

Annual report 2020



HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman's report

The Parish Council continues to lobby for safety improvements on roads within the village. Our efforts, supported by a very effective petition signed by over 400 people representing more than 300 households (over 75% of the total number of households in the village – not including the Greens), are beginning to yield rewards.

We have successfully persuaded Norfolk County Highways to re-surface the B 1527 and to remove centre line markings and cats' eyes along some stretches of this road. Since these changes have applied the previous very high accident rate along the B 1527 has been reduced to virtually zero. The new surface seems to provide a better grip and the lack of road markings is encouraging at least some drivers to drive in a more cautious manner.

There are also plans to introduce 20 mph limits along parts of the B1527 and Hempnall Street and to install picket gates at one or more of the entrances in to the village. These changes, together with the installation of a flashing sign warning of a sharp bend at the western end of the village, are dependant on a planning gain associated with the building of a new housing estate between Roland Drive and the playing field.

Speeding vehicles remain a major concern to residents and the Parish Council would like to see traffic calming measures introduced at strategic points along the B 1527. Our Sam 2 machines log some horrifically high top speeds and regularly reveal that a large number of drivers are breaking the law.

The Speed Watch team has a key role to play in reducing speeding. In many other villages regular speed-watch sessions have proved effective at reducing vehicle speeds. With more volunteers the Hempnall Speed Watch team could be "on patrol" on a much more regular basis. Lesley Michenall is the co-ordinator and would welcome further volunteers in order that the speed-watch team can carry out its beneficial work on a much more frequent basis. Please consider joining the team – translate your concerns in to positive actions to help tackle the problem of speeding vehicles in Hempnall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Mike Turner for the enormous amount of work he undertakes in looking after our Sam 2 speed monitoring devices – Mike - these efforts are very much appreciated by all of us.

The new roundabout at the B 1527 / A 140 intersection has been a benefit for residents and joining or crossing the A 140 has ceased to be the nightmare experience it once was. However it is inevitable that the large scale of housing development planned for Long Stratton and elsewhere will put enormous pressure on our local road system especially when drivers, frustrated by traffic jams on the A140, view Hempnall as a convenient "rat run" – the Krons and Hempnall Street, as well as the B1527, will experience even more traffic movements.

Sadly the Parish Council has lost 2 councillors this year. Paul Edden passed away shortly after becoming a councillor last year. Even though he was a member for a very short period of time it was obvious that he would have made a very good councillor indeed.

Roger Parker passed away recently and he will be sorely missed by us all. His contributions as a councillor and to village life in general, through all the committees and causes he had been involved with, have been enormous. In so many ways Roger is truly irreplaceable.

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All my fellow councillors undertake good work on behalf of our village - thank you Hamish Rose for over seeing the footpaths in Hempnall. Thank you to Liz Allen for representing us on the Village Hall Committee. Thank you to Richard Delf and Peter Workman for your work helping to look after the playing field and the children's play area. Peter also represents the Council on the Town Estate Trust and his contribution to the work of that committee is enormous.

And a big thank you to the "new boy" - Andy Driver. Andy has taken a keen interest in local bus services, planning matters and the possibility of an affordable housing scheme in Hempnall.

Being a parish councillor can be a thankless task – we have a say in decisions but our views are often overlooked or ignored by higher level authorities. Nevertheless if any of you present tonight fancy representing Hempnall on the Parish Council there is currently a vacancy. Please have a word with Ian if you are willing to put your name forward.

The long promised Long Stratton by-pass still does not have a start date let alone a completion date. The by-pass together with so many other aspects of the current local plan – the Joint Core Strategy – do not appear to be materialising but notwithstanding this SNC, Broadland and Norwich City Council are working on a new local plan (The Greater Norwich Local Plan) which will guide development in South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich through to 2038. The Parish Council has contributed its ideas and views at all stages in the consultation process and has made it clear that we do not think that any new housing sites allocated for inclusion in this plan should be developed until the existing 33,000 plus housing commitments in the current plan (allocated housing as yet un-built) have been built out. Hempnall Parish Council supports CPRE Norfolk in their campaign on this issue.

As a parish council we support new houses in the village when they are built on infill sites within the current development boundary. We are also keen, in partnership with Saffron Housing, to promote a development of affordable housing on what would be an exception site alongside Millfields. A new site layout has been put forward which would provide 15 affordable houses at this location. We are awaiting a decision from SNC as to whether they will allow this scheme to proceed – our fate is in their hands as they are the landowners.

The Millfields affordable housing project together with the new housing proposed on an existing allocated site between Roland Drive and the playing field plus anticipated windfall in-fill developments would lead at least 50 new houses being built in Hempnall. This seems an appropriate number for a village that currently has around 530 dwellings. It represents a 10% increase which is small enough in scale that it can easily be assimilated in to the existing settlement without swamping our community.

Some of the site submissions put forward for inclusion in the new local plan (GNLP) are for large housing estates in Hempnall and the parish council is opposing development at these locations because they lie outside the development boundary and because they are too big to be assimilated successfully in the local community and would increase the already intolerable traffic problems.

A decision on whether the proposed sites will be included in the new local plan has yet to be made. I urge any parishioner who wishes to express a view about these sites to contact the GNLP team ASAP i.e. before final decisions are made. I can supply the relevant contact details.

