

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 6.30 pm on Thursday 21 May 2015 in Hepscoth Parish Hall.

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), Merle Heppell, Malcolm Paton, Philippa Raper, Ken Reed, Carolyn Reid, Sylvia Johnson (Parish Clerk)

Apologies

Fred Dye, David Cowans (Vice Chair), Glen Sanderson (County Councillor), Ian Lindley (County Councillor)

In attendance

PC Andrea Teasdale, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Morpeth Neighbourhood Policing Team

Michael Benson and Rochelle Johnson (two members of the public)

2. Nomination and election of Chair for 2015/2016

Philip Ashmore was proposed by Ken Reed, seconded by Philippa Raper. There were no other nominations and Philip was duly elected chair for 2015/2016.

3. Nomination and election of Vice Chair for 2015/2016

David Cowans was proposed by Philip Ashmore, seconded by Ken Reed. There were no other nominations and David was duly elected Vice Chair for 2015/2016

4. Confirmation of Committee Members

Philippa Raper, Fred Dye and Ken Reed all expressed their willingness to serve another term and were thanked by Philip Ashmore. Merle Heppell and Hollie Ross, both co-opted members, had decided to step down. Merle expressed her thanks to the Parish Council, stating she had thoroughly enjoyed the last two years working with everyone concerned.

Malcolm Paton and Carolyn Reid expressed their interest to serve the council. They were proposed by Ken Reed, seconded by Philippa Raper and were duly co-opted as Parish Councillors.

5. Chairman's report for year 2014/2015

Philip Ashmore read out the Chair's Annual Report for the year May 2014 – May 2015 (attached).

6. Matters arising from Chairman's Report

There were no matters arising from the Chairman's report.

7. Financial Report for 2014/2015

Sylvia Johnson (RFO) had forwarded members (via email) a statement showing the full expenditure for the year 2014/2015, together with a Financial Statement for that year, showing both income and expenditure. The figures were agreed by the meeting. The accounts will go to the Internal Auditor before being sent to BDO for External Audit.

8. Contributions and questions from members of the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

The AGM was followed by the usual meeting of Hepscoth Parish Council, minutes of which are produced separately.

Minutes prepared by Sylvia Johnson, Parish Clerk/RFO, 6 June 2015

Signed as a true copy:

Hepscott Parish Council: **CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR MAY 2014-MAY 2015**

My great thanks go to all who made the Parish Council work so well this last year: to the team of councillors that has worked so hard and offered great support to me; to the people of Hepscott Parish who have been active and supportive in ways that I don't see in many other parishes; to our excellent Clerk Sylvia who has taken to her role like a duck to water; and to our County Councillors, Glen Sanderson and Ian Lindley.

This year we spent much time in opposition to Barratt's proposals at Stobhill and lost that battle. 40 acres of lovely fields will this year bear their final crop before being covered with housing. But the important thing is that we learned such a lot from that campaign. Now we must divert our energies and try to prevent more developers coming along to ruin the green surrounds of our Parish or to absorb our Parish into a southern suburb of Morpeth.

That is why the time Hepscott Parish Council spent in the last year on the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) is now more important, not less. The good news is that a recent legal case means that our Neighbourhood Plan can continue to "gain weight" in planning terms even before the County's Core Strategy is adopted. So thanks to everyone who supported the MNP's Consultation in January and February. Our participation was vitally important and Hepscott continued its record of punching above its weight, supplying more than 10% of the consultation input from only 5% of the MNP area. The start of the Northern By-Pass in February is a further piece of evidence that putting the majority of our new housing to the north of Morpeth, as proposed by MNP, is the sustainable way to go.

And the year has seen many other village issues handled by the Parish Council. We were consulted on about 20 Parish planning applications and gave our views that hopefully reflected the Parish's; we further gave our views to many County Planning Committees in meetings in Alnwick. Every time our views have been sought by NCC we have responded and hopefully reflected the interests of the Parish. No one can say that Hepscott does not have a voice on issues like County Hall; the County's Core Strategy and their Flooding Strategy and attempts to revamp the Planning System. And thanks to support from our County Councillors we also had the village road resurfaced and will be getting new interactive speed signs on the A192.

So an all-round thanks to the HPC councillors and to the people of the Parish. A special thank you to Merle Heppell and Hollie Ross who have been Parish Councillors for the last 2 years and are leaving the Council.

In the last year HPC has tried hard to serve the interests of the Parish and will continue to do so into 2016.

Phil Ashmore—Chair

21/5/15