



Chairman's report

This past year has presented enormous challenges to everyone. At the time of our annual meeting in March 2020 no-one could have imagined what the next 12 months had in store. The Covid-19 pandemic has required the Parish Council to carry out its business “virtually” via Zoom and it is to the credit of all councillors and especially our clerk, Ian Nelson, that it has been possible to conduct affairs efficiently and correctly in spite of all the imposed restrictions.

In times of crisis village communities respond positively and this has certainly been the case in Hempnall. The Hempnall Trust has ensured that its lunch service has continued to function throughout the pandemic using a “meals on wheels” approach, aided by local volunteers. A big thank you to all Hempnall residents who have helped neighbours, and the community at large in so many different ways this past year.

A positive aspect of the Covid pandemic is that our footpaths and green spaces have been explored and appreciated by more people than ever before. Let us hope that our government learns the important lesson that our countryside provides not just food but is treasured and valued by so many – it really is so important to the nation’s mental and physical well-being. Perhaps Boris’s “Build, Build, Build” agenda, in which he has said that he would not let “newt counters stand in the way of development”, will be modified to provide greater protection for the countryside.

The Parish Council certainly does all it can to protect local countryside from development. Our policies recognise the need for some new housing in the village and we consider that the 45 to 50 new dwellings resulting from a combination of the development south of Bungay Road (23 houses) plus the affordable housing scheme alongside Millfields (15 social houses), which the parish council is pursuing in alliance with Saffron Housing, together with infill developments (known as windfalls) of around 10 houses is the right amount for the village. 50 new houses is around a 10% increase in the number of houses and can be accommodated without the village being swamped by new development and suffering a loss of community and rural character. Because we think 50 extra houses is enough we have opposed the inclusion of any new sites for Hempnall in the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan and have let our views on this be known in all the consultation phases of the plan. Whether we will be listened to is another matter and we have asked for our District Councillor (Michael Edney) and our County Councillor (Alison Thomas) to support us on this issue.

The Parish Council also seeks to restrict new development to within the current development boundary and works to protect the conservation area of the village.

Unfortunately our powers are limited but we do our best to ensure that our policies are taken in to account in decisions made by the local planning authority.

It seems that the safety improvements along the B 1527, removal of the centre line markings and cats’ eyes along some stretches and the “rougher” road surface, continue to work. The previously very high accident rate has been reduced to virtually zero. And I repeat my view that 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.

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 are progressing. These changes, together with the installation of a flashing sign warning of a sharp bend at the western end of the

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village are associated with a planning gain resulting from the building of the new housing estate south of Bungay Road.

Last year I highlighted the problem of speeding vehicles and this remains a major concern to residents and the Parish Council. We would like to see further 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. Please consider joining our Speed Watch team – translate your concerns in to positive actions to help tackle the problem of speeding vehicles in Hempnall. We are currently advertising for a co-ordinator to oversee the activity of the team.

Councillor Mike Turner does a great job looking after our Sam 2 speed monitoring devices – Mike - these efforts are very much appreciated by all of us.

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. Thanks also to Andy (Driver), for his involvement in issues relating to local bus services and very positive contributions on planning policy and planning applications.

We have a new member on the team this year, Joan Cann. She has very much come in at the "deep end" but her contributions and fresh perspective are most welcome.

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.

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.

A casualty of the Covid crisis was the planned VE Day event scheduled for May 8th. Katie Barnes and Dianne Ingram worked so hard organising this day and had put together a team of volunteers from many of the clubs and societies in the village which would have ensured a wonderful event. On behalf of the Parish Council I thank them both for their sterling work

And finally, as always, 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 – 16th March, 2021

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

<u>31st March</u> <u>2020</u> £	<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2021</u> £
INCOME		
17,650.00		17,850.00
-		-
178.78		69.94
200.00		200.00
-		10,000.00
2,015.00		-
150.00	5	-
-		150.00
-		951.27
1,399.50	6	355.00
175.00	6	175.00
21,768.28		29,751.21
EXPENDITURE		
1,636.47		2,644.31
4,053.30		4,172.83
2,437.33		1,468.10
100.00		676.50
3,574.17	1a	203.58
242.27		241.88
473.01		400.25
725.00		750.00
683.00		2,771.22
-		-
19.76		450.00
18.60		416.00
-		840.00
500.00		526.95
-		-
287.40		294.40
-		-
-		-
-		-
-		-
-		-
1,397.50	6	355.00
16,147.80		16,211.02
GENERAL FUND		
55,831.30		64,532.69
21,768.28		29,751.21

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(16,147.80)	less total expenditure	<u>(16,211.02)</u>	
5,620.48	Surplus/(Deficit)		13,540.19
3,080.91	Transfers from Earmarked Funds		203.58
0.00	Transfers to Earmarked Funds		(951.27)
0.00	Transfers from/(to) Capital Fund		0.00
<u>64,532.69</u>	Balance at 31st March 2021		<u>77,325.20</u>

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL
BALANCE
SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

<u>31st March</u> <u>2020</u> £	<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2021</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	-
544.25	4	Debtors (Net of provisions)	450.00
355.00		Payments in advance	-
1,478.21	4	V.A.T. recoverable	1,072.82
-		Temporary lending	-
<u>57,534.43</u>		Cash at bank and in hand	<u>73,283.98</u>
<u>59,911.89</u>			74,806.80
<u>64,911.89</u>		TOTAL ASSETS	<u>79,806.80</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
204.20		Creditors	1,558.92
175.00		Receipts in Advance	175.00
-		Temporary borrowing	-
-		Bank overdrawn	-
<u>379.20</u>			<u>1,733.92</u>
<u>64,532.69</u>		NET ASSETS	<u>78,072.88</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
-	6	General Fund - Earmarked	747.69
<u>64,532.69</u>		General Fund - Not Earmarked	<u>77,325.20</u>
64,532.69			78,072.88
-	5	Capital Reserve	-
<u>64,532.69</u>			<u>78,072.88</u>

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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
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