

A meeting of the Hepworth Parish Council took place on Thursday 5th November 2020 at 7.30pm the meeting was conducted via video link and the following items were discussed.

<b>Attendees</b>	Ms L Robinson (Chairman)	Mrs N Yorke
	Mr A Yorke	Mr G Bloomfield
	Mrs M MacPherson	Ms H Corris (Clerk)
	Mr R Shackleton	
	Cllr Spicer	
	Cllr Bull	

**Four members of the Public were present:**

1.	<b>Apologies</b>	Action
	There were no apologies.	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were none	
3.	<b>To Consider requests for dispensations</b> None received	
4.	<b>Minutes of previous meetings</b> The minutes of the Meetings held on 8.10.20, 24.9.20, 17.9.20 and 2.9.20 were agreed to be a true record.	
5.	<p><b>Public participation</b></p> <p><b>DY</b> Asked about Allotments for the Village, Parish Council were presented with a list of more than 6 names three years ago and asked to provide Allotments. The Parish Council have a legal duty to provide allotments if they are asked to. It is understood that if the PC are unable to provide these allotments then the District or County Council are obliged to assist. Parish Council did make enquiries with a local landowner at the time and were waiting for the landowner to make enquiries with their Solicitor regarding leasing/letting the land. These enquiries do not appear to have developed.</p> <p>Cllr Bull will make enquiries with West Suffolk Council as she is unsure as to the procedure. Cllr Spicer does not think it's an area that SCC get involved with however she will help where she can and is aware of another Village where land was leased to the PC for allotments.</p> <p>Hepworth Charities do not have any available land now as it is all tenanted.</p> <p><b>DY</b> Asks whether a raised diamond shaped "lane divider" could be situated at the top of "The Street" at the junction with the A143 as he has now had three experiences of vehicles cutting the corner and almost colliding with his vehicle. He feels that the raised area would prevent vehicles from cutting the corner but would still enable the bus and larger vehicles to make the turn.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer states that any junction improvements would now have to come as part of the development at Shepherd's Grove. She is unable to provide any further financial support due to the anticipated expenditure on traffic calming measures.</p>	

	<p><b>Cllr Spicer Report</b></p> <p>An application for planning has now been submitted for the “Link Road” on the Shepherd’s Grove development, this has previously been delayed as the land-owner has not been identifiable.</p> <p>The “Not suitable for HGV signs” for the village are on order and will probably be arriving in the New Year.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer has had a meeting with the Road safety officers and there are some suggestions for the traffic calming measures on “The Street” these are; Rumble strips, Sharks teeth white lining and speed cushions – maybe up to four. These are also described as ramps. (NOT speed humps or sleeping Policemen). The cost of the traffic calming as described could total £15,000 this expenditure uses all of her reserves but as the speeding issue is so severe in the Village Cllr Spicer is prepared to do this. When the plans are received she will circulate them to us. The engineers are the final decision makers.</p> <p>Regarding the consideration for “Deer Warning” signs to be placed on the A143, Cllr Spicer would like someone to identify the crossing points that the animals are habitually using. Apparently, they do tend to cross at the same place. If this could be marked on a map then she can investigate further but at the moment there is no further money available for signage. Chair will mark crossing points</p> <p>Lockdown support is available for those that need it and the recycling centres are still open but appointments required.</p> <p><b>Cllr Bull report.</b></p> <p>Lockdown 2; Dustbins still being collected, parks and play areas are still open and “Home but not alone” is up and running again. A reminder that Blue recycling bins are not to be contaminated with glass. Any glass found in the bins renders the whole contents un-recyclable. This is becoming a big problem and information leaflets will be issued reminding residents.</p> <p>Planning updates; Springbank (Chicken sheds) appeal dismissed.</p> <p>Greenfields have withdrawn the application for the time being.</p> <p>Dunhill Farm planning received a lot of objections mostly around fears about smell and noise. Parish Council supported the application but their concerns were noted and the concern around reducing the water pressure for those around the farm has been addressed. The Pig unit will be sited on a bore hole so will not affect water pressure. There are already over 800 Pigs on the site and there were no complaints received in the past year prior to the application. The final decision will be made jointly by West Suffolk and Mid- Suffolk Councils.</p> <p>It is anticipated there may be a planning request to site a solar farm on the land adjoining Barningham Road/ Hepworth Road as this is for sale. There is currently one sited in Mildenhall that brings revenue in to the council. If this goes ahead then the panels would be screened off. The sites are often used to graze sheep also in order to keep the grass down around the panels and wildlife is promoted within the site. There would be negligible traffic to and from the site and if this goes ahead it could be up and running within three to four months from the date of permission. Section 106 funds could be provided to benefit Hepworth as a consequence of this development.</p>	<p><b>Chair</b></p>
--	---	---------------------

