

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2023
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chairman)
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)
Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB)
Councillor Justin Seldis (JS)
Councillor Hollie Bloomfield (HB) from 23/008
Councillor Christine Price (CP) from 23/008

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Two members of public were present.

23/001 PUBLIC FORUM

There was a discussion on the issues and concerns with the Shepherds Grove proposed development.

23/002 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a) JSp spoke about progress with the traffic calming project with work starting in March 2023 weather permitting. JSp confirmed that the resurfacing of Weston Lane should happen shortly. JSp spoke about SCC's approach to the consultation in respect of the Shepherds Grove proposed road changes and traffic flows.
- b) CB spoke about voter identification being needed for the May elections, the change of approach to WSC's use of weedkillers and additional council tax support.

23/003 APOLOGIES

None.

23/004 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/005 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

23/006 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 November 2022, 17 November 2022 and 14 December 2022 had been previously circulated.

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

23/007 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

23/008 VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

There were two applications for the two Parish Councillor vacancies.

It was resolved to co-opt Hollie Bloomfield and Christine Price as Parish Councillors

23/009 VILLAGE ASSETS, TREES AND HIGHWAYS

- a) There had previously been an update in respect of the traffic calming project.
- b) There had previously been an update on the resurfacing of Weston Lane.

23/010 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) The following payments was considered for approval.
 - £25.00 to Royal British Legion – donation
 - £160.71 to C Garman – Parish Clerk’s expenses October – December 2022
 - £40.00 to Just a Small Thing – website hosting fee.

It was resolved to approve these payments.

- b) The revised draft budget for 2023/2024 had been previously circulated was considered. There was discussion on the level of precept and it was agreed to keep any increase to 3% and to use reserves if needed to cover the predicted deficit of £1,419. There were no other changes.

It was resolved to approve the revised draft budget for 2023/2024 and to request a precept of £7,855 from West Suffolk Council.

- c) An increase in the Parish Clerk’s salary back dated to 1 April 2022 in line with NALC recommendations and employment contract was considered.

It was resolved to increase the Parish Clerk’s salary to £13.45 per hour and back dated to 1 April 2022.

- d) The resignation of the Parish Clerk was noted. There was a discussion about the recruitment process for a new Parish Clerk. This will be advertised as widely as possible with a closing date of 15 February 2023. Applications can then be considered at the next meeting on 16 February 2023.

23/011 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) The summary of councillors concerns and issues had been previously circulated and were considered in depth. The feedback from the Stanton councillors present following their visit to the Colchester site of Co Part was welcome. This raised further issues. It was decided that some councillors will visit the Sandy Bedford site of Co Part and to understand how that site has effected that local community. It was decided to proceed with an extra ordinary Parish Council meeting on Friday 27 January 2023 to focus on this planning application and allow residents to state their views and to answer where possible questions. It was noted that JSp would not be at the meeting but CB planned to attend. JSp had previously stated that an officer at SCC had be assigned the task of responding to the consultation on behalf of SCC. It was noted that the Parish Council would like to meet with that officer so local concerns were fully understood. JSp advised that a meeting was unlikely but councillors considered this was essential.

- b) There was no report on other applications.

23/012 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The response from Anglian Water in respect to the formal complaint about the number of leaks and road closures was considered. It was noted that there had been a further two leaks. However, for the time being, no further action was considered appropriate.
- b) It was noted that there had been no response to the email to Stanton Surgery concerning the poor service from the dispensary. CB advised that she was having a meeting with the practice manager shortly to discuss the concerns.

23/013 CORONATION EVENT

An event to celebrate the King's coronation on or round 6 May 2023 was considered. However, it was felt that the Parish Council with all else going on could not undertake to organise an event but funds were available should another village group wish to organise an event.

23/014 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) It was confirmed there was no progress by SCC with the Quiet Lanes Suffolk project.
- b) It was understood there were pollution issues from water coming from Shepherds Grove. This had been reported to both the Environment Agency and WSC but there had been little interest. CB said she would follow this through with WSC.
- c) There was a discussion about a joint meeting with other parish Councils about the Shepherds Grove development. It was understood this might happen in due course.

23/015 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting which will be an extra ordinary meeting on Friday 27 January 2023 and then a meeting on Thursday 16 February 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
23 January 2023

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