

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 2022
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB) (Chairman)
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)
Councillor Justin Seldis (JS)

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Nine members of public were present.

22/109 PUBLIC FORUM

The chairman agreed that the public could speak later.

22/110 APOLOGIES

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB), Councillor Helen Corris (HC) and Councillor Robin Shackleton (RS) had offered their apologies and these were accepted. It was noted that HC has now resigned and thanks and best wishes were sent.

22/111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

22/112 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

22/113 TRAFFIC CALMING REPORT

JSp spoke about the traffic calming plans and how they had been developed. JSp apologised for the change of plans and the missing out of the need for street lighting in the previous plan which would have amongst other concerns have made that project too costly.

JSp also spoke about a separate plan to reduce the speed limit on the short stretch of The Street, Hepworth between the A143 junction and the current 30 mph boundary that currently has the national speed limit, to 40mph which should encourage vehicles to travel slower before they reach the 30mph boundary. This will involve a legal process and include consultations and would be managed separate to the traffic calming project.

JSp then talked about the revised traffic calming plans which had been explained to some councillors at an informal meeting on 9 August 2022. The new plan involved increase signage and road markings and construction of picket fencing to create a village gateway. The desired impact is to reinforce the speed limit, slow down traffic with pinch points and emphasise that this is a residential area. To facilitate funding, the project would be divided with SCC dealing with the highways aspects and the Parish Council dealing with the fencing at the gateways.

Whilst the Parish Council would manage the gateways, JSp confirmed that she would source the funding and so there would be no impact on the Parish Council's budget. JSp said there was no need to have a public consultation and councillors considered that the proposed plans would probably have no negative impact on any individual properties.

There was discussion about including a 7.5 tonne weight restriction along The Street, Hepworth into the project in anticipation of expected increase in vehicles as a result of the proposed Shepherds Grove development. JSp said she would not support a request for this restriction at the moment. NB suggested that the Parish Council should look into the SCC policy and requirements for weight restrictions.

It was noted that JSp said SCC would proceed as soon as possible but it could take around 12 months to deliver. It was noted that SCC would conduct a traffic survey within 12 months of completion to ascertain the impact of the traffic calming project.

JSp said she would be meeting the SCC officer on 30 August 2022 to take matters forward and NB asked for confirmation when contractors had been appointed.

During the course of the discussion NB allowed the public to intervene with their thoughts.

NB summarised the discussions.

- a) It was agreed that the Parish Council was supportive of the revised plans for the traffic calming and speed limit reduction.
- b) It was agreed that the Parish Council would manage the purchase and installation of the village gateways with funding coming from JSp and possibly CB and be responsible for them thereafter.
- c) Information will be gathered on SCC's policy on weight restrictions and if need be ascertain using a FOI request.
- d) CG will research the purchase of gateways and liaise with JSp and CB in respect of funding.
- e) There were expectations that the project would be completed in 12 months.
- f) CG will obtain from JSp an electronic version of the traffic calming plans for publication on the website.

22/114 PROPOSED SHEPHERDS GROVE DEVELOPMENT

There was discussion about forming a working group to focus on the proposed Shepherds Grove development possibly working with neighbouring parish councils prompted by an email received from a resident. CB pointed out that neighbouring villages had differing concerns about the proposed plans and the level of impact on their villages.

Thought was given to employing a planning consultant to assist in the consultation response bearing in mind it will probably be a complex application and professional guidance should enable the important aspects to be drawn out and so presented in the consultation response. It was noted that professional guidance will come with a cost and thought would need to be given on how this would be funded.

Also, in preparation, it was suggested that approaches be made to other villages in the location of existing Copart operations to learn from their experiences.

During the course of the discussion NB invited the public to share their thoughts.

A member of public shared their experiences of Copart and in preparation suggested councillors should visit one of their sites. Others expressed their concerns about the impact of such a business adjacent to the village.

22/115 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) JSp asked to speak about the situation with the suggested removal of trees to the rear of Church Close, Hepworth adjacent to the footpath. JSp explained the situation and confirmed that no contracts had been placed. JSp said she would arrange a meeting with PP, residents, the landowner and the SCC officer to explore the options.
- b) CB mentioned that there were some possible funding sources to assist community premises with the increased energy costs.

22/116 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting which will be on Thursday 15 September 2022 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
29 August 2022

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