

**HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HEPWORTH PAVILION**  
**THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2022**  
**7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chairman)  
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)  
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)  
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)  
Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)  
County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JSp)

One member of public was present.

**22/131 PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) The Parish Council was asked to keep residents informed about the Shepherds Grove development and any consultations. It was suggested that there be a specific meeting for considering the application.
- b) There were concerns raised about the service levels at the dispensary at Stanton Surgery and it was specifically pointed out this relates to the dispensary and not the other areas of the practice. It was mentioned that there were significant delays in getting medications and long wait times often outside the surgery which was not good in poor weather conditions. It was suggested that this was affecting people's wellbeing. It was recognised the changes the dispensary has been through recently and that other dispensaries and pharmacies were experiencing similar difficulties in obtaining drugs and having adequate qualified staff. It was asked that the Parish Council write to Stanton Surgery expressing the concerns and asking what will be done to improve the situation, and it was agreed to do so.

**22/132 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

- a) JSp spoke about the developments with the Bloor Homes planning application in Stanton. JSp gave an update on the TPO in respect of trees at the rear of Church Close, Hepworth and there was a discussion on how this was moving forward. JSp said contractors were planned to do the resurfacing of Weston Lane during November. JSp spoke about the current situation with the traffic calming which is proceeding as planned. JSp talked about the change in the speed limit at the south end of The Street, Hepworth and the consultation. There was a discussion about an email received from a resident where there were concerns walkers and dogs were straying away from footpaths and the dogs were not under control.
- b) CB was not present but had previously emailed to say the locality grant of £1275 for the village gates was proceeding and that from her angle there was nothing new in respect of the proposed Shepherds Grove development.

**22/133 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Justin Seldis (JS) had offered his apologies and these were accepted. District Councillor Carol Bull (CB) had also sent her apologies.

22/134 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

MM declared an interest in agenda item 9 (a)

22/135 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

22/136 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 20 October 2022 had been previously circulated.

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

22/137 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

22/138 VILLAGE ASSETS, TREES AND HIGHWAYS

a) There was an update in respect of the traffic calming project under JF's report at 22/132 (a) above. It was considered there was nothing further to discuss at this stage.

b) There were no other issues.

22/139 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a) The following payment was considered for approval.

£43.20 to Hepworth Recreation Ground – hall hire.

**It was resolved to approve this payment.**

b) An income and expenditure statement with budgets for the year to 30 September 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) Donations to Royal British Legion and Headway Suffolk were considered.

**It was resolved to donate £25 to Royal British Legion but to decline to donate to Headway Suffolk.**

d) The draft budget for 2023/2024 had been previously circulated was considered. There were some thoughts on amounts to possibly be considered for projects and grants. It was thought that the precept increase should be capped at 3% and expenditure managed accordingly. CG was asked to factor these thoughts into a revised draft budget for consideration at the January 2023 meeting.

e) There was discussion on the future use of social media to communicate Parish Council news. It was considered appropriate for the time being to suspend social media activities.

22/140 PLANNING MATTERS

a) It was noted that there were no developments in respect of the proposed development at Shepherds Grove.

b) There was no report on pending applications.

22/141 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

It was noted that there was no appetite for an election in respect of the second vacancy and that the two vacancies could now be filled by co-option. It was reported that an advert seeking new councillors will be placed in the Hepworth Herald and the noticeboard with a view to hopefully having some names to consider at the January 2023 meeting.

22/142 CORRESPONDENCE

a) The matter of the email from a resident with concerns about people straying from footpaths and dogs not being under control was again considered. It was thought this is perhaps a

matter for the landowner to pursue if appropriate but if there were issues with the footpath signage then this should be referred to SCC. CG will respond accordingly and signpost to SCC and JSp if deemed appropriate.

- b) Other correspondence had been previously circulated and no further action was considered necessary.

22/143 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There was a discussion about the condition of various hedges around the village and perhaps polite requests to landowners was needed.

22/144 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting which will be an extra ordinary meeting on Thursday 17 November 2022 and then a meeting on Thursday 19 January 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Christopher Garman  
Parish Clerk  
11 November 2022

DRAFT