

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 15 July 2021
held in the Parish Hall, Hepscoth

1	Attendance:	Action
	Philip Ashmore (Chair), Carolyn Reid (Vice Chair), David Cowans, Fred Dye, Andrea Ranyard, Sylvia Johnson (Parish Clerk) One member of the public was in attendance	
	Apologies:	
	Anne Colver, Malcolm Paton, CC Glen Sanderson	
	Declarations of Interests:	
	None	
2	Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team:	
	No-one from the police was in attendance, and again no report had been received at the time of the meeting. A letter will be sent to the Police, expressing our dismay at the lack of police representation at our meetings.	PA/SJ
3	Update from County Councillors:	
	Councillor Glen Sanderson was unable to attend but sent a report via email, summarised below: The new Council has settled in with a lot of new faces and are working on their new corporate plan for the next four years. The overarching aim is that NCC move to playing a very proactive role in encouraging new and existing businesses to invest in our County while at the same time doing as much as it can to support those residents who most need help by tackling poverty and health inequalities. Work is due to start at the end of this month on the new battery giga plant at Blyth which will bring over 3000 jobs in a few years and will encourage new industry to invest here in the County. The Government has today announced £21 million for town regeneration in Blyth. The Borderlands Partnership of which NCC is a member with Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, and Scottish Borders Council is up and running, funding £5m to the Alwick Gardens, the new whisky distillery and visitor centre in Wooler and soon a large scale development of the Maltings. Seven town deals in market and coastal towns in Northumberland will get £30 million, and in a few days the first cruise ships arrive in Berwick. Less good is the current consultation around the East Coast Mainline where proposals include a reduction in trains from Morpeth of around 30%. We are lobbying Government strongly on this. Finally our work on Climate Change continues and we are looking to work more closely with Parish and Town Councils.	
4	Minutes of two meetings held on 20 May 2021 and matters arising:	
4.1	Minutes from both meetings had been agreed by councillors via email and the minutes had been published on the website.	
4.2	Matters Arising: (a) Rob Murfin, Director of Planning, NCC, has agreed to attend the meeting of HPC on 16 September to discuss planning issues and S106 applications. (b) Drain repair: Ongoing by CR (c) Car Park edging: Ongoing by DC	CR DC

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5	Planning Applications	
	<p>HPC had responded to all recent planning applications, a detailed schedule of which is attached to these minutes as Addendum 1.</p> <p>19/03789/FUL - Land West of Field House, Hepscoth - this application has been permitted, with 24 conditions. Thanks to HPC, conditions apply concerning the bridge, on the farm track to the farm. The development shall not commence until a structural survey has been undertaken; it should include the safe weight limit the bridge can stand and appropriate signage displayed; the development shall not commence until necessary work is completed.</p> <p>20/03423/REM - Greenfield House, Hepscoth, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 6LH - PA and AC attended and spoke against the application at the recent Planning Committee Meeting. The unlawful destruction of the bat colony was discussed; however all our efforts were in vain as the application was approved by the Committee.</p> <p>20/02280/VARYCO - Four Winds - PA had sent an email to the owner of Four Winds regarding indiscriminate parking and inviting him to attend the Council meeting to discuss the issue, but he declined. His workmen and contractors have now blocked the footpath for more than 2 months, forcing pedestrians into the road at a dangerous bend. The developer appears unmoved by our requests to stop blocking the footpath.</p> <p>21/01703/FUL - Greenfield House - PA to write to GS to ascertain if this retrospective application is to go to Committee or be delegated to Officer decision.</p>	PA
6	Flood Sub Group:	
	MP was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a copy of the Flood Sub Group Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Addendum 2.	
7	Financial Matters:	
7.1	Statement of Finances: Documents had been emailed to Councillors with the Agenda and were approved, including items of £100 or over.	
7.2	<p>Task and Finish Group: CR/AR had met recently to identify needs for South Fields and to ensure that the residents feel part of Hepscoth Parish. It had been agreed to ask residents, via their Face Book page, for their ideas/views on any items required, and several options had been forwarded to AR; these included benches/notice boards/dog litter bins/grit bins/fencing at play park. It was noted that Barratt Homes would need to be approached for discussion on siting these.</p> <p>Views had also been sought how to attract South Fields residents to use the Parish Hall and what they would like to see it be used for. AR had received lots of comments regarding this which will be followed up at a later meeting. A South Fields residents committee had been set up and the next meeting will be in September. PA asked AR to remind residents that South Fields is in Hepscoth Parish, not in Morpeth Parish. It was agreed that we should investigate the postal address for South Fields.</p>	CR/AR
7.3	<p>Internet Banking: Discussion took place about switching to Internet Banking as the way forward. Up to now all invoices are paid by cheques, which require two signatures from 3 of the authorised signatories. SJ had discussed moving to internet banking with Morpeth branch of TSB and was informed that one person would be responsible for the account (the RFO), but that two others would be able to have read only access to the account. This will be looked at in further detail. Councillors were asked to give any "fors and againsts" consideration for a discussion at the next HPC meeting in September.</p>	AII/SJ
8.	South Fields/Stobhill Manor update	
	Covered in 7.2 above.	