In response to parishioners' complaints about the state of the footpath linking the Street with Mill Road the Parish Council has spent money on creating a more level and better drained surface even though Norfolk County Council is the responsible authority for this path. Jimmy Dye did a great job in making this path much more "user friendly".

The footbridge linking Swan Meadows to the Property Charity's meadows was officially dedicated to Miss Emery at a ceremony held in September 2019. The paths and bridge are well used and a great asset to the village.

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In this report I have only mentioned just a few of the things your councillors do in the course of the year. They are a good team and it is a privilege to be their chairman.

Before I sign off I must give a plug to the VE Day event scheduled for May 8th. Katie Barnes and Dianne Ingram have worked so hard organising this day and have put together a team of volunteers from many of the clubs and societies in the village that should ensure a wonderful event. On behalf of the Parish Council I thank them both for their sterling work on this and urge all residents to take part and in so doing remember our local men and women who sacrificed so much to ensure victory in 1945.

And finally a huge vote of thanks to our clerk, Ian Nelson, Ian does an enormous amount of work on behalf of this village. He keeps the accounts (and us) in pristine order. He produces the agendas, the minutes, writes numerous Emails and letters pursuing our objectives and is a great source of support to me as chairman.

Please feel free to ask any questions in regard to the matters I have mentioned during the discussion period.

David Hook – 17th March, 2020

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

<u>31st March</u> <u>2019</u> £	<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2020</u> £	£
INCOME			
17,650.00		17,650.00	
231.00		-	
165.35		178.78	
200.00		200.00	
-		-	
-	5	2,015.00	
150.00		150.00	
608.04		-	
1,350.00	6	1,399.50	
175.00	6	175.00	
<u>20,529.39</u>		<u>21,768.28</u>	
EXPENDITURE			
1,665.40		1,636.47	
4,437.95		4,053.30	
1,931.73		2,437.33	
632.64		100.00	
552.82	1a	3,574.17	
216.54		242.27	
405.85		473.01	
700.00		725.00	
1,803.86		683.00	
160.00		-	
-		19.76	
-		18.60	
-		500.00	
-		-	
280.00		287.40	
-		-	
-		-	
-		-	
-		-	
1,349.50	6	1,397.50	
<u>14,136.29</u>		<u>16,147.80</u>	
GENERAL FUND			
50,221.74		55,831.30	
20,529.39		21,768.28	
(14,136.29)		(16,147.80)	

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6,393.10	Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>5,620.48</u>
56,614.84	General fund at end of year	<u>61,451.78</u>
0.00	Transfers from/(to) Capital Fund	-
0.00	Transfers from Earmarked Funds	3,080.91
<u>(783.54)</u>	Transfers to Earmarked Funds	<u>-</u>
<u>55,831.30</u>	Balance at 31st March 2020	<u>64,532.69</u>

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

BALANCE

SHEET

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2020

<u>31st March</u> <u>2019</u> £		<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2020</u> £	£
	LONG TERM ASSETS			
5,000.00	Investments - National Savings Bonds			5,000.00
-	Long term debtors			-
<u>5,000.00</u>				<u>5,000.00</u>
	CURRENT ASSETS			
-	Stocks and stores		-	
-	Work in progress		-	
150.50	Debtors (Net of provisions)	4	544.25	
482.50	Payments in advance		355.00	
1,031.56	V.A.T. recoverable	4	1,478.21	
-	Temporary lending		-	
59,101.95	Cash at bank and in hand		<u>57,534.43</u>	
<u>60,766.51</u>				59,911.89
<u>65,766.51</u>	TOTAL ASSETS			<u>64,911.89</u>
	CURRENT LIABILITIES			
6,329.30	Creditors		204.20	
525.00	Receipts in Advance		175.00	
-	Temporary borrowing		-	
-	Bank overdrawn		-	
<u>6,854.30</u>				<u>379.20</u>
<u>58,912.21</u>	NET ASSETS			<u>64,532.69</u>
	REPRESENTED BY:			
3,080.91	General Fund - Earmarked	6		-
55,831.30	General Fund - Not Earmarked			<u>64,532.69</u>
58,912.21				64,532.69
-	Capital Reserve	5		-
<u>58,912.21</u>				<u>64,532.69</u>

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Councillor/Clerk	Telephone No.	Email address
David Hook – Chairman – Tree Warden	01508 498187	hookd74@yahoo.com
Liz Allen - Village Hall Rep - Democracy Champion	01508 499357	liz.allen1@btinternet.com
Joan Cann	01508 498743	joan.cann1944cann@btinternet.com
Richard Delf -Vice Chairman - Playing Field Liaison	01508 499788	richard@delfsgarage.co.uk
Andy Driver - Data Protection Committee	01508 498890	andydriver54@gmail.com
Hamish Rose - Footpaths Officer	01508 498486	hamishandgeorgina@btinternet.com
Mike Turner- Tree Warden - SAM2 Officer - Highways Liaison	01508 499423	mike.turner45@btinternet.com
Peter Workman - Playing field Liaison	01508 499729	pworkman@hempnallpc.org
Ian Nelson - Clerk	01508 498467	theclerk@hempnallpc.org