

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2024
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair)
Councillor Nick Bennett (NB) (Vice Chair)
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)

The Chair of West Suffolk Council and four members of the public were present.

24/13 APOLOGIES

None.

24/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

24/15 PUBLIC FORUM

Ditches. Clarification was sought over responsibility for clearing ditches. GB indicated that ditches next to roads were normally the responsibility of Suffolk Highways. **LR highlighted a flooded ditch on The Street and agreed to report this** via the Suffolk Highways reporting Tool.

24/16 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Spicer and District Cllr Bull were not in attendance. The Chair of West Suffolk Council, Cllr Roger Dicker, introduced himself and provided a background to West Suffolk Council's new administration and its priorities.

24/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 January 2024 had been previously circulated. It was **resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting**.

24/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 24/3 18 January 2024: Ditch by Bus Shelter. The Clerk reported that the Community Highways Engineer had been approached to ascertain ownership of the flooded ditch; an answer was still awaited.

Minute 24/4 18 January 2024: Locality Funding. The Clerk confirmed that District Cllr Bull had agreed locality funding of £500 for the planned events noticeboard. LR reported that the proposed area for the noticeboard, next to the current Parish Council noticeboard, was owned by Justin Seldis according to a Land Registry search. It was **agreed that the Clerk would write to Justin Seldis to seek permission to site**

the new noticeboard and, once this was obtained, **purchase a Moss Green noticeboard sufficient for 4 x A4 pages (£555 + VAT)** to be delivered to GB.

Minute 24/6 18 January 2024: DEFRA Flood Grant. The Clerk reported that District Cllr Bull had provided further information on DEFRA Flood Grants, and this had been circulated to the Parish Council on 29 January.

Minute 24/6 18 January 2024: New Agricultural Access. LR indicated that the ditch by the new agricultural access was likely to be owned by the landowner.

Minute 24/6 18 January 2024: Mud on North Comon Road. **GB agreed to liaise with the landowner over visibility of 'mud on the road' signs.**

Minute 23/10 18 January 2024: Dog Fouling. The Clerk confirmed that an appropriate reminder about clearing up when walking dogs had been passed to the Hepworth Herald Editor.

Minute 23/10 18 January 2024: Bus Shelter Damage. The meeting **agreed for GB to purchase materials to repair the damaged bus shelter window.**

24/19 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- a. Weston Lane. PP reported that the contractor due to repair this route was waiting for the lane to dry out but expected to start later this month or March.
- b. Dunhill Lane. PP had reported flooding on this lane and Suffolk County Council will be investigating.
- c. Potholes. It was **agreed that the Clerk would arrange to promote the Suffolk Highways Reporting Tool** in the Herald and on the village website.

24/20 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £4, 687.24, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,500 current account and £7,000 savings account). The following payments were authorised:

Hall Hire	£48.00
Land Registry Search	£17.94

The Clerk was to seek counter authorisation from NB for BACS payments.

- b. Recreation Ground Lease. The meeting **agreed to await the outcome of the Annual General Meeting of the Hepworth recreation Ground Management Committee regarding an extension of the current lease.** Potential legal costs for the Parish Council, included in next years budget, were noted.

24/21 PLANNING MATTERS

DC/24/0159/HH – Householder Extension. The meeting agreed to support the application.

24/22 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Local Plan Review – Final Consultation. The meeting noted the consultation. NB enquired when the Jaynic application was going before the West Suffolk Council Development Control Committee; Cllr Roger Dicker agreed to pass this question to District Cllr Bull [Clerks Note: District Cllr Bull subsequently confirmed by email that the Jaynic application is due to go before the committee on 6 March].
- b. Election Canvas. The meeting noted the imminent election canvas by West Suffolk Council.


24/23 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None

24/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 21 March 2024 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
23 February 2024