

DRAFT MINUTES

HEPPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Hepple.

1. Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Cllr Christopher France (Chair); Cllr Ian Wilson (Vice Chair); Cllr Jennifer Bates.
Cllr Carol Bell; Cllr Lucy Riddell
1 Parishioner
2. Apologies received: Annette Evans (Parish Clerk)
3. Declaration of any interests and the grant of any dispensations.
3.1 Cllr Lucy Riddell; Planning Application 10.2
4. Minutes of the meeting on 11th August 2025
4.1 Agreed as a true record. Signed by The Chair.
5. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda
5.1 Cllr Bates and Cllr Bell replied to NCC about the Flood Risk Resilience Survey
5.2 Cllr Bates asked in relation to potential flooding if the leaves and accumulation of dirt on the drain covers and, in the gullies, can be cleared before the onset of winter.
6. Local Transport Plan
6.1 NCC will no longer carry out annual LTP with Parishes submitting key issues to be considered in the annual plan, NCC will implement a three-year LTP.
7. Community Governance Review. NCC has sent out the review to all parish and town councils asking questions about creating, merging, grouping, altering, abolishing, naming of parishes and number of councilors. It was agreed Hepple Parish Council should be positive about its role and therefore remain as it is for the present.
8. Items for information – none.
9. Correspondence
9.1 Email from Hepple Defibrillator Service Guardians advising the council that they are retiring and a new Guardian needs to be sought otherwise the defibrillator will have to be taken out of service. It was agreed to place a notice on the board and to ask around the community. It was also suggested to contact Northeast Ambulance Service. Refresher training in the use of would be a good idea.

10. Planning
 - 10.1 Christ Church - Graveyard Extension. NCC Consultation expiry date: 9 Oct 2025
No Objections
 - 10.2 Hepple Whitefield Estate – Replace deer processing unit with similar. NNP Consultation expiry date: 28 Oct 2025. No Objections.
 - 10.3 Notification – Hepple Village Hall SVP. NCC Expiry date: 07 Nov 2025

11. Finance
 - 11.1 Report. Bank balance £3,092.95. Query about the erratic months that the bank charges are taken. Action: The Chair to explore.
 - 11.2 Election Costs NCC £2,441.11. After negotiations with NCC it was agreed to pay in three monthly installments.
 - 11.3 Agreed to pay £30 Colliedog Computers for new domain name *'heppleparish.uk'*
 - 11.4 Annual budget presented and agreed
 - 11.4a Monthly bank charges to be clarified.
 - 11.4b If the Clerk wants to claim appropriate expenses these must be done prior to the next meeting.
 - 11.4c Village Hall Hire Charges to be agreed.
 - 11.5 Precept. After exploring what other parishes in the area raise and further discussion it was agreed to raise the precept by £150 per year.
Present precept is £1,200. Precept from April 2026 £1,350

12. Meetings attended by councillors or the clerk
 - 12.1 The Chair attended Northumberland Parish Council Chairs Meeting. The debate covered the following topics: planning and lack of enforcement from NCC; lack of support from their county councilor; poor communications with NCC.

14. Any other business – There appears to be several issues with the existing website – not easy to find and or open, this may be due to an older version of the underlying software the latest version is 3. Further exploration is needed prior to making any decisions.

15. Date and time of next meetings: 2nd February 2026 at 19:00hrs
11th May 2026 (AGM)

Annette Evans
Clerk to Hepple Parish Council
Hill View
Hepple