

The Annual General Meeting of the Hepworth Parish Council took place on Thursday 14th of May 2020. This was held via video and the following items were discussed:

Attendees	Ms L Robinson (Chairman)	Mrs N Yorke
	Mr A Yorke	Mr G Bloomfield
	Mrs A Thomas	Mrs M MacPherson
	Mrs M Waterson	Ms H Corris (Clerk)
	Cllr C Bull	

Members of the Public: none

1 &2	<p>Election of Chair and Vice Chair Ms L Robinson was elected Chairman. No Vice Chairman was elected Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be signed by Ms L Robinson and a consent to be summonsed to be signed by all Councillors</p>	
3.	<p>Apologies and approval of absences Cllr Joanna Spicer</p>	
4.	<p>Declarations of Interests None received</p>	
5.	<p>Dispensations None</p>	
6.	<p>Appointment of other bodies</p> <p>Trustees of Hepworth Charities Mrs MacPherson, Mr A Yorke</p> <p>The Hepworth Recreation Ground Committee Mrs N Yorke</p> <p>Hepworth Parochial Church Council Mrs M MacPherson</p>	
7.	<p>Minutes of previous meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the 4th April 2019 APM, 9th May 2019 AGM, 5TH March 2020, 16th April 2020 and the 30th April were agreed and will be signed as a true report.</p>	
8.	<p>Progress reports.</p> <p>Online banking, Replacement Grit bins and dustbins have not been progressed due to the Coronavirus situation.</p> <p>The Memorial trees have all been planted</p> <p>Excavator Money to be returned to Cllr Spicers fund if not utilised before the 2021 deadline. Clerk will follow this up with Cllr Spicer again</p>	

9.	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>None present</p>	
10.	<p>Finance / Reports</p> <p>Payments agreed</p> <p>980 Hepworth Rec Ground Hall Hire 2019 £72.00</p> <p>981 Neel Shearer IT support £20.00</p> <p>983 Sandy Lane Nursery £343.20</p> <p>984 Clerks March pay plus additional hours for course £256.04</p> <p>985 Clerks March expenses £38.40</p> <p>986 Community Workshop (Help for all Leaflets) £40.00</p> <p>987 HMRC PAYE £148.80</p> <p>988 SALC Payroll services £36.00</p> <p>989 SALC/NALC Annual subscriptions £257.13</p> <p>991 Clerks pay and expenses April £188.52</p> <p>Receipts</p> <p>£900 from Cllr Carol Bull's locality fund towards the cost of replacing the Village sign</p> <p>£286 from West Suffolk Council for the Memorial tress less VAT (sec 106 fund)</p> <p>£184.17 HMRC VAT refund 2019</p> <p>Bank Balances as of 31st March 2020</p> <p>Barclays Community Account less unrepresented cheques £6088.30</p> <p>Barclays Business Saver Account £1836.49</p> <p>The following documents were reviewed, approved and will be signed</p> <p>Receipts and Payments for year 2019/2020</p> <p>Annual Governance Statement</p> <p>Accounting Statement section 2</p> <p>Certificate of Exemption AGAR 2019/20</p> <p>It was agreed to renew the ICO registration at a cost of £40.00</p> <p>Dates agreed for period of exercise of public rights</p>	
11.	<p>Donations to Voluntary Organisations</p> <p>It was agreed to donate £200 to the Parochial Church Council towards maintaining the cemetery (Local Govt Act 1972, s 21 4 (6)).</p>	

	<p>Donation of £100 to be made to the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) Sec 137 LGA 1972.</p> <p>£100 to be held in reserve for the Hepworth Herald</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>Report from Cllr Carol Bull</p> <p>A written report was submitted prior to the meeting, but Cllr Bull has a larger Locality Fund due to the Covid 19 pandemic, so please ask if any help is required. The recycling centre is also now open again. Some villages have been reporting an increase in fly-tipping, so hopefully this will help.</p> <p>Report below:</p> <p>The new West Suffolk District Council is coming to the end of its first year in operation and it has been an eventful year in more ways than one. There is lots I could talk about that has happened. However the Corona Virus pandemic has rather overshadowed everything else and I am sure over the last weeks you have been inundated with reports and updates and press notices so I shall try to keep this as brief as possible but inevitably it will centre on Corona virus issues.</p> <p>With so many people having to self-isolate and most staff who can working from home the Council is having to adapt to totally new ways of working and we are all becoming quite used to virtual meetings though some of the larger ones like Development Control have proved quite challenging as they have to be accessible to the public, but we are getting there. I think we are being forced to look at ways of working for the future.</p> <p>As a result of some of the Government's Corona virus initiatives you will have seen also that it has been the Council's responsibility to distribute the small business support grants and this has involved around 1,800 companies being contacted. In addition businesses have had to be re-billed for business rates to allow for the business rates relief to be implemented. These have been huge logistical undertakings and staff from all areas of the Council have been working on this. As you are aware our village halls have not been forgotten and have benefitted from a grant of £10,000.</p> <p>Another huge area of work has been in supporting our most vulnerable residents and you will have had all the information about these initiatives and the Home but Not Alone service. This service links in with the amazing network of volunteers and helpers which have sprung up in our villages. It is extremely heartening to see the work Parish Councils are doing and how people are rallying round to ensure everyone is cared for in these difficult times.</p> <p>As you know I have a Locality Budget each year which local organisations can apply to for funding. This year the Council have increased it and loosened up some of the criteria to qualify for it to assist local organisations who may be experiencing financial problems or have been involved in unusual expenditure because of the corona virus situation. I would be</p>	

	<p>happy to hear from any who may be in this situation and who I may be able to help.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that the brown bin collection service should re-instated at the beginning of June and the Council will be looking at how our Markets can be re-instated whilst ensuring both the safety of the public , traders and officers who look after the markets.</p> <p>There is lots more but I said I would keep it brief and would be happy to answer any questions anyone may have.</p>	
13.	<p>Village sign replacement</p> <p>It was decided that the village sign will be replaced by H signs at a cost of £2100 . The sign will be the same design as the current one but made from a fibre glass which is resin painted and comes with a long guarantee.</p>	
14.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Complaints have been made about bonfires being set in the middle of the day and near to hazardous items. Advice was given at the time to direct any complaints to the Environmental Health Officer as they have powers to deal with such issues.</p>	
15.	<p>Questions to the chair</p> <p>Vehicles parking on the verge, Cllr Bull advises that SCC will most likely deal if there is a hazard or safety issue.</p> <p>Suggestions were made for items for inclusion in the Hepworth Herald.</p> <p>Cllr Waterson advises that they have continued to support the villages vulnerable/shielding residents.</p> <p>Chairman would like to thank Cllrs Waterson and Thomas for their on-going hard work around Hepworth Help for All Volunteer scheme and all the other volunteers involved.</p>	

The meeting closed at 2000hrs. Date of next meeting to be confirmed.