

A meeting of the Hepworth Parish Council took place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion the following items were discussed.

**Attendees**

MR G Bloomfield (Chairman)	
Mr P Penn	Ms L Robinson
Mrs M MacPherson	Ms H Corris (Clerk)
Mr R Shackleton (Vice Chair)	
Cllr Spicer	

**No members of the public present.**

1.	<b>Election of Chairman</b> Cllr Bloomfield presided over the First item on the Agenda with the agreement of the full Council.  Mr Garry Bloomfield was elected into the position of Chairman. Mr Robin Shackleton was elected into the position of Vice Chair. Declarations of acceptance of office signed.  Louise Robinson was co-opted by a unanimous vote onto the Council in order to rectify a technical error that was acknowledged and accepted by the Parish Council. Declaration of acceptance of office signed.	<b>Action</b>
2.	<b>Apologies.</b> There were none	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None received	
4.	<b>Requests for Dispensations</b> None	
5.	<b>Minutes of previous meetings</b> Minutes of meeting on 4 <sup>th</sup> March were agreed and signed as a true record.	
6.	<b>Election results and Current Vacancies</b>  Cllr Spicer was congratulated on her election win. Hepworth Parish Council currently have three vacancies for Councillors as Councillors Andrew & Nicola Yorke have resigned. Parish Council would like to sincerely thank them for their service to the Parish. Mr Yorke, among many other contributions, organised and coordinated the Battles over celebrations a few years ago which was a great success. Mrs Yorke has also made many valuable contributions such as organising the Garage trail sales and more recently took on the challenging task as interim Chair of the Hepworth Recreation Ground Committee. Mrs Yorke has invested an enormous amount of her time and energy towards the committee's aim of safely reopening the Pavilion to the community of Hepworth and surrounding villages. We wish them well.	

<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Appointment of other Bodies</b></p> <p>Cllrs Penn and Shackleton were appointed as trustees of Hepworth Charities</p> <p>Cllr MacPherson was appointed to the Hepworth Recreation Ground Management Committee and as the representative to Hepworth Parochial Church Council.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Public participation and District and County Councillors reports</b></p> <p>Cllr Spicer thanked the Parish Councillors and stated that both she and Cllr Bull were happy to be able to support Hepworth. She wished to acknowledge the sad passing of former Councillor, Guy Hatton who had been on the council many years ago and send condolences to his family. She was grateful to Cllr Louise Robinson, the Clerk and the Parish Council as a whole for their continued efforts over the past year especially during the floods. At the time of the meeting she still hadn't received the traffic calming proposals for the village although she has continued to chase for them. As soon as she does she will forward them to the Clerk for circulation to the Councillors and Speedwatch members. "Unsuitable for HGV" signs had now been sited at both ends of the village. The sign in Barningham has been straightened now. Maybe consider moving towards having one either side of the road.</p> <p>Speeding was still a major concern through the village she would like the data collected from the Speed Indicator devices at either end of the village.</p> <p><b>Flooding and ditch clearance.</b></p> <p>Suffolk County Council were going to contact some residents regarding the ditch clearance required to prevent further flooding. She will get an update on progress from SCC. Including the ditch alongside the Bus shelter. Chairman would like to know where all the watercourses run for future reference.</p> <p>Hopton School is fully subscribed for September bar one place. They require a Governor.</p> <p>The speed limit changes are progressing for Stanton as are the plans for the spine road and roundabout proposed on Shepherd's Grove and the A143, which sits in the Parish of Hepworth.</p> <p>A report was read out on behalf of Cllr Bull. REPORT TO HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL FOR YEAR APRIL 20 TO MARCH 21</p> <p>This has been a roller coaster of a year fraught with difficulties, much worry and sadness for many and yet with some small triumphs, not least of which has been the way communities have risen to the challenges covid and self- isolation have brought, rallying around to support their friends and neighbours.</p> <p>I could spend the whole of this report in talking about covid issues but I am sure you are all fully aware of its impacts at all levels, many of you with very personal experiences. I will however highlight a few things that West Suffolk Council has done to support its residents:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Setting up the Home Alone telephone help line;</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>

Processing and paying millions of pounds of Government Grants to local businesses and other organisations including village halls;

Increasing the amount of Locality Funding available for each ward;

Maintaining its bin collection services, with just a short pause in brown bin collections, despite significant staffing problems;

Ensuring that all other services have continued to operate effectively by redeploying staff within the organisation with the majority of officers working from home

Developing our IT systems to allow us to run our council and committee meetings virtually and still ensure the public can attend where necessary;

Ensuring that customer services have been accessible throughout with offices being closed.

In addition to dealing with all the extra work that has been necessitated by the need to respond to the many and varied covid challenges normal work has still had to continue and whilst one or two smaller projects were put on hold and we were not able to hold the usual Christmas fair in Bury St Edmunds, we are still moving forward, despite difficulties with getting builders on site, with some of our major projects which you may have read of in the press:

The Mildenhall hub is nearing completion and will be opening in phases shortly.

The Western Way Hub development is one stage further in its journey with the Planning application having been submitted at the end of last year.

The Old Post office development in the Cornhill is also progressing well with major work going on to preserve the façade.

Another major piece of work we are engaged on is of course the Local Plan. Because of covid restrictions the consultation process at the end of last year had to be held online. There was a great deal of concern that an online survey might not attract the same level of involvement as the more traditional ones we had carried out in the past. However, in the end there were approximately 3,300 responses which is well in excess of any previous surveys. These responses are being collated and will inform the Preferred Options document which will be ready for further consultation later in the year.

