options do not
- the Parish needs a village hall which may be less secure with no Parish Council in control

A general discussion followed concerning possible problems of recruiting new councillors in the future, should that be necessary, and specifically of recruiting a new Clerk before next May, when the current Clerk retires. Other similar parishes have great difficulty in recruiting Clerks, and some have to operate without a Clerk, with a councillor filling in temporarily, in at least one instance for several years.

It was suggested that in future the Parish Council may need to pay the Clerk, which may cause the Precept to be increased.

The Chair said that there may be someone willing to take on the job of Clerk.

Mrs Bell was asked her opinion and said it would be a great loss to the village if the Parish Council did not remain independent.

The matter was put to the vote and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should not disband or amalgamate with an adjoining Parish, but should continue independently as at present.

The Chair was asked to pursue the recruitment of a Clerk.

Action Chair

The Clerk was asked to find out how the number of councillors for a parish is determined.

Action Clerk

Donations

Donations to the Village Hall (£350), Xmas Lights (£30) and Xmas Children's Party (£60) were agreed. (All increased from previous years to allow for inflation)

A donation to Hospice Care North Northumberland of £25 was also agreed.

7. Finance

The Financial figures were noted, the budget and cash flow to March 2020 were agreed and the Precept for 2019/20 was agreed at £950.

8. Planning

No objections were raised to the planning applications for:-

- Snitter Mill, Hepple to High Carrick telephone line replacement
- ecological treatment plant for micro distillery at Whitefield Hall, Hepple

9. Meetings attended by Councillors or the clerk

The Vice Chair and the Clerk attended the Parish cluster meeting in September. The minutes are on the website.

10. Any Other Business

The Clerk was asked to notify the Northumberland County Council Highways Department of a large crack in the road east of Bickerton

The councillors asked that thanks to the Clerk be minuted for his service, which will end in May 2019 after 3 years in the post.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11th February 2019 at 7pm in Hepple Village Hall

David McKechnie
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