

**HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HEPWORTH PAVILION**  
**THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023**  
**7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair)  
Councillor Hollie Bloomfield (HB)  
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)  
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)  
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)  
County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)  
District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

A member of the public was present.

**23/134 APOLOGIES**

NB sent apologies which were accepted.

**23/135 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

GB declared an interest in Item 9, DC/23/1754/FUL planning application and it was agreed that LR would chair this item.

**23/136 PUBLIC FORUM**

The role of the stream next to The Street in contributing to the recent flooding during Storm Babet was highlighted. The stream had become blocked over the years hence reducing the amount of water it can hold. CB agreed to look at what grants might be available to support community self-help activities to clear such waterways. It was also confirmed this flood had been reported on the Suffolk Highways Reporting tool and thus will be picked up as part of future investigatory work by Suffolk County Council.

**23/137 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

CB reported that:

- The Jaynic application is unlikely to be considered until New year as West Suffolk Council were awaiting final Highways comments and an updated air quality strategy.
- The unsecured door at Blacksmith Cottage had now been secured.

JS reported that:

- West Suffolk Council Development Control Committee had been asked to include Hepworth (The Street) when conducting site visit for Jaynic planning application.
- The remedial work on Weston Lane was due to commence on 20 November 23.
- Any photos of missing or damaged road signs on local roads (not A roads) need to be sent to Suffolk County Council. It was **agreed that the Clerk would coordinate and forward any photos.**

**23/138 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 October 23 had been previously circulated. It was **resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting.**

**23/139 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

## 23/140 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Storm Babet. JS attended Willow Green with the Suffolk Highways Community Engineer the day after flooding. This flooding, along with flooding along The Street, will be investigated by Suffolk County Council Floods Team as the lead local flood authority. It was noted that 60 flooding incidents across the county following Storm Babet meant some prioritisation would take place to ensure those incidents affecting the most people were investigated first. The Parish Council would be notified and involved when the Hepworth flooding was investigated. It was also noted that the Village Hall had been opened as an emergency rest centre.

### **It was agreed that the Clerk would:**

- Obtain sufficient numbers of emergency information Z Cards, produced by the Suffolk Resilience Forum, for distribution to all Hepworth households.
- Provide the Hepworth Herald editor with the link to this information for the website.

### **PP agreed to:**

- Contact local farmers to highlight the importance of keeping ditches clear.
- Discuss clearance of the ditch by the village sign using community assets.

## 23/141 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. LGA Pay Award. The meeting noted the LGA pay award and its effect on the Clerks salary.
- b. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current balance £17,108.25 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £10,750). The following payments were authorised:

Suffolk CC(Traffic Calming)	£4,000
Village Hall Hire	£120
Payment of Clerks salary inc backdated pay to be paid in December once expenses finalised	£972 + exps.

The Clerk was to seek counter authorisation from LR for BACS payments. The meeting agreed to open a savings account and to place the identified reserves into it; **the Clerk was to action.**

- c. Draft Budget 24/25. The meeting considered the draft budget for FY24/25 previously circulated. This was based upon a no increase to the precept, and **it was resolved to adopt the budget for FY24/25.**
- d. Hepworth Recreation Ground Lease Arrangements. It was noted that the lease for the Recreation Ground expired in November 2024 and that clarity was needed from the Recreation Ground Committee as to their intentions. **MM agreed to obtain a formal indication from the committee** and report back by the February 24 Parish Council meeting.

## 23/142 PLANNING MATTERS

DC/23/1754/FUL – Star Cottage. The meeting agreed to support this application.

## 23/143 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Suffolk Police Operating Model. Noted.
- b. West Suffolk Carol Service. Invitation to the Carol Service had been previously circulated and councillors were to respond individually as appropriate.
- c. Suffolk County Council Maintenance and Repair of Road Signs. Covered in Minute 23/137.
- d. West Suffolk Review of Grass Cutting and Wider Grounds Maintenance. Noted, no comments.

## 23/144 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- North Common. MM highlighted the increased mud on roads due to beet traffic. GB agreed to discuss issue outside of meeting with the relevant farmer.

- Water Courses. HB indicated that Equation was doing more tests on local water courses in conjunction with the EA following indications of pollution.
- Trees. PP reported that trees were being made available from the Woodlands Trust and would be planted along Market Weston Rd in due course.
- Quiet Lanes. The Chair thanked MM for her work on delivering the Quiet Lanes scheme in the village.
- New Councillors. The Chair highlighted the 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors and asked for any interested persons to contact the Clerk for further information.

23/145 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 18 January 2024 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.



Andy Osman  
Parish Clerk  
23 November 2023