

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 20 May 2021
held in the Parish Hall, Hepscoth

1	Attendance:	Action
	Philip Ashmore (Chair), Carolyn Reid (Vice Chair), David Cowans, Fred Dye, Anne Colver, Andrea Ranyard, Sylvia Johnson (Parish Clerk)	
	Apologies:	
	None	
	Declarations of Interests:	
	Malcolm Paton	
2	Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team:	
	No-one from the police was in attendance, and no report had been received at the time of the meeting. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Police, expressing our dismay at the lack of police representation at our meetings.	PA/SJ
3	Update from County Councillors:	
	No County Councillors were in attendance. It was noted that both Glen Sanderson and John Beynon were re-elected to County Council at the recent elections and our congratulations are sent to them.	
4	Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021 and matters arising:	
4.1	Minutes from the meeting had been agreed by councillors via email and the minutes had been published on the website.	
4.2	Matters Arising: It was agreed that we seek dates from Rob Murfin, Director of Planning at NCC, of when he would be available to come and talk to councillors as agreed about Planning Matters. It was agreed that the meeting should be separate from the regular HPC meetings.	
5	Planning Applications	
	HPC had responded to all recent planning applications, a detailed schedule of which is attached to these minutes as Addendum 1. PA agreed to write to NCC to get updates on the Land West of Field House and on Greenfield House.	PA
6	Flood Sub Group:	
	CR reported that NCC/Northumbrian Water/Environment Agency were looking at the results of the study to predict where in the parish was most likely to flood and the options to reduce flooding problems. The Study Group was looking at possible locations for upstream water storage and at possible funding options.	
7	Financial Matters:	
7.1	Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2020/2021:	
	7.1.1 Councillors read and agreed the report from the Internal Auditor (page 4 AGAR Return).	
	7.1.2 Councillors read and approved the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR) (page 5 AGAR Return).	
	7.1.3 Councillors read and approved the draft annual accounts for 2020/2021.	
	7.1.4 Councillors read and approved the Accounting Statement, Explanation of Variances and /Explanation for "High" Reserves (page 6 AGAR Return and attachments).	
	7.1.5 Councillors read and approved the Certificate of Exemption (page 3 AGAR Return).	
	7.1.6 Councillors read and approved the Bank Reconciliation.	

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	All relevant documents were signed off by PA and SJ. SJ will now forward the appropriate AGAR forms to PKF Littlejohn, External Auditors. SJ was thanked for all her work on the annual AGAR, which was considerable.	SJ
7.2	The statement of 2021/2022 ytd finances were approved, including items of £100 or over.	
7.3	<p>Moving forward the Finance Task and Finish Group: It was agreed that CR would take on leadership of the TFG. For the past 3 years HPC had financial concerns over the Land Grab, Morpeth Town Council's attempt to annexe South Fields and Stobhill Manor Hepscott estates. This would have halved our income and population. The outcome was decided in January this year, with South Fields remaining in Hepscott Parish and SMH going to Morpeth in 2025. HPC had been extra prudent during that period, but is now in a position to start to finance expenditure throughout the Parish as recommended by the TFG. TFG recommendations were agreed at the March HPC meeting and TFG would now work on the detail. No expenditure would be finalised, except by an HPC meeting. During the discussion of the AGAR, 8 reserves were identified for various categories of expenditure. The role of the TFG would be to recommend to HPC any amendments or changes to those categories and the amounts held in reserve. HPC would make the final decision.</p> <p>Two dog litter bins (Dunces Houses) were agreed, as were 2 bin replacements and a new bin for the play park at SMH. SJ to investigate signage on the bins, denoting "Provided by Hepscott Parish Council".</p>	SJ
8	South Fields/Stobhill Manor update:	
8.1	South Fields: Following the recent online meeting (14/4/21) Cllr GS had sent an update to the South Fields Facebook page.	
8.2	Stobhill Manor: PA had spoken with Jackie Roll and 3 colleagues from Democratic Services, NCC, in April and was informed that Stobhill Manor Hepscott would remain within HPC until May 2025, when the next elections are due. HPC would of course continue to serve and represent SMH until that date.	
9.	Speeding and Parking issues:	
	<p>FD reported that the Speed Camera Van had been at the NISA shop in Guide Post recently. He stated that speeding is a number one issue in Northumberland. Several new sites have been authorised for use by speed camera vans. He informed the meeting that Inspector Patterson had taken over responsibility for Community Speed Watch and that he was committed to it.</p> <p>FD reported that the potholes in Field House Lane have been reported by both FD and DC. It was agreed that FD should contact GS after one week if they had not been repaired.</p> <p>Blockage of pavements remained an issue at Four Winds. The pavements outside had been blocked with "Footpath Closed" signs for 2 months now, forcing pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs into the road.</p>	<p>FD</p> <p>PBA</p>

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10	Hepscoth Parish Hall:	
10.1	<p>Parish Hall Committee Meetings:</p> <p>DC stated that the Committee hoped to look again at extending the Parish Hall and would be looking for funding; they hope to apply for a grant, but also wondered if HPC would be able to provide any funding. PA said it had been mentioned in the TFG's report and HPC would welcome a discussion with the Hall Committee.</p> <p>The Hall Committee had agreed that they need the Parish Hall to be kept on HPC's website. SJ stated that Ken Reed had always been the person who kept the page updated and they need to look for someone to keep this going.</p> <p>DC stated that classes were starting up again after easing of lockdown.</p> <p>A scarecrow competition is to be held soon (date to be confirmed).</p>	
10.2	<p>Main car park drain: The drain had been repaired/cleaned out but has collapsed again. CR stated that Matt from Storey Engineering was going to have a look at it.</p>	CR
10.3	<p>Car park extension edging: DC had asked Paul Martin to give HPC a quote for the edging of the car park.</p>	DC
11	Correspondence/Meetings and Training attended:	
11.1	A letter had been received from a resident of the village regarding speeding vehicles through the village.	
11.2	Insurance: SJ had received the annual quotes for insurance. The premium has increased by almost double. SJ had emailed asking why this was. It was agreed to wait until a response was received before making any payment of premiums.	
12	Date and time of next meeting:	
	The next meeting will be held on Thursday 15 July 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall (unless any further restrictions are put into place).	

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 20 May 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 – Awaiting decision

- 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 – Registered

- 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 – Registered

- 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 – Registered

- Augusta House, Park Side, Hepscott Morpeth Northumberland NE61 6LX - Proposed alterations to property including part garage conversion, internal alterations and dormer windows to rear roof slope, plus canopy entry and bow window to front.
21/00242/FUL – Permitted

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

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

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

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