

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021
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)

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

One member of public was present.

10/001 PUBLIC FORUM

None.

10/002 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- a) CB talked about the campaign to get drivers to turn off engines when stationary. CB reported that the WSC Local Plan was moving forward and there would be a further opportunity to comment. CB spoke about the plans for the Christmas Fair in Bury St Edmunds this year which would be a smaller event. CB encouraged the Parish Council to consider a climate change policy.
- b) County Councillor Joanna Spicer was not present. CG was asked to obtain an update in respect of the flooding in The Street by the bus shelter.

10/003 APOLOGIES

None – all councillors present. County Councillor Joanna Spicer was not present.

10/004 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

10/005 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

10/006 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meetings held on 2 September 2021 and 9 September 2021 had been previously circulated.

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

10/007 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

10/008 VILLAGE EQUIPMENT, TREES AND HIGHWAYS

- a) RS reported on progress with the village sign. A contractor has been selected. A revised quotation to reflect the increase in materials will probably be needed. The plan is to have the work done in the spring 2022.
- b) MM reported on the situation with Quiet Lanes Suffolk. The traffic counts may still need to be completed. MM will chase the SCC QLS team.
- c) GB gave an update on progress with the culvert fencing. A quotation for materials costing £252.72 including VAT from Clarkes of Walsham was discussed. CB suggested a grant from her Locality Budget could be made available for this work.

It was resolved to proceed with the purchase of materials costing £252.72 for the repairs.

- d) There was a discussion about the willow tree adjacent to the Anglian Water building in The Street. It was noted that Havebury Housing say they do not own the land. CG was asked to contact Anglian Water to ask them to undertake work to the tree or acknowledge they do not own the land and have no objection to the Parish Council doing the work.
- e) The way forward with the traffic calming project was deferred until such time as County Councillor Spicer could provide some guidance.

10/009 EVENTS

There was discussion about an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. It was decided to construct and light a beacon on the evening of 2 June and to precede this with a family event involving a band, burger van, bouncy castle and bar from 6 – 9 pm. The cost of the various elements to such an event was considered.

It was resolved to allocate in the 2022/2023 budget an amount of £1,100 for the event.

10/010 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

MM reported on the increasing amount of antisocial behaviour at the Recreation Ground and the damage to property. A considerable amount of rubbish is having to be cleared. The situation has been reported to the police who appear to be increasing their patrols. The village hall team are considering installing CCTV.

10/011 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) An income and expenditure statement had been previously circulated. This was noted. There was no bank reconciliation to confirm as the bank statements had not been received.
- b) The following payments were considered for approval.
 - £54.00 to SALC – payroll
 - £378.98 to H Corris – Clerk's salary and expenses
 - £184.60 to HMRC – Payroll PAYE/NI

It was resolved to approve all these payments.

- c) Income of £2.30 from UK Power Networks was noted.
- d) A draft budget for 2022/2023 with previous year comparisons had been previously circulated. CG explained the figures and suggested focus at this stage on the sums possibly needed for projects, equipment and events. There was discussion about various amounts that should be included. It was decided at this stage of the budget process to include amounts of £600 for a new laptop computer, £425 for donations, £1100 for the Jubilee celebration event, £1200 for work to Jubilee Corner (a triangular area of land on path leading to the recreation ground), £650 for the village sign, £500 for tree planting and allocate £1,000 to a village hall reserve. It was acknowledged that further consideration is needed with the business-as-usual budget lines as part on the process of then agreeing a budget and setting the precept.

- e) The benefits of the Parish Council having its own website were considered.
It was resolved to set in motion the setting up of a website with Community Actions Suffolk.
- f) The signatories with Barclays Bank were reviewed.
It was resolved to delete Helen Corris and add Councillor Justin Seldis.
- g) It was noted that there were two vacancies on the Parish Council and that there had been no previous applications.
It was resolved to advertise the two vacancies on the noticeboard and in the Hepworth Herald.
- h) The appointment of a Responsible Financial Officer was considered.
It was resolved to appoint Christopher Garman as Responsible Financial Officer.

10/012 PLANNING MATTERS

None.

10/013 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and considered. No further action was needed.

10/014 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) Concern was expressed about the poor state of the garden at Blacksmiths Cottage and the hedge that covers the pavement. Various courses of action were considered.
- b) There was discussion about planting trees for the Jubilee.
- c) There was discussion about finding appropriate land for allotments.
- d) The situation with repeated Anglian Water leaks on The Street was discussed along with the frequent road closures.

10/015 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 18 November 2021 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
23 September 2021