

Annual report 2022



HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman's report

It is encouraging to be able to report a number of positive developments that have taken place during the past year as our community has gradually emerged from the restrictions that were necessary to tackle Covid-19.

The parish council no longer meets virtually with the reinstatement of "real" meetings and this certainly is our preferred modus operandi.

We are working with the Environment Agency in an attempt to instigate measures that will prevent the kind of severe flooding that has had such a major impact on a number of households in the village. Parish Councillors have escorted Environment Agency officers on "field trips" exploring the drainage ditches and streams responsible for the surge of flood water and a number of solutions have been suggested. The aim is to slow up the rate at which storm water reaches the built up parts of Hempnall and this could involve the building of small dams and the construction of ponds. If the support of landowners can be secured these measures become realistic options that potentially could help solve the flooding problem.

Ambitious plans to expand and improve the play area at the playing field are progressing well. A team of local volunteers, assisted by parish councillors, have put a considerable amount of time and effort in to the project which has led to the production of a very impressive master plan. Around 50% of the total cost will be provided by the Parish Council with the other half coming from grant applications and fund raising activities. I'd like to say a big thank you to all those involved in developing this project which will provide major benefits for the village.

In spite of constraints imposed by Covid the Hempnall Trust has continued to ensure that its lunch service functions via a "meals on wheels" approach. The parish council once again thanks all the local volunteers that have made this possible.

I reported last year that a positive aspect of the Covid pandemic was that our footpaths and green spaces have been explored and appreciated by more people than ever before. It is encouraging that so many of us continue to use the footpath system that is treasured and valued by so many – it really plays an important part in maintaining our mental and physical well-being.

The Parish Council certainly does all it can to protect local countryside from development and in this context I repeat a section of my report from last year.

"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); the affordable housing scheme proposed alongside Millfields (15 social houses), which the parish council is pursuing in alliance with Saffron Housing, and infill developments (known as windfalls) of around 10 houses is the right amount for the village."

50 new houses represents around a 10% increase in the total number of houses in the parish 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 housing sites for Hempnall in the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) and have let our views on this be known in all the consultation phases of the plan and at the recent public examination of the GNLP. 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.

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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.

At this point I would like to welcome to our village the new residents moving in to properties on Willow Drive. We hope that they will enjoy living in Hempnall and will soon feel part of community – please join in with all the activities on offer, there really is a lot on offer.

The safety improvements along the B 1527 (i.e. the removal of the centre line markings and cats' eyes along some stretches and the "rougher" road surface) continue to offer positive benefits. The previously very high accident rate has been reduced to virtually zero as the change of surface material seems to provide a better grip and the lack of road markings does encourage at least some drivers to drive in a more cautious manner.

More recently 20 mph speed limits have come in to force along parts of the B1527 and Hempnall Street and picket gates have been installed at 2 entrances to the village (Broaden Lane and B1527 eastern entrance). These improvements, together with the installation of a flashing sign warning of a sharp bend at the western end of the village, were proposed by the parish council with funding support as a consequence of new housing building 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.

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 and for your very constructive involvement with the team planning the play area expansion. An additional thank you to Peter who represents the Council on the Town Estate Trust - 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. And finally thanks to Joan Cann, our newest member, whose contributions and fresh perspectives are most welcome.

Andy and Hamish have also been investigating potential sites for roadside nature reserves in Hempnall in collaboration with Helen Baczkowska of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust work. This work is progressing well and hopefully we will see some positive benefits to our roadside verges in the not too distant future. Thanks, Andy and Hamish, for your work on this project.

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.

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

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produces the agendas, the minutes, writes numerous Emails and letters and does so much more in the pursuit of our objectives. He 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 – 22nd March, 2022

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL					
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT					
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022					
31st March			Notes	31st March	
2021				2022	
£				£	£
		INCOME			
17,850.00		Precept			17,850.00
-		Council tax support grant			-
69.94		Interest on investments			24.29
200.00		Recycling receipts			200.00
10,000.00		Grants			400.00
-		Loans taken out			-
-		S106 receipts			500.00
-		Capital receipts	5		-
150.00		Land rent			150.00
951.27		Community infrastructure levy			9,640.36
355.00		Football Club rent	6		-
175.00		Tennis Club rent	6		175.00
29,751.21		TOTAL INCOME			28,939.65
		EXPENDITURE			
2,644.31		General administration			1,804.35
4,172.83		Wages			4,379.34
1,468.10		Grass Cutting & Maintenance			2,293.03
676.50		Village improvements			-
203.58		Capital spending	1 a		879.29
241.88		Street lighting			278.47
400.25		Annual subscriptions & donations			2,118.19
750.00		Litter Clearance			780.00
2,771.22		Playground Maintenance			1,494.46
-		Churchyard Maintenance			-
450.00		Bus shelter maintenance			400.00
416.00		Noticeboard maintenance			15.25
840.00		War Memorial Maintenance			-
526.95		Footpath Maintenance			1,189.30
294.40		Dog Bins			372.00
-		Agency services			-
-		Provision for bad & doubtful debts			-
-		Repayment of Loan			-
-		Interest on long term debts			-
355.00		Playing Field Users Assn. Expenditure	6		-
16,211.02		TOTAL EXPENDITURE			16,003.69
		GENERAL FUND			
64,532.69		General fund at beginning of year			77,325.20
		Add total income		28,939.65	
		less total expenditure		(16,003.69)	
13,540.19		Surplus/(Deficit)			12,935.96
203.58		Transfers from Earmarked Funds			879.29
(951.27)		Transfers to Earmarked Funds			(10,040.36)
0.00		Transfers from/(to) Capital Fund			0.00
77,325.20		Balance at 31st March 2022			81,100.09

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL					
BALANCE SHEET					
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022					
31st March				31st March	
2021			Notes	2022	
£				£	£
		LONG TERM ASSETS			
5,000.00		Investments - National Savings Bonds			10,000.00
-		Long term debtors			-
5,000.00					10,000.00
		CURRENT ASSETS			
-		Stocks and stores		-	
-		Work in progress		-	
450.00		Debtors (Net of provisions)	4	1,061.38	
-		Payments in advance		-	
1,072.82		V.A.T. recoverable	4	1,040.46	
-		Temporary lending		-	
73,283.98		Cash at bank and in hand		79,207.39	
74,806.80					81,309.23
79,806.80		TOTAL ASSETS			91,309.23
		CURRENT LIABILITIES			
1,558.92		Creditors		300.38	
175.00		Receipts in Advance		-	
-		Temporary borrowing		-	
-		Bank overdrawn		-	
1,733.92					300.38
78,072.88		NET ASSETS			91,008.85
		REPRESENTED BY:			
747.69		General Fund - Earmarked	6	9,908.76	
77,325.20		General Fund - Not Earmarked		81,100.09	
78,072.89				91,008.85	
-		Capital Reserve	5	-	
78,072.89				91,008.85	
The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2022 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.					
D Hook			I Nelson BFP FCA CF CLCA		
Chairman			Responsible Financial Officer		
#####			17 May 2022		

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Councillor/Clerk	Telephone No.	Email address
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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