

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 24
7.30pm

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)

24/114 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24/115 APOLOGIES

None.

24/116 PUBLIC FORUM

No public in attendance.

24/117 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

See Minute 24/121.

24/118 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 24 had been previously circulated and **it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.**

24/119 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 24/110: 17 October 24 – Drainage Issue. LR reported discussions with a tenant farmer over clearing drains on part of The Street and who was responsible. County Cllr Spicer subsequently **agreed to clarify responsibility with Suffolk County Farms.** LR also reported that the footpath sign on Clay Lane had been restored.

24/120 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

None

24/121 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. LGA Pay Award. The meeting noted the LGA Pay Award briefing note that had been previously circulated.
- b. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £6,719.844, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £4,100 current account and £7,000 savings account). The following payments were authorised:

Hepworth Pavillion Hire	£48.00
Clerks Salary & Wages	£1109.59

LR agreed to provide 2nd bank authorisation.

- c. Budget Setting FY 25/26. The meeting discussed the draft budget for FY25/26 that had been previously circulated. It was resolved to adopt this budget unamended and to use a precept for FY25/26 of £6,250 (a 20% reduction) at the January 25 Parish Council meeting where the Precept Form would be completed.

County Cllr Spicer and District Cllr Bull arrived at 7.45pm

County Cllr Spicer provided the following update:

- Equation Planning Application - DC/24/1073/FUL. Suffolk Highways had indicated that they would be inputting a holding objection over use of TRICS data.
- A1088 Bridge. The A1088 bridge repairs had been extended until at least the end of February 25 due to issues found with concrete quality in piles recently installed.
- Buses. A bid from local Parish Council's, including Hepworth Parish Council, had been accepted by Suffolk County Council to provide bus services in 2025. It was noted this bid was coincidental with recently announced additional funding to Suffolk for buses by HM Government. There was still an issue with future bus services not stopping on The Street and this would exacerbate the ongoing safety issue of young people having to walk along dimly lit roads without footways.

District Cllr Bull provided the following update:

- Local Plan. The West Suffolk Local Plan examination was ongoing and was due to complete before Xmas.
- Air Quality Report. The West Suffolk Air Quality report recently issued showed that all monitoring stations in this area recorded levels below national requirements.
- Locality Grant. Locality grant funding was still available.

- New Entrance on The Street. Activity related to the newly installed entrance on The Street was noted. The Parish Council agreed to monitor the situation and to report any potential material issues of a planning or building control nature to West Suffolk Council.

24/122 PLANNING MATTERS

The meeting noted the recently issued letters of re-consultation for planning applications DC/24/0437/FUL AND DC/24/1073/FUL along with an unachievable 9-working day turn around for comments. As the letters were issued after the agenda for the November Parish Council meeting had been formally published, the Chair, with the backing of the meeting, decided to hold an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4 December (Standing Order Sect 6 refers) to consider the new information and to resolve whether any further Parish Council comment was required.

24/123 CORRESPONDENCE

None

24/124 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None

24/125 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 16 January 25 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
27 November 24