

A meeting of the Hepworth Parish Council took place on Thursday 15th March 2018 at the village hall where the following Items were discussed.

Attendees:

Mr D Stannard (Chairman)	Mrs R Vernon
Cllr C Bull	Cllr J Spicer
Mr A Yorke	Mrs K Shearer
Ms L Robinson	Mr G Bloomfield
Mr P Penn (Tree Warden)	Mrs M MacPherson

Members of the Public: Mrs A-M Thomas, Mrs W Summerell

Minutes were taken by Mrs K Shearer in the absence of the Clerk

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| <p>1. Apologies
Mrs N Yorke, Mrs S Yeomans (Clerk)</p> | Action | |
| <p>2. Declarations of Interest
Mr D Stannard and Mr G Bloomfield signed for item 6. Hepworth Recreation Ground Committee</p> | | |
| <p>3. Minutes of previous meetings
The minutes of the Hepworth Parish Council meeting of 4th January 2018 were agreed and signed.</p> | | |
| <p>4. Matters Arising from previous meetings
The defibrillator and directional signs will be erected this week. Ms L Robinson has been in contact with Stuart from Hopton. He is able to provide CPR training and we are now awaiting further details from him.</p> | LR | |
| <p>5. Suspension of meeting to receive reports and hear from members of the public present
Mrs W Summerell presented information about a mobile mast scheme for village churches. The scheme aims to install antennas in church spires across the country to help obliterate black spots. Hopton, Barningham and Walsham churches all have masts installed. Mrs M MacPherson will be taking this information to the next meeting of the Hepworth PCC. It was suggested that opinions regarding black spots in the village be gathered at the APM in April.</p> | MM | |
| <p>Report from Cllr Spicer</p> <p>Cllr Spicer gave her apologies for her absence at the previous PC meeting in January. She asked whether the Hepworth Village Walks leaflet had been delivered and suggested that it was made available locally now that Spring was here. Mrs K Shearer reported that she was meeting Claire Dickson from Suffolk County Council next Thursday to arrange for the footpath waymarkers to be installed.</p> <p>There will be a public hearing regarding the footpath claim along Wood Lane at Hepworth Village Hall on Tuesday 20th March at 10am. Cllr Spicer will be attending and invited members of the PC to come along. Although the majority of the route had been approved by Suffolk County Council, a small section has been disputed. An inspector will walk the route on the day.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer suggested that the proposed Shepherd's Grove development would provide both benefits, in the form of improved access and a safer main road, and disadvantages. It is difficult at this stage to estimate the increase in traffic associated with the scheme. Further details will become available as the plans develop.</p> <p>The speed indicator sign by Sutton Close on the A143 is no longer working. Money is available to replace it with a new sign and various options have been suggested, including a bend warning sign with a yellow backing board. The Parish Council agreed that they would like a new speed indication sign as this seemed to have been successful in reducing the speed of traffic. Cllr Spicer will pursue this with Highways.</p> <p>A survey is currently being carried out by the Mobile Library team to determine how the service is used. This will help to form future plans for the Mobile Library vehicle when it needs to be replaced</p> | | <p>KS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> |

in a few years' time. Cllr Spicer is asking Suffolk County Council for Parish Council involvement to help promote the survey. She asked that Hepworth PC ask residents to complete the survey if they can. Details will be made available on the village website and the Hepworth Village Community Facebook page.

JS

Suffolk County Council Highways Engineer, Francesca Clarke has promised to come and take a look at the former footpath along Market Weston Road. She will be putting together a proposal with Cllr Spicer following the visit.

KS/NY

An email has been received from Suffolk County Council indicating that the drainage team would be pursuing the problem of the flooding on the Hepworth to Barningham road. There appeared to be no problems with the ditches either side of the road. Mr D Stannard asked for a more detailed response from the Suffolk County Council Highways team as none had been received so far. Cllr Spicer will arrange for larger flood warning sign to be placed at a distance from the flood to warn approaching traffic.

JS/AY

Potholes are being dealt with and Cllr Spicer asked parishioners to keep reporting them. Ms L Robinson asked whether the A143 between Hepworth and Stanton would be looked at as part of the road repairs? Cllr Spicer said that she didn't know of any plans to include this section of road as major resurfacing works had been carried out there relatively recently.

JS

The home-to-school consultation being carried out by Suffolk County Council is now closed, but several meetings on the subject have been planned over the next few weeks.

Report from Cllr Bull

A review of the ward boundaries in West Suffolk has resulted in no change for the Barningham Ward as it is currently the optimum size. The review will go through to the Boundary Commission to make consultations and a final decision. It was agreed that the Parish Council was happy with the current ward boundary.

There has been an ongoing problem with fly tipping in the lay-by between Hepworth and Stanton on the A143. The landowner and St Eds BC have been addressing the problem and plans have been made to install signs and rubbish bins.

Contact has been made with the owner of Blacksmiths Cottage, The Street, Hepworth.

Reassurances have been given that the work needed to tidy up the plot will be carried out.

Cllr Bull asked members of the PC whether they felt that police visibility was good in the parish. The general response was no. Cllr Bull reminded the meeting that the public could dial 101 to contact local police. Ms L Robinson asked whether it would be useful to start a Neighbourhood Watch Group again? Parishioners will be asked whether there is interest in forming a new group at the APM in April.

A pool of \$106 money, totalling £3,373.11, from planning application SE/13/0574 is available to Hepworth. The monies need to be spent on public open space, play or green infrastructure, or community facilities. Suggestions for projects included support for the Community Bus or renewing playground equipment. Ideas will be gathered from parishioners at the APM in April.