<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Progress Reports</b></p> <p><b>The Grit bins</b> have been replaced with new ones.</p> <p><b>Village sign</b> should be completed in December. There were concerns around positioning it on the corner of Wood Lane as there are pipes serving Home Farm that we do not wish to disturb. The Sycamore tree would also be a repeated problem and we would not wish to restrict the Farmers ability to maintain his hedge.</p> <p>Sign will therefore go on the opposite side and a pole will be mounted beforehand to indicate the intended site. Three quotes will be obtained for plinths.</p> <p><b>Mill House</b>; Cllr McPherson would like to clarify that all planning permissions and consents are perfectly in order for Mill House. This is the same for Mill Lodge. No ditches have been filled and a mirror has been installed to assist with the entrance onto the A143.</p> <p><b>Hepworth Village Spring Clean.</b> This was postponed until September and spanned a two -week period. In total 22 volunteers performed litter-picks across the entire village, covering every road and the play area. Thanks to all that took part, especially Cllr Bloomfield who organised it all and took part.</p> <p><b>Eastern Power Networks</b> Clerk to find out whether further rental is owed due to the power cables running through Parish Council land.</p>	<p>Chair/Clerk</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Quiet Lanes Project</b> David Fennell has registered North Common, Clay Lane, Church Lane, Beck Street and Market Weston Road to receive “Quiet Lanes” status. These will now be evaluated for suitability before public consultation. Cllr McPherson is the Parish Council lead for the project and is supported by David Fennell. There is no upfront cost and no obligation to proceed. It is hoped the project will be continued by our surrounding villages as most of the roads we have identified start/end in another village with the exception of Clay Lane/ Church Road. Quiet Lane status does not restrict the flow of traffic it merely alerts users to the potential of other users (horses, walkers and cyclists etc).</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Healing Woods</b></p> <p>Perry Penn, Tree Warden provided details regarding the work Suffolk County Council are doing to plant trees in memory of those who have died from COVID 19. Tree wardens are working together to grow saplings from native seeds rather than using imported seeds. An online survey for people to share their thoughts around proposed locations for these commemorative trees can be found at <a href="http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/healingwoods/">www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/healingwoods/</a></p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Hepworth Recreation Ground Update</b></p> <p>All works now completed both inside and out at the Pavilion and play area. Monies from the sec 106 Fund held by West Suffolk specifically for play areas and recreation are being transferred to assist with the cost of refurbishment. The remaining members of the management committee have spoken to the PC Chair and The Parish Council will now progress termination of the lease. Legal advice will be taken and the PC are working towards maintaining the Charitable status of the Hepworth Recreation Ground if this is in the best interest of the Pavilion and village as a whole. This is a complex area</p>	

<p>10.</p>	<p>and the PC recognise the importance of getting this right in order to protect the future of the recreation ground for future generations.  <b>Speedwatch Working Party.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Shackleton</b> The members of the Village Speedwatch group formed a working party to liaise with Cllr Spicer and The Parish Council regarding the proposed traffic calming measures for “The Street”. The intention was to monitor and influence the proposals in order to obtain the best outcome for the Village. Research into speed cameras that record the registration number of the vehicles revealed that the cost can vary from £6000 to £25,000 depending on what you wish the camera to do.  Cllr Spicer has indicated that the engineers will have the final decision as they are the experts in the area and so we now wait to see what the suggested proposals are. However, the working party will still liaise with the Cllr Spicer and feedback their thoughts. Should any residents wish to comment or express their interest in joining the working party, it is open to all villagers. Please contact the clerk, Councillor Shackleton or Richard Hinton the Speed watch coordinator.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Clerk/RFO reports</b></p> <p><b>Bank balances</b>  <b>Community account £10,409.05</b>  <b>Saver account £1837.23</b></p> <p><b>Receipts and Payments</b>  Grit Bins £407.70 REF DC/1 (Debit card purchase online)  Insurance Came &amp; Co £281.59 cheque ref 1001  Zoom Subscription £143.88 REF DC/2 (Debit card purchase online)  Clerks PAYE to HMRC £193.60 cheque ref 1002  Clerks September pay and expenses £ 224.83 cheque ref 1003  Cllr McPherson expenses £30 cheque ref 1004  Clerks October pay and expenses £196.08 cheque ref 1005  Payroll services quarterly payment SALC £54 REF DC/3 (Bank transfer)  Receipt £125 Cllr Bull Locality budget  Interest earned on saver account 25p.</p> <p>Clerks pay went up after one year’s service and NALC also awarded a pay rise to Clerks this year. PC happy for these increments to be applied.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p><b>Preparation of draft budget for 2021/2022</b>  A Draft budget was presented in readiness for discussion at January’s meeting.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p><b>Questions to the chair and Agenda items</b>  PC resolved to purchase a Poppy wreath from the British Legion to lay it on behalf of the village on Remembrance Sunday at the Church memorial.  Agreed website needs a review will discuss at next meeting.  Identify individual to unveil/open new village sign.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Agenda Items</b></p>

	<b>Meeting concluded 2139 date of next meeting 7/1/2021</b>	
--	---	--