

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2022
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (Chairman) (GB)
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)
Councillor Robin Shackleton (RS)
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)
Councillor Justin Seldis (JS)
From 22/008
Councillor Helen Corris (HC)
Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)
District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)
County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)

Two members of public were present.

22/001 PUBLIC FORUM

There was discussion around the plans for designating Church Lane and Clay Lane as Quiet Lanes and why the other lanes could not be included.

22/002 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a) JS asked about the works to alleviate the flooding by the bus stop and there was discussion on how this was proceeding.
- b) CB spoke about the planned changes to the collection of recycling and the consultations for transport and funding the police 101 service.

22/003 APOLOGIES

None – all councillors present

22/004 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

MM declared an interest in agenda item 11 (b). LR declared an interest in agenda item 9(a).

22/005 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

22/006 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meetings held on 18 November 2021 and 4 December 2021 had been previously circulated.

It was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.

22/007 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

22/008 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

There were two applicants in respect of the two vacancies.

It was resolved to co-opt Nicholas Bennett and Helen Corris to the Parish Council.

22/009 VILLAGE EQUIPMENT, TREES AND HIGHWAYS

a) It was noted that there had been a further email from a resident about parking in Church Lane and concerns about a drain. A draft letter to residents was reviewed. Various options were considered. It was decided to hold off sending letters to residents and to review the situation again at the next meeting but to report the concerns about the drain to SCC.

b) MM reported on the situation with Quiet Lanes Suffolk. The comments from the public consultation were noted.

It was resolved to formally apply for Clay Lane and Church Lane to be designated as Quiet Lanes and to contribute £50 towards the cost of the signage.

c) It was noted that the locality grant of £300 from CB had been received and that the materials for the fencing around the culvert would now be organised with the view to doing the work in March.

d) CG advised that Anglian Water have confirmed they do not own the land which has the willow tree that needs attention. In view that the landowner cannot be ascertained, it was decided that PP would decide what work was needed to the tree with a view to getting quotations.

e) There was discussion about the plans for the traffic calming along The Street, Hepworth and why these have come to a halt. There appears to be issues with street lighting. It was considered that the current situation was unacceptable and decided that this project needs pushing forward. It was agreed to write in strong terms to senior officers at SCC Highways to get an understanding of the issues and to have solutions to get the project moving again.

f) The plans for work at Jubilee Corner were discussed and how this will be funded. This will involve fabric to suppress weeds at £115 and a bench at £380. CB advised that funding might be available from her locality budget.

g) There had been concerns expressed about rocks and large logs being placed on verges on the edge of the highway and the damage this could do to vehicles. It was agreed to report any concerns to SCC Highways for appropriate action.

22/010 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The plans for the celebrations were reviewed and it was confirmed all was on track.

22/011 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a) The following payments were considered for approval.

£40.00 to Just a Small Thing – website hosting

£80.05 to C Garman – Clerk's expenses October to December 2021

It was resolved to approve both these payments.

c) The revised draft budget for 2022/2023 with previous year comparisons had been previously circulated. There were some changes to the expenditure. There was conversation on an appropriate precept to fund the planned expenditure taking into account funds in the reserves. A precept of £7,561 was considered which would mean an increase for a Band D property of 4.18% or £1.40 pa.

It was resolved to approve the revised budget for 2022/2023 and to request a precept from WSC of £7,561.

d) Draft GDPR and Website Accessibility policies had been previously circulated.

It was resolved to approve these policies as presented.

22/012 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) There was discussion in respect of the proposed development at Shepherds Grove, Stanton and the EIA and consultation process. It was agreed to wait until there is a formal planning application as there were currently too many unknowns.
- b) CB gave an update in respect of the unoccupied derelict property known as Blacksmith Cottage, The Street, Hepworth. WSC are aware of the property and plan to take no action to try and bring it back into use. However, CB will see if WSC can encourage the owners to tidy up the grounds and appearance.
- c) There were updates in respect of recent planning applications.

22/013 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and was noted. There was concern about the recent accident in The Street, Hepworth when a pedestrian was hit by a vehicle.

22/014 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) There was discussion about the current Parish Council managed Facebook page and how it should be used. It was decided to continue to use and post when appropriate.
- b) There was discussion about who should officially open the new village sign and when. Some options will be explored.

22/015 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 17 February 2022 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
26 January 2022