

A meeting of the Hepworth Parish Council took place on Thursday 9th of January 2020 at the village hall where the following items were discussed.

Attendees	Ms L Robinson (Chairman)	Mrs N Yorke
	Mr A Yorke (Vice Chairman)	Mr G Bloomfield
	Mrs M Waterson	Cllr C Bull
	Mrs A Thomas	Mrs M MacPherson
	Cllr J Spicer	Clerk Ms H Corris

Members of the Public: Seven Members of the public were present

1.	Apologies There were no apologies	Action
2.	Declarations of Interest There were none	
3.	Minutes of previous meetings The minutes of the Meeting 7 th of November 2019 were agreed and signed.	
4.	<p>Suspension of meeting to receive reports and hear from members of the public present</p> <p>Report from Cllr Spicer</p> <p>Public Enquiry on the 14th January 2020 into the potential re-opening of an alleged public footpath from Wood Lane across farmland to Beck Street to be held here in the Pavilion. Cllr Spicer will attend but as an observer only. The meeting will be extremely formal and Cllr Spicer has contact details of the Chairman for the meeting should Parish Council require them. The meeting will be attended by the Landowners affected by this footpath and they will be represented. Should the Parish Council wish to formally represent themselves they should let her know and can expect to be cross-examined at the enquiry.</p> <p>Footpath Market Weston Road Is this going ahead? If so please inform Cllr Spicer as she will release funds.</p> <p>Weight Restriction (Lorry Ban)</p> <p>The Parish Council are entitled to request a weight restriction for the village. In previous years when IKEA were looking to develop the Shepherd's Grove site they were going to provide funding for a weight restriction to be applied to Hepworth. Cllr Spicer stated that any application for development is looked at and an assessment on the impact of additional traffic is made by the planning team and herself. Cllr Spicer feels that should the Shepherd's Grove development take place, then traffic calming would be required through the village of Hepworth due to the inevitable increase of commercial vehicles travelling through the village from the site. However, a recent "lorry count" survey conducted showed that less than 1% of vehicles travelling through the village were Heavy Goods Vehicles.</p> <p>Parish Council explained that they were exploring the cost and viability of a weight restriction (lorry ban) through the village not because of the volume of Heavy Goods vehicles but because of the danger to the pedestrians, horse riders, and cyclists etc when the HGV's pass through, due to the lack of paving and width of the road. These reasons are published on the Suffolk County Council website as being reasons that could justify implementing a weight restriction. Parish Council accepted that such a ban would have to be self-funded and were merely trying to establish realistic costs involved before consultation with the residents of the village was considered. Cllr Spicer said she would send details of a point of contact at Suffolk County Council who may be able to assist. Cllr Spicer offered to fund and provide "Unsuitable for HGV" signs for the village in the meantime if PC would like them. The Parish Council accepted and thanked Cllr Spicer for her offer.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer informed the PC that she had managed to obtain a reduction in the speed limit from</p>	

	<p>40mph to 30mph through Stanton along the A143.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer was asked about the lack of Police Officers but informed the PC that Suffolk County Council have no influence over Police funding or resources at all. It is all in the hands of the local Police and Crime Commissioner and that there has been a significant reduction in funding available for Policing over recent years.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer informed PC that the new recycling centre opens on Thursday 16th January. It will not have any steps to negotiate and all waste will be taken there. The recycling centre will be closed to the public on Wednesdays.</p> <p>There has been a review of Suffolk Children’s centres, however the Bluebell centre in Stanton will remain open.</p> <p>Parish Council asked if there was a possibility of some sort of barrier in the layby on the A143 as this is being used by HGV’s to park and these vehicles are eroding the verge away which in turn is collapsing into the Farmers ditch causing a flooding potential. A large amount of rubbish is also being thrown into the ditch and the Farmer has to clear it continually at his expense. Could we have some more bins? Cllr Bull stated the layby is owned by the County Council and she will make a site visit with Cllr Spicer and the Farmer. It may be possible to have a second bin.</p> <p>Report from Cllr Bull</p> <p>Drainage issues in the village Council do speak to Land owners who are encouraged to keep ditches clear but it is ultimately Land owners responsibility and very hard for the Council to enforce any action. The ditch at the rear of the Bungalows towards North Common junction is believed to be on private property.</p> <p>Chapmans Lorries coming through the village Chapmans have been told not to come through the village, Enforcement officer looking into it. Residents are encouraged to report sightings directly to Chapmans.</p> <p>Comments from Members of the Public present</p> <p>The Dustbin in the layby on The Street has now gone. New bin to be requested. Bin also broken on A143 at the bus stop. Bin to be repaired.</p> <p>Concerns drainage from any development on Shepherd’s Grove will impact on Hepworth. This has been highlighted to developers already. Cllr Thomas noticed ditches in Hepworth are overgrown and need clearing, especially opposite Wood Lane. It is believed Barkers Farms own this area. Barkers will be contacted and asked to clear it.</p> <p>The pathway to the Pavilion is breaking up. Not Parish Council land, it belongs to Wup Doodle. Richard will be spoken to and asked if he could fill them.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Market Weston Footway. Members of the public present strongly oppose the re-instatement of this old footway. Photos were produced by Cllr Yorke to show that there had been a footway at some point in the past. However, the Members of the public maintain that the local residents they have spoken to do not wish the path to be re-instated. An e mail from another resident was read out by the chair and they too stated that it was a waste of time and money. Concerns around maintenance of any path were voiced and serious concerns were made about the agricultural vehicles crossing the</p>	<p>Agenda Point.</p>