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9.	Website:	
	PA stated that he had recently read through the new website and was concerned at how out of date a lot of the information was. He noted that there was no mention of South Fields. He asked all Councillors to go through the website and give their thoughts to either him or SJ by the end of July.	All
10.	Speeding and Parking issues:	
	A member of the public (PP) attended the meeting, to stress his concerns about vehicles speeding through the village, which he can see from his garden in Stoneleigh, Hepscott Village. He stated that although there are 20 mph speed signs in the village many vehicles do not adhere to this. PA recognised that some vehicles do go above the limit, and asked for PP's views on how to resolve the issue. PP mentioned traffic calmers, but when HPC first looked into traffic calming at the time of introduction of the 20 mph limit, residents gave views that they did not want speed humps or chicanes. FD offered to request a traffic survey to record the data for one week and get the facts, which was accepted. It was agreed that FD contact GS to request this, and stress it is on behalf of a concerned resident.	FD
11.	Hepscott Parish Hall:	
11.1	Management Committee: DC informed the meeting that there had been little in the way of meetings, but that activities were slowly starting to open up again after COVID restrictions were eased. A Cocktail Party is to be held on 23 July and a Music Festival fundraiser for an autism charity is to take place on 22 August with four bands playing. DC stated that the committee is again talking about a possible extension to the hall and an exploratory meeting will take place.	
11.2	Main car park drain: Matt Storey is to look at and quote for repair of the drain.	CR
11.3	Car park extension edging: DC will continue to work on this within previously agreed budget	DC
12.	Correspondence/Meetings and Training attended:	
12.1	Correspondence: SJ had received a letter from Peter Matthewson, owner of Clarkes Bog nature reserve, thanking the council for their donation towards notice boards, and inviting members of the council to visit the site.	
12.2	Training: A series of training facilitated by NALC and held via Zoom has been attended as follows: SJ/CR/AR participated in "Budgets, Precepts and Finance". AR participated in "General Introduction to Local Councils" AR/CR participated in "Introduction to Planning" CR is due to participate in "Highways and Public Rights of Way" on 19 July	
12	Date and time of next meeting:	
	The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16 September 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall (unless any further COVID restrictions are in place). The meeting will be attended by Mr Rob Murfin, Director of Planning, NCC for the first hour.	

