

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2022
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (Chairman) (GB)
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)
Councillor Robin Shackleton (RS)
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)
Councillor Justin Seldis (JS)
Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)
District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

One member of public was present.

22/016 PUBLIC FORUM

Concern was expressed about the lack of waiting area, pavement and lighting around the bus shelter at the north end of The Street, Hepworth. There was discussion about these safety concerns and what could be done to improve the situation. Longer term there was the vision to extend the pavements and add to the street lighting but this was subject to funding which might become available as part of the expected improvements to local infrastructure from the Shepherds Grove development. A short-term solution might be to add a further bus stop midway along The Street and this will be investigated.

22/017 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a) JS had previously had a virtual meeting with GB and CG. JS had talked about the preliminary meeting about the Shepherds Grove development.
- b) JS had advised that there had been no progress in respect of the resurfacing of the bridlepath known as Weston Way due to lack of response from the BHS.
- c) JS had no more to add about the traffic calming scheme.
- d) JS had asked about the flooding issues by the bus stop at the north end of The Street, Hepworth and progress. GB advised that work to the culvert under the bus stop would be done when appropriate which would then allow for digging out of the ditch.
- e) CB spoke about the traffic calming plans and the street lighting from the WSC angle. It appears there has been a lack of communication between SCC and WSC as to a solution to the street lighting issues. The parish council will continue to push with the help of both CB and JS.
- f) CB confirmed that a grant for £300 for Jubilee Corner would be paid.
- g) CB advised that a grant might be available for the proposed work to the recreation ground trees being managed by Hepworth Recreation Ground committee.
- h) CB advised that she was working with Havebury Housing to install flood prevention measures to the bungalows at the north end of The Street, Hepworth.
- i) CB advised that WSC are going to work with the owners of Blacksmith Cottage, The Street, Hepworth with a view to tidying up the grounds and improving the appearance.

22/018 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Helen Corris (HC) and the reason was accepted. Also, apologies were received from County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)

22/019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

MM declared an interest in agenda item 10 (a). LR declared an interest in agenda item 8 (a).

22/020 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

22/021 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meetings held on 20 January 2022 had been previously circulated.

It was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.

22/022 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

22/023 VILLAGE EQUIPMENT, TREES AND HIGHWAYS

- a) The continued parking concerns in Church Lane, Hepworth were discussed. It was noted there were still difficulties. It was agreed to send the previously approved letter to residents but acknowledged that the Parish Council's powers were limited and it might be necessary for other agencies to get involved.
- b) MM reported that the Quiet Lanes Suffolk formalities had now been completed and confirmation had been received that Hepworth were in Wave 4.
- c) PP reported that he had received quotes for work to the willow tree on Willow Green - £1,560 to fell the tree and £750 to take the top out. It was thought UKPN might take responsibility for the work in view of the adjacent power line. UKPN will be contacted.
- d) The traffic calming scheme had already been discussed at 22/017(e) above.
- e) LR reported that work at Jubilee Corner was currently on hold. The fabric would be laid when a source of woodchips was available.
- f) It was noted that despite reporting to SCC large logs etc are still on the road boundary in The Street, Hepworth which have potential for causing damage to vehicles.

22/024 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

- a) The beacon was in course of construction and there were discussions about the location on the Recreation Ground.
- b) There were discussions about the official opening of Jubilee Corner.
- c) It was suggested that publicity needs to continue and a further item in the Hepworth Herald was needed.

22/025 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) The following payment was considered for approval.
£36.00 to Hepworth Recreation Ground – hall hire
It was resolved to approve this payment.
- b) The appointment of an auditor for the internal audit for 2021/2022 was considered.
It was resolved to appoint Malcolm Saunders as internal auditor.

22/026 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) There was discussion in respect of the proposed development at Shepherds Grove, Stanton and the meeting for local parish councillors on 24 February 2022. It was agreed that GB and PP would attend and report back.
- b) The situation with Blacksmiths Cottage, The Street, Hepworth was discussed at 22/017(i) above.

- c) Planning application DC/22/0137/HH relating to Greenfields, Church Lane, Hepworth was considered.
It was resolved to advise WSC that there was no objection.
- d) There was an update in respect of the recent planning applications.

22/027 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) There was a broad discussion about a request for bike ramps. It was difficult to take further without knowing what the ramps involved, where they could be located and costs. It was recognised that more detail as needed and perhaps Hepworth Recreation Ground committee would need to be involved.
- b) There had been a discussion on safety in the area of the bus stop at 22/016 above.
- c) The appropriateness of an emergency action plan for the village was considered. NB agreed to start constructing a plan.
- d) Other correspondence which had been previously circulated was considered and no action was needed.

22/028 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) MM spoke about two projects that the Hepworth Recreation Ground committee were considering and invited feedback. The installation of CCTV was planned and this was considered appropriate in view of the recent vandalism. Work to the conifer trees and hedges was discussed and options were considered. It was agreed that the preferred option was reducing the height to around 4/5m.
- b) There was talk about the official opening of the village sign, by whom and when. Various options were considered and will be explored further.
- c) Concerns were expressed about the volume of litter along The Street, Hepworth.
- d) There was conversation about tree planting and the free trees available. PP is going to promote accordingly.

22/029 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 17 March 2022 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
22 February 2022