

A meeting of the Hepworth Parish Council took place on Thursday 7th January 2021 at 7.30pm the meeting was conducted via video link and the following items were discussed.

Attendees

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	

one member of the Public was present:

1.	Apologies	Action
1.	There were no apologies.	
2.	Declarations of Interest There were none	
3.	To Consider requests for dispensations None received	
4.	Minutes of previous meetings The minutes of the Meetings held on 5.11.20 & 3.12.20 were agreed to be a true record.	
5.	<p>Public participation/Cllrs Reports</p> <p>Cllr Bull; Policing & Crime Commissioner has forwarded a public survey regarding funding required to increase Police numbers, Clerk will circulate. There will be a local council grant towards the village precept application to try and counter the reduction in the tax base this year. Hepworth will receive £63.00. Has been liaising with the Parish Council, flood victims and Havebury Housing regarding last months incident.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer Report Suffolk County Council can obtain details of who owns ditches etc if necessary. It's a lengthy process but if the PC need help she could assist. The recent floods were widespread and more "Flood" warning signs will be purchased by Cllr Spicer. Hepworth currently have two. Not aware of any accidents Clay Lane/A143 junction but there is a website www.crashmap.co.uk where incidents can be checked. Reiterated that 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. She has serious concerns for Hepworth, there would be a new roundabout on the A143. Her main concern is still around what use will be made of Shepherd's Grove; small businesses would have a significant impact on the traffic through Hepworth. Larger businesses not so much as they normally have a traffic management order on any HGV's restricting their routes to the main roads. There is still no formal planning application for the development as a whole.</p>	Clerk

<p>6.</p>	<p>Hepworth Traffic calming plans are still with the engineers, the proposals are still ramps, sharks teeth white lining, gateways and rumble strips. Although the Parish Council do not have to be consulted by Suffolk County Council she would prefer it if they were and will contact the Clerk once she has the plans. Unsuitable for HGV signs are still awaited. Clerk will circulate traffic calming details to the Speedwatch working party.</p> <p>Progress Reports</p> <p>Allotments.</p> <p>Three landowners around the Village have been approached by the Parish Council and asked if they would be willing to provide allotments. All three have declined. Proposed to put a request in Hepworth Herald and approach a couple more landowners. Discussion around possibility of utilising the land at the Recreation Ground for allotments seeing as there is no Hepworth Football team and a significant cost in keeping the existing pitch. It may be that the cost of maintaining this pitch is outweighing the income from hiring it out. All other possibilities to be explored first.</p> <p>Village sign should have been completed in December. There have been difficulties in sourcing the oak post, the first was not of a suitable quality and so a second is now on order. The plinth for the sign will be constructed by a local builder for free, PC to pay for materials only. Clerk to contact builder and advise him of the delay.</p> <p>Hepworth Recreation Ground Management Committee</p> <p>Parish Council have received the formal resignations of the Chairman and Secretary. The treasurer will remain in post for a short time whilst the interim Committee is established and a handover completed. There will be a meeting of the interim committee on the 14th January.</p> <p>Quiet Lanes</p> <p>This project has involved a substantial amount of time and work. Contrary to initial information, the project does come with a cost to the Parish Council. Every Village that is participating will receive a budget of £600 towards the cost of signage. However, each sign requires a post at a cost of £380 so the £600 is quickly used. Consequently, Cllr MacPherson is planning to utilise existing posts wherever possible. She is working with the other villages where possible although none of our surrounding villages have actually registered for the project. Cllr MacPherson is awaiting decisions from the Parish Councils of the three neighbouring villages regarding the parts of the lanes that terminate in their parishes and their decisions could impact on the cost of the project with a possible projected shortfall to the Parish Council in the region of approximately £500.</p> <p>Parish Council resolve to continue with the project for now and will re-visit the topic at a later meeting. Cllr MacPherson will try and find out if the PC can supply and fit their own posts.</p> <p>Eastern Power Networks</p> <p>Clerk has established that there is a Wayleave agreement in place for electricity pole on recreation ground. The annual rent is nominal. Clerk to explore options available around increasing the rent or cancelling the wayleave agreement via a company that deals with these issues.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Macpherson</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	<p>Village Website The Village website has been re-arranged and updated so that the Parish Council documents both past and present should now be easier to access.</p> <p>7. Accidents Clay Lane/ A143 and Summer Road. Cllr Yorke hasn't received any further information regarding accidents from the residents.</p> <p>8. Ditches and Flooding There was severe flooding in Hepworth during December. Three Bungalows were flooded out. Parish Council contacted Havebury housing and they promptly dredged the stream on Willow Green. However, the culverts that feed into the stream and out the other end are both blocked. The owners of the old "Fairholme" site have been contacted regarding dredging and clearing the culvert on their land. The residents on The Street appear to have dug their ditch by the letterbox on Willow Green. The large ditch that runs alongside the Bus stop on the Street also needs clearing. Enquiry to be sent to establish the owners and follow up with a request to clear the ditches. Thank you to the Chairwoman for all of her hard work regarding the flood victims and also to Cllr Shackleton for his assistance with delivering furniture.</p> <p>9. Clerks/RFO report Bank Balances Dec Community account: £10,141.27 Business Saver Account: £1837.28 Receipts: 0.05p Interest (Business saver account) Payments: £40.00 Information Commissioners Office Nov Clerk pay & expenses: £196.08 Dec Clerk pay & expenses £214.78 Clerks additional hours incurred April- Dec: 29. Agreement to reimburse for hours owed. Budget and Precept Application Budget and Precept application presented and agreed.</p> <p>10. Planning Applications Nil</p> <p>11. Questions to the Chair and Items for next Agenda The Christmas lights in the village were prolific and attractive this year. Santa made some doorstep deliveries to some properties this year. Formal thank you to go into the Hepworth Herald to the former Chair and Secretary of Hepworth Recreation Ground Management Committee. Consideration of purchasing Premium Bonds with PC savings. Post Covid celebration maybe combined with a VJ Day celebration.</p> <p>Meeting concluded 2123 date of next meeting 4/3/2021</p>	<p>Chair/Clerk</p>
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