Whilst the County, PCC and some by-elections fall in the 2021/22 year work preparation for these has taken up a great deal of time in 2020/21. Always a big logistics exercise, with the need to ensure the register of electors is fully up to date this time it has been particularly problematical with doubts about whether the elections would be held at all or be postponed. There has also been the need to carry out risk assessments at all polling stations to ensure appropriate social distancing can be maintained for staff and voters as well the practical problems of recruiting and training polling station staff. All higher risk residents, self-isolating, were also written to offering them the opportunity to have a postal vote.

At Parish level it has also been a busy year with the added burden of having to get to grips with virtual meetings. Whilst many of us can see the advantage of these on cold dark winter nights it will be good to meet up in person again.

This year I have had only one modest request for funding from my Locality Budget, which was to help with renovating the bus shelter but will shortly be "open for business" for applications for 2021/22, so please let me know if I can help.

Hepworth residents suffered very badly from the flooding at the end of last year and the Parish Council is to be congratulated for all the support and help you provided and for the on-



	<p><b>F) Allotments/ Compulsory purchase/WSC intervention</b>  Cllr Bull to be spoken to establish if there is assistance that can be given in respect of land.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Clerks/RFO report /Finance</b></p> <p>A) Receipts and payments for 2020/21 were considered, approved and signed.  B) Annual Governance Statement section 1 considered, approved and signed.  C) Accounting statement section 2 considered, approved and signed.  D) Certificate of exemption, approved and signed.  E) Dates of period of exercise of public rights agreed and set as 14/6/21 to 23/7/21.  F) Payments and Receipts;  09/3/21 cheque 1015 SALC Payroll services £54.00  31/3/21 cheque 1016 Clerks March pay &amp; expenses £240.28  06/4/21 cheque 1017 HMRC PAYE £186.40  23/4/21 cheque 1018 SALC/NALC subscription £246.26  30/4/21 cheque 1019 Clerks April pay &amp; expenses £196.28  31/5/21 cheque 1020 Clerks May pay &amp; expenses £196.08</p> <p><b>Receipts</b>  Precept £7201  VAT refund £140.93</p> <p>G) Information Commissioners Office renewal approved for June 2021  H) Current bank balances  Community Account £13004.36  Saver Account £ 1837.33</p> <p>I) An annual review of the Risk Assessment, Financial Regs, Insurance cover, Data Protection procedures, Asset list has been conducted and are fit for purpose.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Clerks Annual leave / hours/pay scale</b></p> <p>Resolution to pay owed hours and annual leave allowance not taken for 2020.  Increase Pay to point 16 on scale from 1<sup>st</sup> April in line with annual increment. Clerks position to be advertised.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Resolution to purchase fencing for around the culvert</b></p> <p>Quotes previously obtained to replace fencing around the culvert. Resolution to now go ahead with the purchase.</p>	<b>LR</b>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Hanging Baskets/Old plinth.</b></p> <p>Resolution to purchase a large planter to stand on the old village sign plinth as hanging baskets may take too much watering.</p>	<b>RS</b>

14.	<p><b>Bulb planting in Village</b></p> <p>Resolution to approve the purchase of bulbs for planting around the village. Maximum expenditure of £100.</p>	LR
15.	<p><b>Donations to other bodies</b></p> <p>Resolution to donate £200 to the Parochial Church Council towards the maintenance of the graveyard. Sec 21 4 (6) LGA 1972</p> <p>Donation of £100 To Suffolk Accident Rescue Service Sec 137 LGA 1972</p> <p>There is still money held in reserve for the Hepworth Herald when required.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>Enquiry made as to whether Hepworth could have a bottle bank. This has been considered before and Hepworth did have glass recycling facilities. These were withdrawn as they were not used enough and it was not financially viable for WSC to continue to collect the glass.</p> <p>Council discussed whether there were any locations that were central for most residents, wouldn't have an adverse effect on residents in respect of noise and whether there was sufficient room for vehicles to pull off the road in order to use recycling bins. There did not seem to be a site that met all the criteria.</p> <p>Correspondence received as to whether a dog waste bin could be placed in Market Weston Road. There was once one there but it was set alight. Clerk to approach WSC to see if we can replace it and whether they will empty it.</p>	Clerk
17.	<p><b>Great British Spring Clean. 28<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b></p> <p>Hepworth are registered to participate again. A Litter pick has been arranged. Meet at the Pavilion 10am on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Equipment will be provided. Clerk will publicise on Hepworth Matters page and in Notice board.</p>	Clerk
18.	<p><b>Village event 2021</b></p> <p>The Hepworth Scarecrow competition will run again over the bank holiday weekend 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021. This Year there will be a prize giving on the Sunday combined with a Village picnic. Villagers will be encouraged to bring their own picnics to enjoy at the recreation ground and watch the Scarecrow competition winner be awarded the Worzel Gummidge Cup. LR to investigate possible live music and marquee hire.</p>	RS LR
19	<p><b>Review of signatories</b></p> <p>Signatories can remain the same.</p>	
20	<p><b>Questions for the chair</b></p> <p>Nil</p> <p><b>Date of next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> July 1930 hrs at the Pavilion</b></p> <p><b>Meeting concluded 2135</b></p>	

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