

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

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Robin Shackleton (Chairman) (RS)  
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)  
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)  
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)  
Councillor Justin Seldis (JS)  
Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB)  
Councillor Helen Corris (HC)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)  
County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JSp)  
District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

Two members of public were present.

**22/036 PUBLIC FORUM**

There was a discussion about the possible provision of bike jumps and what these might look like in design, area needed and landscaping. CB commented that there was a similar facility elsewhere in West Suffolk and she would make enquiries. JS said he would make enquiries about the closed track at Rickenhall. It was asked if the Parish Council could be provided with a drawing showing design and size of area needed. This will be considered further at the next meeting.

**22/037 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

- a) JSp spoke about developments with the flood zone in The Street, Hepworth and communications with both a landowner and Havebury on how to improve the situation.
- b) JSp talked about the Reclaim the Rain project and how this might affect Hepworth.
- c) JSp spoke about the recent meeting with Jaynic and the proposed development at Shepherds Grove, Stanton. It was noted little more will happen until a formal planning application is submitted.
- d) JSp explained the current situation with the proposed traffic calming plans for the village and the recent update from SCC. It was noted that SCC were suggesting that there needs to be a further nine street lights and that WSC had declined to fund this part of the project but SCC had agreed to do so. This would increase the project cost substantially. There were questions about the number of street lights and the affect these would have on the surrounding environment. There was concern about the need for further street lighting. There was discussion on how this can be taken forward. It was suggested the current design was probably not the best scheme and JSp would work with SCC on a review. JSp said the SCC highway engineer now responsible for the project would visit in next few weeks and JSp will make arrangements for this to happen and involve councillors. There was a suggestion that SCC should proceed with the village gateways now. There was a question about the evidence or legislation suggesting that additional street lighting was required. The desire to possibly have designated bus stops also needed to be included within the scheme.

- e) It was noted that the right of way Weston Way still had not been resurfaced. JSp said she will push for action.
- f) CB reported that WSC were working with the owner of Blacksmiths Cottage, The Street, Hepworth to improve the appearance.
- g) CB spoke about the administration of the £150 council tax refund for properties in Bands A to D.

#### 22/038 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) and the reason was accepted.

#### 22/039 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 22/040 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

#### 22/041 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meetings held on 17 February 2022 and 5 March 2022 had been previously circulated.

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

#### 22/042 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) NB gave an update with the preparation of the Community Emergency Action Plan. There will be a need to purchase some items. There was concern over the phasing out of telephone landlines and how this would affect communication in an emergency.

**It was resolved to allow NB to spend up to £100 on items for the Community Emergency Action Plan.**

- b) There was a review of the arrangements for the unveiling of the village sign on Friday 18 March 2022.
- c) It was noted that the logs on the edge of the road in The Street, Hepworth had now been removed.

#### 22/043 VILLAGE EQUIPMENT, TREES AND HIGHWAYS

- a) The comments received in respect of the parking in Church Lane, Hepworth were noted. The feedback was appreciated and it was acknowledged that there should be considerate parking throughout the village.
- b) MM gave an update in respect of the Quiet Lanes Suffolk project. It was noted that there were still many questions about how SCC will deliver.
- c) PP gave an update on the willow tree on Willow Green, The Street, Hepworth. PP advised that the work to cut out the top will be done free. PP was asked to keep in mind the need for a risk assessment.
- d) The situation with the traffic calming project had been discussed at 22/037 (d) above. It was confirmed that a meeting was needed with the SCC highways engineer to review the project and seek answers to various questions.
- e) The situation with finding locations for designated bus stops along The Street, Hepworth had also been discussed at 22/037 (d) above.

#### 22/044 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

There was discussion on progress with the celebration event planned for Thursday 2 June 2022. It was agreed there needed to be more focus at the next meeting on the timings for the event, attractions, publicity and the risk assessment.

22/045 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) The following payments were considered for approval.  
£22.80 to SALC – payroll  
£187.20 to SALC – councillor training  
£292.00 to HMRC – PAYE/NI  
£1168.16 to C Garman – Parish Clerk’s salary from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.  
**It was resolved to approve these payments.**
- b) The parish clerk’s salary was reviewed.  
**It was resolved to increase the salary by 1.75% from 1 April 2022.**
- c) The income and expenditure statement for the period to 17 December 2021 with the budget was reviewed together with the bank reconciliation and bank statements.  
**It was resolved to confirm that the bank reconciliation agreed with the bank statements.**
- d) The need to replace the existing lap top computer was considered. It was agreed that CG should seek quotations for consideration at the next meeting.

22/046 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) There was discussion in respect of the proposed development at Shepherds Grove, Stanton and the meeting for local parish councillors that was held on 24 February 2022. PP and GB had prepared a report that was noted. It was noted that the key concern from the meeting was the traffic flows and creation of rat runs for lorries and the need for possible weight limits.
- b) There was an update in respect of the recent planning applications.

22/047 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence which had been previously circulated was considered and no action was needed.

22/048 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) There was a conversation about a village litter pick with a suggested date of Saturday 2 April 2022.
- b) The Community Emergency Action Plan should be ready for approval at the next meeting and should be an agenda item.

22/049 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 20 April 2022 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Christopher Garman  
Parish Clerk  
21 March 2022