Clerk

Clerk

6. Finance

The following accounts for payment were agreed:-

Hepworth Recreation Ground Management Committee – £88.00

Clerk Expenses (Jan-Feb 2018) - £72.50

Clerk Salary (Dec 17-Jan 18) - £372.99

Kalkwik Defibrillator Signs - £87.00

Clerk reimbursement for payment to Morelock Signs Ltd - £2926.80

SALC payment for Councillor training - £120.00

Ms L Robinson, new Councillor training expenses - £45.00

It was agreed that SALC should be appointed as internal auditors for Hepworth Parish Council.

It was agreed that an Exemption from Limited Assurance Review Certificate should be submitted to the External Auditors. It was also agreed, in principle, to appoint external auditors for 2017/18 through the sector lead body being organised by NALC, DCLG, SLCC and ADA.

Clerk

Clerk

7. Clerk's/RFO Report

1. Bank Balances @ 19 February 2018
Community (current) account £6,088.75
Business Saver account £1,828.57
2. Speed Watch Sessions - 17 January – 2 speeder, 26 Jan – 1 speeder, 8 Feb – 13 speeders.
2 x battery packs for the Speedar SR1 Radar Gun @ £25.00 each + £9.35 postage have been ordered, payment to be taken from CSW Fund surplus.
A M-SID Compact Radar Speed Sign has been ordered at £2,439.00 + VAT £487.80 totalling £2,926.80. £739.00 has been received from Cllr Bull's Locality Budget towards the purchase.
3. A request has been made to Suffolk County Council for installation of a pole to house the defibrillator sign opposite to the entrance to Stimpsons Yard on The Street.

8. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications

9. Shepherd's Grove Development

This item had been discussed during Cllr Spicer's report. Mr D Stannard gave reassurances that the parish would be involved in any consultation regarding the proposal.

10. Changes to School Transport

This item had been discussed during Cllr Spicer's report. KS will forward information to NY for the Hepworth Village Community Facebook page.

KS/NY

11. Footpaths

See Cllr Spicer's report above. Mr D Stannard asked to be informed when the meeting with the engineer takes place as he would like to attend.

AY/JS

12. Highways

The flooding and Speed response sign on the A143 were discussed during Cllr Spicer's report.

13. Battles Over – 11 November 2018

Mr A Yorke reported on the progress of plans for the Battles Over event on the evening of Sunday 11th November 2018. He announced that a bugler had been appointed to sound the Last Post, with an offer of backup support from a Hepworth Parishioner. It is not possible to ring the church bells at St. Peter's, but the sound of church bells will be amplified over speakers for the event. The loan of period uniforms has been offered from the Suffolk Yeomanry Regiment. Donations of material for the bonfire will be needed nearer the time and the village hall has been booked. The intention is to open up St. Peter's Church for the event too. Mrs M MacPherson has been researching the background of the fallen soldiers remembered on the Hepworth War Memorial. She wanted to thank Maggie Morrison in particular for her help in gathering information. Mrs MacPherson appealed for any further information, memories, or memorabilia from parishioners who were connected to any of the fallen soldiers. These would be used for a display in the village hall on 11th November. At the moment there are two individuals in particular with very little information of their association with the village – Major Claude Stuart Lyon MC & Bar and Herbert Talbot. Suffolk Yeomanry Regiment have been very helpful with research. It was suggested that the Church Warden's records may also provide information. An appeal will be made in the next Hepworth Herald for information and items for display. Hepworth Art Group have art works for a display in the church. Ms L Robinson suggested asking Hepworth 2 Enjoy for help with the organisation of the event.

AY/MM

KS
Clerk**14. Correspondence**

Suffolk Preservation Society Membership Renewal - It was agreed to renew Hepworth Parish Councils' membership of the Suffolk Preservation Society. As a member, the Parish Council has

access to advice on issues relating to listed buildings. It was agreed that this should be mentioned on the village website and in the welcome pack.

Neighbourhood Watch donation request – it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme should be considered at the APM

Community Bus donation request – this will be considered as an option for the S106 monies available.

Carolling all the Way 2018 – a carolling event will be held across West Suffolk and Thetford villages over the weekend of 14th-16th December 2018. It will raise funds for St Nicholas Hospice Care and Hepworth has been invited to take part. Mrs W Summerell offered to pass on the information to Hepworth Singing Angels. Clerk to pass the information to Mrs Summerell.

Proposal for monies to plant trees in Hepworth – The Tree Warden, Mr P Penn, gave an update on the appeal to find areas in the village where native trees could be planted. So far he has received one request for oak trees to be planted along Wood Lane. Due to previous deer damage on existing trees it would be advisable to plant large trees of 6-8 ft high with protection. It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase 10 trees at a cost of £18 each. Mr Penn also has smaller trees and hedging plants available and has had a couple of requests for them so far. He will be getting in contact with other local landowners and anyone interested in the scheme should get in touch.

7/18
KS/Clerk
Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

15. Questions to the chair

Ms L Robinson had been asked by local parishioners to raise questions regarding the ownership of the village hall and its management. Mr D Stannard explained that the hall was managed by the Hepworth Recreation Ground Management Committee and contact details for the Committee were given to Ms Robinson to pass on.

LR

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

2018 Dates

Annual Parish Meeting 5th April 2018

Parish Council Meetings

3 May - Annual General Meeting

5 Jul

6 Sep

1 Nov