

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 18 MAY 2023
7.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair)
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)
Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB)
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)
County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)
District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

Seven members of public were present.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2022 should be signed as a record of that meeting.

2. REPORT FROM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

GB read his report that had been pre-circulated, copy attached.

3. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

A copy of the audited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 had been pre-circulated, copy attached. AO summarised the significant areas.

4. VILLAGE REPORTS

a. Parochial Church Council

Jane presented the PCC report, copy attached.

b. Hepworth Pavilion and Recreation Ground

MM highlighted ongoing challenges with people to serve on the committee, indicated that more social events were taking place in the hall and that a football team was returning to use the pitch. The lease for the recreation ground expires in 2024 and further work will be needed closer to this time to understand what happens next.

c. Hepworth Charities

PP spoke about the work of the charity, including interest in some land.

d. Hepworth2enjoy

Claire and Jane spoke about the work of this informal group and the support given to various village events.

e. Hepworth Angels

MM spoke about this small choir that sing for pleasure.

f. Community Speedwatch

Richard spoke about this successful group that started with 9 members but was now down to five and struggling to find new people to join. He highlighted that speeding was still an issue in the village.

g. Coffee Mornings

GB read out the Coffee Mornings Group report by Anne and Tamer, copy attached.

h. Art Club

Wendy spoke about the work of the club which has been going 12 years and has 22 members with a waiting list. Highlighted plans for the club to visit the National Gallery via coach and to hold an exhibition in the Pavilion on 9 and 10 September.

i. Crafternoon Group

Jane presented the Crafternoon Group report, copy attached.

j. Team Hepworth

LR reported the group was up to 6 members and now working on clearing North Common undergrowth and verges. The group was seeking an area to drop clippings for subsequent burning.

k. County Councillor

JS provided an overview of financial challenges facing the County Council; Post-COVID, BREXIT, Ukraine War and Cost of Living. Apologised on behalf of the County Council for the delays in the speed calming scheme on The Street. This work was ready to start but awaiting gateways to be delivered.

l. District Councillor

CB presented her report, copy attached.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

a. Noticeboard

Claire asked if a noticeboard for events could be provided next to the Parish Council noticeboard. GB agreed to add to Parish Council agenda in June.

b. Layby

Jane asked if the layby by the post box near the A1088/The Street junction could be resurfaced. JS agreed to look into this.

c. ANPR Cameras

JS outlined figures from the recent ANPR camera deployment, previously circulated, and it was agreed to ask for the camera to return.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
22 May 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – HEPWORTH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2023

This is my 2nd year as chairman of the Parish Council and Nick's first year as vice chairman, and it has been an interesting year for many reasons.

Unfortunately, over the last 12 months Helen and Robin resigned as councillors, but we did manage to co-opt Hollie and Christine as new councillors, unfortunately Christine has now also resigned.

In the May elections there were not sufficient applications for a contest, so from the 9th of May all the current councillors who did apply, will continue on the Parish Council. Any vacancies we will endeavour to fulfil as soon as possible.

I would like to thank all the councillors for their help this year and to Nick for chairing the meetings that I have not managed to attend. Also I would like to thank Carol and Joanna for their help and support over the last 12 months. Also thanks to Perry for his work as Tree Warden and to the Speed Watch Team for continuing to encourage drivers to keep to the speed limits and to make the village safer. Thanks also to Neel for continuing to produce the Hepworth Herald, and for all the people that distribute it within the village, Neel has also taken over the responsibility for ensuring both the Speed indicators Devices are working in the village, and that the data is downloaded and reported to us, I believe this also helps to encourage drivers to respect the 30mph limit through the village, so thank you Neel for continuing to manage them.

Chris, our Parish Clerk, also resigned at the end of February and I would like to thank him for all the work he carried out for the Parish Council, and his help in handing over all the information to the new Parish Clerk. We were very fortunate that we had three applications for the position of a new Parish Clerk, and are pleased that Andy Osman has accepted the Parish Clerk role. Andy started on the 1st of April.