	<p>proposed path in order to access the field opposite North Hall Farm. MOP, were not satisfied that there had been any consultation with them about this proposed path. Currently they themselves maintain the verge at their own expense and good will. This will be withdrawn should the footway be re-instated.</p> <p>Cllr Macpherson personally thanked the MOP for the time and effort they have invested maintaining the current verge.</p> <p>Parish Council will now ask the Residents of the village to vote on the matter before any further decision is made.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p>Update Regarding Footpath Wood Lane/Folly Farm Beck Street</p> <p>Cllr Thomas has spent a considerable time researching the subject in order to provide residents and Parish Cllrs with information around this issue. PC thanked her for her hard work and time.</p> <p>The legislation keeps changing and the issue is complex. Ramblers association appear to keep requesting Councils review maps and re-instate previous footpaths. Councils are legally obligated to investigate each time the request is made. However, there are numerous maps and they are all different. Some clearly show paths and some do not. A court ruling in 2015 requires a review of all the maps is now undertaken. Cllr Thomas provided the PC with an information pack containing maps and a copy of a guideline document that she had found during her research. Cllr Yorke asks Mr Hatten to provide a brief history of previous enquiries into the footpath. Mr Hatten explains that the path was only ever provided in order for Villagers to access Bluebell woods to gather firewood and that nobody remembers the path being used. The current proposal extends well beyond this and emerges onto a private driveway that is utilised as entry and exit for the agricultural machinery on the farm and wholly unsuitable for walkers, quite apart from it being privately owned land.</p> <p>It is established that the current Land owners have representation at the Public Enquiry and do not require the Parish Council to attend. Parish Council will therefore not attend in an official capacity and have no comment to make on the matter.</p>	
7.	<p>Memorial Plaques, Hornbeam Trees and Maintenance</p> <p>Plaques still to be viewed and decided upon.</p> <p>Trees have been costed at £351. This includes Stakes and ties.</p> <p>Funds to come from Section 106 fund allocated to Hepworth.</p> <p>Proposed to train the trees into a "Hedge in the Sky" style. Tree Warden Mr Perry Penn will deal with the purchase, planting and upkeep.</p> <p>Annual cost of maintaining the trees will be budgeted for in the future.</p>	
8.	<p>Update re Mud on Road North Common</p> <p>Farmer has been spoken to following an accident where it was claimed the mud on the road was a contributory factor. He will endeavour to keep the road clean.</p> <p>County Council won't consider any signage.</p> <p>Parish Council agree to monitor the condition of the road.</p>	
9.	<p>Chapmans Lorry Update</p> <p>Parish Council wrote to Chapmans and reminded them of the planning conditions that forbids them from travelling through the Village when going to and from the Knettishall Heath site. To date no response received. Residents to be asked to report sightings and a notice to this effect will go into the Hepworth Herald. Contact to be made with Barningham Parish Clerk as this affects their residents too. We await a response from the planning enforcement team at West Suffolk council.</p>	Clerk

10.	<p>Recreation ground (play area).</p> <p>Cllr Thomas inspected the play apparatus and took photos. General disrepair, trees over grown. Mr John Beales is the Chair of the recreation ground committee. Cllr Robinson has had a discussion with him and the playground does get inspected by the Borough Council, he is aware of the condition. Cllr Robinson has made him aware that there is some money available from Borough Council for repairs. Clerk has forwarded the contact details regarding the funding to Mr John Beales. He was also informed that the Parish Council has received a letter regarding funds raised by the Recreation ground/Pavilion asking where they go. He explained that the Charity's income does not cover its expenditure. Parish council asks that any further questions regarding the recreation ground should be directed to Mr John Beales. Mr Beales suggested he write something to that effect in the Hepworth Herald. Parish Council have asked him to provide a financial report to them.</p>	
11.	<p>Potential Weight Restriction. This was covered by Cllr Joanna Spicer in item 4.</p>	
12.	<p>VE Day. Contact to be made with Hepworth 2 Enjoy regarding arranging a meeting. Person responsible for Soldier Silhouettes will be spoken to about completion dates.</p>	LR
13.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Letter received regarding Income from Pavilion. Covered in item 10. Emails received regarding exploring the possibility of obtaining funding for paving around the double bends in the street. Clerk to follow up. Email received from Community Engagement Police Officer introducing himself. Clerk to invite him to the APM.</p>	Clerk Clerk
14.	<p>Finance</p> <p>Budget and precept application for 2020/2021 approved, Clerk to submit Bank balance as of 19 December 2020 of Community Account £7520.15 and Business Savings account £1835.85. Following cheques agreed for payment; Cheque 967 Clerks Pay and expenses Nov- Dec 2019. £207.75 Cheque 968 HMRC Employer contribution £43.20 Cheque 969 Cllr expense £32.60 Cheque 970 Just a Small Thing IT support £30.00</p>	
15.	<p>Planning Applications. NIL</p>	
16.	<p>Questions to the Chair</p> <p>Sign on North Common overgrown, please contact Farmer and request it is cleared. Re-advertise Councillor vacancy. Please include these items on the next Agenda Resident is 100 soon. Discuss Hepworth Appreciation and Historical Society request</p>	Clerk
	<p>The meeting closed at 10.15pm</p>	

The next meeting will be held 5th March 2020 7.30pm Recreation hall.