Minutes taken and prepared by: Sylvia Johnson, Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Signed as a true copy:

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Addendum 1 – Item 5

**Details of recent planning applications discussed at the meeting of
Hepscott Parish Council on Thursday 15 July 2021**

- Land west of Field House, Hepscott – Change of use of existing agricultural buildings and land to residential including conversion to 5 dwellings (as amended 29.01.2020)
19/03789/FUL – permitted

- Four Winds, Hepscott - Variation of condition/discharge of condition: 2 (plans), 3 (mitigation), 4 and 5 (trees), 6 (landscape), 7 (car parking), 8 (cycle parking), 9 (demolition), 10 (waste) 11 (surface water) and 12 (materials) ... pursuant to planning application 19/03670/FUL
20/02280/VARYCO – permitted

- Greenfield House, Hepscott - Reserved Matters application for appearance, scale, layout and landscaping for 2no. dwellings on approved planning application 20/00385/OUT
20/03423/REM – permitted at recent Planning Committee meeting, but not confirmed in writing

- Clifton Car Sales, Clifton Garage, Great North Road, Clifton - Change of use from Car Sales to reinstate the previous use (prior to 2005) as a petrol filling station
20/04006/COU – permitted

- 2 Fir Tree Copse, Hepscott - TPO application to fell 2no Scots Pine trees on south border of property.
21/00798/FELTPO – permitted

- Rudchester, Hepscott - Demolish garage/outbuildings, construct 2 storey rear extension.
21/00755/FUL – permitted

- Land south of Parkhouse Banks, Coopies Lane, Morpeth - Proposed portacabin classroom and two wooden hides
21/00968/FUL – permitted

- 9 Crofts Park, Hepscott - Creation of first floor balcony to rear of existing dwelling
21/01344/FUL – permitted

- 7 Crofts Park, Hepscott - Proposed removal of half of existing pitched roof and addition of additional second storey with flat roof; single storey extension to side/front with flat roof over; external insulation/render applied to existing walls; timber cladding to new 2 storey extension.
21/01586/FUL – withdrawn by applicant

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Addendum 1 – Item 5 (cont/d)

- Greenfield House, Hepscoth - Retrospective works to dwelling including removal of car port and garage, alterations to roof, windows and door openings and construction of outbuilding.
21/01703/FUL – registered

- 13 Eglington Close, Stobhill Manor, Morpeth - Part replacement of boundary fences
21/02008/FUL – registered

- 2 Catchburn Close, South Fields, Morpeth - Construction of a rear two storey and single storey extension
21/02030 – permitted

- 28 Norham Drive, Stobhill Manor, Morpeth - TPO - Tree 1 Ash: fell due to proximity to house, overhanging of house, shade that is created; Tree 2 Ash : thinning of tree by 30%
21/02056/FELTPO – registered

- 17 Field House Close, Hepscoth - Alterations internally to provide additional bedroom, change garage to a habitable room (study & utility). Build new timber framed garage/garden store and summer house
21/02342/FUL - registered

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Addendum 2

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

FLOOD SUBGROUP REPORT

15 JULY 2021

1. JOINT FLOOD STUDY GROUP:

A virtual meeting was held on the 16 April 2021 attended by Aaron McNeill (NCC), Elain Smith (NWA), Rebeca Croft (NCC), Carolyn Reid, Phil Ashmore, Andy Youngs, Enda O'Connell and Malcolm Paton.

- a. The computer model has been refined and is now producing more acceptable results
- b. A revised hydrology report has also been produced.
- c. Various scenarios have been examined against the computer model.
- d. Optioneering - The Engineers have identified location where work could be undertaken to hold rainfall back in the catchment.
- e. Costs of Optioneering solutions being identified.
- f. Business case to be submitted to the EA.
- g. Also looking for other funding options.
- h. Further meeting to be organised.

2. SMART MONITORING AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT:

- a. NCC has been successful in a bid to attract funding to develop a smart rainfall monitoring system which will use Hepscott among other places in its development. This would give us an early warning system for potential flooding situations.
- b. Currently we have no system other than personal observations.

3. HEPSCOTT FLOOD WARDENS :

- a. Nothing to report.

4. OTHER ISSUES:

- a. HPC and the Flood Subgroup continue to monitor planning application's which could impact on flooding.
- b. Gully cleansing and road sweeping programme being looked at by NCC.
- c. Barratt and Bellway SUDS and management to be looked into.