

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)

Four members of the public were present.

24/1 APOLOGIES
None.

24/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

24/3 PUBLIC FORUM

a. Flooding. The Clerk highlighted the role of the County Council Floods Team in investigating the October 23 flooding in the village. Concern was raised over the flooded ditch behind the bus shelter; ownership of the ditch was uncertain. It was **agreed that the Clerk would contact the Highways Community Engineer** to find out information about ownership and to highlight the ditch is still flooded.

b. Planning Application. Concern was raised over potential traffic issues at the site of the proposed agricultural access. The Chair highlighted that the access was for agricultural vehicles only.

County Councillor Spicer (JS) and District Councillor Bull (CB) arrived at 7.52pm

24/4 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

JS agreed that the recently completed traffic calming scheme should be reviewed at the July 24 Parish Council meeting and covered the County Council's budget proposals. CB reported that the Jaynic planning application was unlikely to go before the February West Suffolk Council Development Control Committee meeting. NB asked CB why the Jaynic had been given so much latitude with their application, when they appear to have failed to address key issues/requirements. CB confirmed availability of locality funding for the proposed events noticeboard. It was **agreed that the Clerk was to apply for this locality grant funding**.

County Councillor Spicer left the meeting at 8.15pm

24/5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 November 23 had been previously circulated. It was **resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting**.

24/6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 23/136 16 November 2023: DEFRA Flood Grant. **CB agreed to seek further information** on potential grants to alleviate flood risks.

Minute 23/137 16 November 2023: Missing or Damaged Road Signs. None reported.

Minute 23/140 16 November 2023: Z Cards. The Clerk provided examples of z cards to the meeting and confirmed an order was with the Suffolk Resilience Forum for sufficient numbers for each household which would be distributed with the Herald.

Minute 23/140 16 November 2023: Ditch Clearance. PP confirmed he had spoken to local landowners. **LR agreed to find out ownership of ditch by proposed agricultural access.**

Minute 23/141 16 November 2023: Savings Account. The Clerk confirmed that the savings account had been opened and reserve funds had been transferred.

Minute 23/141 16 November 2023: Hepworth Recreation Ground Lease. MM indicated that the Recreation Ground Committee intended to continue the lease and formal confirmation would be finalised in February.

Minute 23/143 16 November 2023: West Suffolk Carol Service. MM reported that she had attended the West Suffolk Carol Service.

Minute 23/143 16 November 2023: North Common. MM indicated that issues with mud on the road remained at North Common. **GB agreed to investigate this issue further outside of the meeting.**

24/7 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

None

24/8 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £4, 763.24, 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:

Website hosting	£40.00
End of Year Accounts Training	£36.00

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

b. Precept 24/25. The meeting considered the precept for FY24/25 previously circulated. This was based upon a no increase from last year and **it was resolved to adopt the precept for FY24/25.**

c. Parish Council Meeting Dates 24/25. The meeting considered the proposed meeting dates for 24/25 previously circulated and its was **agreed to adopt these.**

24/9 PLANNING MATTERS

DC/23/1822/FUL – Agricultural Access. The meeting agreed to adopt a neutral position on this application. It was **agreed that the Clerk would provide the following comments:**

- Noted the application is in an area of previous flooding in October 2023 and is within 20m of a watercourse.
- Did not wish the flood risk to increase as a result of this work and any new access has sufficient flow under it to keep the ditch running well.

24/10 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Visit from West Suffolk Council Chair. It was agreed to invite the Chair of West Suffolk Council to a future Parish Council meeting; the **Clerk was to notify his PA** accordingly.
- b. Dog Fouling. Concerns about an increase in dog fouling were noted by the meeting. The Clerk **was to ask for an appropriate message to be included in the Herald** encouraging people to use existing bins and warning of the penalties if caught leaving waste.
- c. Changes to law covering funding property of Christian denominations and non-Christian faiths. Noted.
- d. Bus Shelter Damage. **GB agreed to look at damage to bus shelter** and if possible, to make repairs.
- e. Hepworth Charities Accounts. The meeting received the accounts of Hepworth Charities.

24/11 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None

24/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 15 February 2024 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
23 January 2024