Over the last 12 months we have been involved with the following:

The Queens Jubilee Celebrations

Quiet Lanes Suffolk Project – which Marjorie is still working tirelessly on with Suffolk County Council.

Traffic Calming – still ongoing

The new Proposed Planning application by Jaynic/Copart on the industrial Estate

The resurfacing of Bury Weston Lane – still ongoing

The Community Emergency Action Plan which Nick has now completed

Repair to Culvert (near village sign) which is now complete

To co-ordinate the crowning of the willow tree at Willow Green

The next 12 months we will be involved with the following:

Continuing to oppose the new Jaynic/Copart development on the Industrial Estate

To hopefully get the traffic calming measures installed in the village before this summer

To ensure the resurfacing of Bury Weston Lane is completed

To finalise and get the signs installed for the Quiet Lanes Suffolk project

To plan what will happen in 2024 when the current 10 year agreement with the Hepworth Recreation Management Committee has ended.

Garry Bloomfield
Chairman Hepworth Parish Council

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

1		1
	INCOME	
£		£
7,201	Precept	7,561
745	Grants	1,278
0	Bank interest	0
2	Rent	0
141	VAT	172
0	Sundry	443
8,089		9,453
	EXPENDITURE	
3,787	Clerk's salary	2,885
350	Expenses	440
243	Professional fees	123
292	Insurance	408
153	Hire of hall	226
325	Donations s.137	425
0	Election costs	0
156	Training	28
304	Subscriptions	339
761	Village maintenance	251
211	New equipment	1,480
932	Events	688
21	Sundry expenses	0
172	VAT	224
7,707		7,517
	Balances at 1 April 2022	
	Bank current account	7,783
	Less unrepresented cheques	(1,288)
	Bank deposit account	1,838
		8,333
	Plus income	9,453
		17,786
	Less expenditure	(7,517)
	BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH 2023	10,270
	Represented by:	
	Bank current account:	10,270
	Less unrepresented cheque	0
		10,270
	Bank deposit account	0
	FUNDS HELD AS AT 31 MARCH 2023	10,270

PCC - St Peter's Church

In order to fund the repair to the clock and the fitting of electric winders, there have been a number of fundraising events at St Peter's this year. They also served to raise the profile of the church, in a drive to attract more villagers to be a part of the church. There was a Flower Festival in the late summer culminating in the Harvest Festival. The village Christmas event was immediately followed by the Carol Service, which encouraged people to follow on from one to the other. There was also a Sunday morning event for the children of the village, with Christmas activities. At the end of March there was a flurry of cleaning for the visit of King's College Voices, along with the Dean of King's. They gave us an evensong service to remember, with glorious singing and our organ was made to sound beautiful. There was an Easter service, alongside an Easter Treasure Hunt organised by Clare Jones - Davies which attracted a good number of children from the village. The village quiz in April was great fun and raised further funds.

Over the summer, the church was opened every day for the people of the village to visit or for walkers, cyclists and those who travel to Suffolk to visit the counties old churches. This will start again shortly.

The money has been raised for the clock works, with grants from The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, Councillor Spicer and the Miller Trust adding to our own fundraising. The work will be carried out shortly.

Further fundraising is taking place to repair areas of the roof, which began to leak during the heavy rain at the end of the summer. The Benefact Trust and the Ganzoni Charitable Trust have both provided grants. That work will begin once the Bat Conservation Trust have made a visit.

Crafternoon Tea

We continue to meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for a convivial chat, with some craft work being achieved at a gentle pace! I appreciate being able to cut out or lay out pieces on the larger tables. We have had two sessions with a theme, one on a Christmas decoration and the second on a simple but effective flower arrangement. These attracted a larger gathering than usual, which added a welcome boost to our funds. We are always on the lookout for someone who will share a skill at one of these events.



18/5/23

Jane Duffeld

Report for Hepworth Parish Council AGM — 18th May 2023

Please accept our apologies for not attending the above, but on behalf of the village "Coffee Morning" would like to report the following.

