

# **HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**To be held on Thursday 20 May 2021  
at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall**

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### **AGENDA**

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Nomination and election of Chair for 2021/2022
3. Nomination and election of Vice Chair for 2021/22
4. Confirmation of Committee Members and co-option of any new members
5. Chairman's report for year 2020/2021
6. Matters arising from Chairman's Report
7. Financial Report for 2020/2021
8. Matters arising from Financial Report

## **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL**

**20 MAY 2021**

Hepscott Parish Council has had a busy and interesting year. Contrary to our expectations at the beginning of 2020 the corona virus pandemic has continued to be a challenge affecting all of us at different levels. Some of us have even become tech-savvy as regards the virtual meetings we have been obliged to have.

As usual these virtual meetings were held on the third Thursday of alternate months. The minutes have been downloaded onto the Parish Council website. Our County Councillor, Glen Sanderson attended most meetings and if unable to attend in person sent a written report covering the most relevant decisions of NCC and giving us an update on the services run by the County. As usual he has been willing to discuss and give advice on current issues affecting the Parish.

The Agenda of each meeting is published on the website. Reports from regular contributors, eg Chairman of the flood group, local speed watch volunteer and local police officer are given at each meeting.

Our speedwatch volunteer gives an update of his deployments with the speed gun in our area. The results are sent to the police inspector in charge of speedwatch throughout the County.

The flood group chaired by Malcom Paton continues to work closely with NCC, Northumbria Water and the Environment Agency to find a way of reducing the ever present flood risk in parts of the village. Considerably detailed investigation of the waterways involved have been carried out and dependent on the results of these surveys, options of methods to reduce the flood risk will be discussed and costed. We are extremely lucky to have the help of Professor Enda O'Connell, without whose expertise and forbearance we would have been, on occasion, floundering - many thanks Enda.

Two years ago in August 2019 HPC decided to set up a Task and Finish group to look at the Council's finances. The group looked at the income and expenditure in detail. The aim was to establish a plan on how to manage the income to the best advantage of all parishioners.

Unfortunately the work of the group came to a stop when it became evident that the outcome of Morpeth Town Council's attempt to take Southfields and part of Stobhill Manor into Morpeth could have a significant effect on the income of HPC. The final decision of the boundary changes was announced in early 2021. Since then the task and finish group has continued to work on the finances and has come up with some recommendations, which when agreed by the Parish Council will be published.

The proposed boundary changes have taken up a great deal of council time and much effort was put into trying to establish what the residents of Southfields and Stobhill Manor actually wanted and then representing this to the NCC. As the old saying goes “you win some and you lose some”. We will be sorry to lose the residents of Stobhill Manor but not until 2025, I understand, and until then you are very much part of Hepscott Parish.

Equally, we are very pleased that Southfields is going to stay in the Parish and even more pleased that Andrea Ranyard, a resident of Southfields, has agreed to sit on the parish council and represent the estate.

I would like to express my personal thanks to all of the Councillors for their support during the year and give a very special thank you to Sylvia, our ever willing and patient parish clerk.

Sadly Malcolm Paton and John Sadler have stood down as Councillors. We thank you both for all your hard work and the effort you have put into the role of Councillor. We wish you both well for the future.

Lastly, I would like to express my thanks to David Cowans who has sat on HPC for many, many years and been Vice Chairman to both Philip and myself. We hope that David will stay as a Councillor in the future so that we can have the value of his experience.

**Carolyn A Reid**  
**Chairman**  
**16 May 2021**

# HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Financial report for the year 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

HPC spent a total of £10,539.52 in the last financial year. Some of our outgoings included:

- Supplementary grass/hedge cutting, in the Orchard and at the side of the Parish Hall, tree and overgrown vegetation removal, and play park inspection amounting to £4,142.50
- Website costs amounting to £1,060
- Provision of the Hepscoth Herald free of charge to all residences in the parish, costing £521.
- Cleaning bus shelters/providing and emptying dog litter bins/checking toddlers play park, amounting to £1,060.00
- We reclaimed VAT of £1026.34

At the end of the financial year the bank statement showed the balance of the current account was £34,342.05 with one un-presented cheque for £104.00. The balance of the Business Account was £6,217.35, giving a total balance of £40,455.40

**Sylvia Johnson**  
**Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer**  
**12 May 2021**