

## DRAFT MINUTES

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the village hall where the following items were discussed.

<b>Attendees</b>	Mr D Stannard (Chairman) Mr G Bloomfield Mrs S Yeomans (Parish Clerk) Cllr C Bull	Mrs M MacPherson Mrs K Shearer Cllr J Spicer
<b>Apologies</b>	Mr A Yorke Mrs R Vernon	Rev D Messer

There were 2 members of the public present

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- |  |  | <b>Action</b> |
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| <b>1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council</b>                    | Mr D Stannard, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting  |               |
| <b>2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 19 May 2016</b>              | The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed accordingly at the Parish Council Meeting 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2016.  |               |
| <b>3. Chairman's Report</b>  | <p>The Chairman congratulated Cllr Spicer on being re-elected.</p> <p>The website is now up and running. There have been no contentious building projects during the year. There has been an unfortunate incident which resulted in the resignation of two councillors this year, which I personally have found very upsetting and which lead me to consider whether or not to continue as Chairman, I am continuing for the present but may reconsider my decision at a later date.</p>   |               |
| <b>4. Report by Rev David Messer (read by the Chairman in his absence)</b> | See attached appendix.   |               |
| <b>5. Report from Cllr Joanna Spicer</b>                                   | <p>I am very pleased to have been re-elected as County Councillor for the Blackbourn Division at the Suffolk County Council elections on May 4<sup>th</sup> and I undertake to work with parish councils, community groups and residents to secure the best possible service for the area from the County Council.</p> <p>Firstly, I would like to thank David and the Parish Council for their unstinting leadership of the village over the last year and to Sue for her help and guidance to me and to members.</p> <p>A year ago, we were cautiously confident that there were hopeful looking ways that we could persuade Dr Redman and Partners to continue to provide GP services in Hopton for the surrounding villages in the future after their abrupt withdrawal in December 2015. Despite the very best efforts, and with long and helpful support from Suffolk County Council., we would at this stage seem to have failed. We have had some small progress after a year towards a proper Patient Participation Group and a prescription collection service.</p> <p>The cattle grids at Knettishall heath are now installed and operational.</p> <p>Highways, potholes and flooding remain a concern to many residents. I much regret all the fuss we have to collectively make to get the worst potholes filled.</p> <p>I am monitoring the effect of the HGV ban north of Garboldisham and welcome any comments as it could mean an increase in large HGVs through Hepworth</p> <p>The County Council has had a challenging year whilst we have sought to maintain front line services this gets more difficult each year. Nearly half of our controllable budget is needed for adult social care and 20% for children's social care and child protection.</p> <p>The Energy from Waste facility at Great Blakenham continues to make big savings for the council.</p> <p>We have made some changes to crewing and vehicle location in our Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service which we are confident will ensure continued safe response times.</p> <p>There have been several changes over the year to bus timetables and some residents have found</p> |               |

this unhelpful. I hope it is recognised that balancing times around school transfers is tricky but also the requirement for the County Council to look very carefully at what they subsidise.

**6. Report by Carol Bull – Borough Councillor**

Thank you all for also making me very welcome.

Several of the items I was going to mention have already been covered by Cllr Spicer.

I am pleased that the car parking issue at the Bungalows has been sorted and a good job made of it.

Blacksmith's Cottage has been made the subject of an enforcement order and I will be chasing this.

The Planning Training Courses have been put on the back burner but I am still chasing for them to go ahead.

There is funding available from my Locality Budget and I would like to hear from anyone with requests for assistance, for example Broadband in the Village Hall.

Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury have been sharing share staff which has created a cost saving, this was a logical step. Notice of Intent has now been issued by both, to amalgamate making a bigger council which will have more clout.

I am sitting on the Police and Crime Commission panel.

Hopton Surgery update. The surgery will not be built at present but the rest of the plan will proceed. Outline planning permission for a doctor's surgery is still live but will lapse after 3 years.

**7. Report by Police – PC A De Jongh**

PC A De Jongh was not in attendance, no apologies or report were received.

**8. Parishioners Comments**

Mr John and Mrs Margaret Beales reiterated their reasons for resigning from the Parish Council.

**10. The meeting closed at 7.30pm**

**Report to Hepworth PARISH COUNCIL 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

My apologies for not attending as Thursdays I am at Hopton School following the selection of a new Head Teacher, but I thank you for opportunity in providing a report.

Thanks to all Parish Councillors for their hard work and devotion to ensuring the best interests of the community are safeguarded.

My report is in part the report I gave to the Hepworth PCC at their Annual meeting.

My thanks also go to the members of the PCC. I do appreciate all that they do.

Thanks go to our Readers and Elders for their ministry. We also need to thank that valuable resource, the retired priests who continue to minister and to all those who have helped lead and assist in worship to so many within the Benefice and Hepworth.

I am really enjoying working with you all and have enjoyed leading and being part of the community at Hepworth

St Peters is part of the expanded Benefice consisting of 8 churches and we have started to work together and provide individual Parish services as well as joint Services.

Being present goes beyond being here on a Sunday this includes home visiting for a number of reasons, Home Communion etc.

So for example at Easter we provided;

Good Friday witness of the Cross

The Good Friday Vigil at Hinderclay

Maundy Thursday service at Stanton Holy Communion with the Passion story and Stripping of Altar.

Quiet Day at Coney Weston

Services on Easter Sunday at each individual Church.

Just to let you know what is happening within the Benefice;

Baptism preparation group. The parents, godparents and child come to an afternoon where we talk about baptism means. To building a service that reflects what they would like but keeping to the principles on Canon.

This Sunday coming we have a Baptism for a Hepworth family and would be nice if people to could support families-so do please come and join us.

Confirmation will take place in September

Pastoral Care group has been formed and details will be circulated as soon as all details finalised. Always looking out for people to help.

Re proposed toilet. We need a plan of action and hopefully we can show what plans we would like to develop for the church.

The Deanery is also offering a number of events to support parishes and benefice. We are going to have another Treasurers day and an event looking at the Growing in God Vision and Use of church Buildings.

I have explained prior to becoming Priest in Charge and on 2 other occasions, it is not my intention to close this church. I wouldn't have cycled 1100km to raise funds for the 8 churches if that was the case.

We lost a PCC member and Church Warden and a Treasurer. I notified the Parish Council and we had a very constructive meeting. We cannot carry on as we are-the members of the PCC are too small and unable to cope with the demands placed on them.

I am pleased that a member of the Community has organised the Community Day with both church and Village Hall-Louise Robinson to bring the Community together.

I have been making enquiries about creating a 10km run following comments from the Archdeacon.

We need to think how can we make things happen rather than saying that will never work.

**Regular weekly activities :**

**Monday and Friday** 9.00am Morning Prayer at All Saints, Stanton.

**Tuesday** 9.30am-12.00pm Drop-in at Stanton Church Rooms every Tuesday except the first Tuesday of the month.

**Wednesday** 7.00pm Choir practice, new members always welcome.

**Wednesday** 7.30pm Way Ahead Group at The Furrells, High St., Hopton (contact Maggie Waugh 01953 688386)

Mens Breakfast Group 8.30am The Furrells Hopton

But realistically if you want your church to exist we need to support one another- The Church is unique in that it is both community and sacred and we cannot bar anyone from coming into the church, nor should we. But we must make it more accessible and sustainable and the village if it truly wants the church to exist needs more support.

Thank you.

Revd David Messer **18<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**