We have been holding our sessions on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month and have been attended by a regular group of people. For a small donation we all enjoy a cup of coffee / tea with refreshments, some even home made, but most of all it is a way of meeting new & old friends.

Over the last year we have celebrated special events such as birthdays, jubilee & coronation themed mornings.

We would like to extend invites to many more of you all to come and meet us at the hall from 10.30am — 12.00 noon.

Anne Flint & Tamar Haddock.

HEPWORTH ANNUAL MEETING 2023

This year seems to have flown by and whilst we have to the most extent been able to put Covid behind us and thought things could slowly return to some semblance of normality we are now faced with the challenges that the cost-of-living increases have brought for so many individuals, businesses and indeed the Council.

We were very pleased therefore to present a balanced budget for 2023/24 which was approved at February Council which will allow us to continue to provide all our essential services and ensure we continue to maintain our standards of service. In addition by accessing other funding we are also going to be able to move other services and projects forward. For example, with the Government Household Support funding we have been able to provide extra support for those in receipt of free school meals, foodbanks, SEND, care leavers and pensioners among others. We have also administered the allocation of housing and homeless support to help prevent or relieve homelessness as well as improve the Council tax discretionary scheme to support vulnerable residents.

In addition, we have been able to secure funding from a number of other sources including the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and the New Anglia Enterprise Partnership which have allowed us to progress a range of initiatives in relation to economic growth and recovery.

Our Families and Communities team have also been very busy helping to support residents impacted by the cost of living rises with for example the promotion of the Warm Spaces scheme, working with the voluntary and community sectors to build capacity to encourage digital inclusion, befriending services, community transport initiatives, subsidised lunch clubs and friendship clubs. And we have continued to support local projects through our Locality Budget and Community Chest funding which was increased by 10% this year.

Over the past four years West Suffolk Council has bid for and had grants from the Government of around £7.6 million and has also secured nearly £2.7 million from two other Government funds to further boost prosperity, the local economy and tackle the cost of living in West Suffolk.

This includes £1,943,467 allocated to West Suffolk through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), and £753,701 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), bringing the total amount of investment to £2,697,168.

The funding will help meet Government and local aims in supporting economic, wellbeing and environmental prosperity – including support for businesses, heritage, rural enterprises, and initiatives to tackle cost of living challenges. It will provide investment, in addition to that which the council and partners are already providing, in improving local towns and high streets – including better access for people with disabilities.

We secured £1.43 million from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to help deliver a range of energy efficiency, decarbonisation and council initiatives – this included battery energy storage such as that we are using at Mildenhall Hub. The overall value of the work being carried out is £1.8 million, with the council providing 20.5 per cent match funding to secure the grant. This is an

investment which will deliver energy savings and when fully operational generate income and cost savings estimated at £80,000 per year across six council owned properties.

This is really just a flavour of what we have been doing. I have not touched on things like the Local Plan which is a major piece of ongoing work and which went out for consultation this year. There is also the review we carried out on our markets looking at growth and development opportunities, and work on the provision of commercial units to provide opportunities for small start-up businesses not to mention all that goes on in planning and licensing. Barley Homes, has completed and sold out its first developments and has a number of others in progress. These have been very well received and sold very quickly. Work is also progressing on the Western Way development which will deliver a new swimming pool and sports centre among other things. We have also produced a very good, readable publication called "The Story So Far" which gives a lot of information on what West Suffolk Council have achieved in the last four years and I would recommend it to you.

As you are all aware we have just had the District Council Elections, so I have been very busy in the build up to these and am extremely thankful to those who turned out on polling day and voted for me. It was the first time I have been contested at an election so it was a new experience for me at the Count and a very good feeling to be able to finally say I have been elected. However with no one party having an overall majority negotiations are ongoing to find a way forward. We will have some challenging times ahead.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parish Council members for their work on behalf of their residents and say it has been a pleasure working with you and I hope and look forward to another fruitful four years.

CAROL BULL

WEST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

BARNINGHAM WARD

10/5/2023