

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2022
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (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)

No members of public were present.

22/117 PUBLIC FORUM

No public present.

22/118 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a) JF spoke about the works to resurface Weston Lane and that she had been advised that the works will start week commencing 31 October 2022.

JF talked about the meeting with some Church Close residents and others about the trees etc. It has been agreed that two will be felled and others trimmed.

Following an email received, JF asked about the issues with the hedge at the junction of North Common and Barningham Road which is causing visibility problems. PP advised that he was having informal discussions with the landowner.

JF spoke about the village gateways forming part of the traffic calming project and advised that SCC will now source and install them as part of the project. JF considered that between her budgets and some funding from CB that the cost will be covered with no funds needed from the Parish Council.

JF advised she had no further news about the developments at Shepherds Grove.

- b) CB encouraged councillors to attend the West Suffolk parishes conference.

CB talked about further discounts becoming available for those in need in respect of the council tax.

CB reminded that WSC were considering grants to assist with the heating costs of churches and community buildings.

22/119 APOLOGIES

Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB) had offered his apologies, and these were accepted.

22/120 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Both LR and MM declared an interest in item 9 (a).

22/121 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

22/122 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 July 2022 and 25 August 2022 had been previously circulated.

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

22/123 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

GB spoke about the need to find a person to take over the recharging of the SID's and the downloading of the data. A request will be put in the next edition of the Hepworth Herald.

22/124 VILLAGE ASSETS, TREES AND HIGHWAYS

a) A decision was needed in respect of the style of the village gates forming part of the traffic calming project. Consideration was given the various styles available from Glasdons.

It was resolved to request SCC to purchase and install three style 183/0014 from Glasdons measuring 1800 mm high and 960 mm width in white.

b) The condition of the surface of Weston Lane was discussed earlier and it was noted that the SCC contractor will sweep the surface week commencing 31 October 2022 and install a new surface week commencing 14 November 2022.

c) It was noted that the recreation ground committee had declined the bike ramp proposal but sincerely admired the drive and input on the project. They felt unable to help with the project due to cost, insurance and legality issues. There was a discussion on how this project could proceed bearing in mind the recreation ground land needed, the resources to build to an appropriate standard, keeping it maintained and balancing this with possible usage.

It was resolved to no longer proceed with the bike ramps project.

d) It was noted that despite a few challenges the repairs to the culvert fencing had been completed. It was also noted that the ditch adjacent to the bus stop had now been cleared. Action will now be taken to rod the drain under the bus stop base and under the road.

e) It was noted that there continued to be what was considered an excessive number of mains water leaks causing disruption to supply and lengthy road closures. CG was asked to write to Anglian Water expressing concern at the continued disruptions and the road closures some of which appear to be for an unnecessarily long period.

22/125 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a) The following payments were considered for approval.

£66.60 to Hepworth Recreation Ground – hall hire

£42.48 to L Robinson – materials for Jubilee Corner

£1168.16 to C Garman – Parish Clerk's salary April to September 2022

£292.00 to HMRC – payroll PAYE

£399.99 to C Garman – reimbursement for purchase of laptop computer

£28.00 to N Bennett – reimbursement for the share of hire of hall for ECAP training

£95.74 to C Garman – Parish Clerk's expenses July to September 2022

£22.80 to SALC – payroll administration

£407.65 to Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd – insurance.

It was resolved to approve these payments.

b) An income and expenditure statement with budgets for the year to 30 June 2022 had been previously circulated together with a bank reconciliation and bank statement. These documents were considered.

It was resolved to confirm that the bank reconciliation agreed with the bank statement.

- c) The insurance renewal documents with Hiscox had been previously circulated. The insurance cover proved was considered.

It was resolved to confirm that the cover provided in the insurance schedule was appropriate.

- d) There was discussion about what items might need to be considered for the budget for 2023/2024 in respect of projects and possibly professional advice in respect of the Shepherds Grove development.

22/126 PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that there had been no further developments in respect of the proposed Shepherds Grove development and possibly further development on an adjacent site. A copy of an email had been circulated from a planning consultant about having professional advice which was considered. The potential fees were outside the Parish Council's current budget. It was decided to not take any further action with a planning consultant for the time being.

22/127 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

It was noted that there had been no appetite for an election for the vacancy created by Helen Corris's resignation so councillors were now able to co-opt to fill the vacancy. This vacancy will be advertised with the view that hopefully at least one person will come forward. It was noted that Robin Shackleton had now resigned creating a second vacancy. This vacancy will be subject to an election if there is the appetite.

22/128 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and no further action was considered necessary.

22/129 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) It was noted the work on the trees in the recreation ground had been completed.
- b) MM gave an update on the Quiet Lanes Suffolk project and advised that the installation of the signage would be a community project and that £50 will be needed in due course as a contribution towards the cost of the signage.
- c) GB said he would attend the village remembrance service and will source the wreath.

22/130 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting which will be on Thursday 10 November 2022 at 7.30 pm which is a week earlier than usual.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
21 October 2022