

Annual report 2023



HEMPNALL
PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman's report

It has been a busy year for the parish council.

We have made our views known during the various consultations on planning including with regard to the GNLP (the emerging new local plan for South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich), the South Norfolk Village Clusters Plan and the NPPF.

In these consultation responses The Parish Council argues strongly for policies that will protect our village and the local countryside from over development.

Our own 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 of Willow Drive (23 houses); the housing scheme proposed alongside Millfields (around 15 extra bungalows), 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.

As I said last year 50 new houses represents around a 10% increase in the total number of houses in the parish and this number of new dwellings can be accommodated without the village being swamped by too much development which would result in a loss of community and rural character. Because we think 50 extra houses is enough we have opposed the inclusion of any new housing estates for Hempnall in the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) or the South Norfolk Village Clusters Plan.

We have asked 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. We are responding to the concerns of many residents in opposing a major expansion of the strawberry producing industrial polytunnel complex and its associated infrastructure at Hempnall Green.

Even though our powers within the planning system are limited the outcomes for Hempnall, as publicised in the Regulation 19 phase of the Village Clusters' Consultation, seem to be in line with what we have asked for as no new housing estates are planned for Hempnall other than an extension to the bungalow development at Millfields. We will continue to press for these new bungalows to be affordable and for use by older people and families with the greatest needs.

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Plans that we have developed in partnership 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 require the agreement of local landowners in order to proceed. We are still pushing for these plans to be instigated.

The 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. The old play area has been demolished and will be replaced by an array of modern, safe and impressive new facilities. The zip line and a long communal swing are already up and running. The Parish Council has made a substantial contribution to the total cost with the remaining money (a very considerable amount) 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. Councillors Richard Delf and Peter Workman and Sarah Bachelor deserve a very special mention – without their efforts we would not be where we are today.

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. Our paths are generally reasonably well maintained and open and we have plans to widen the footbridge to the south of the Street to facilitate access for wheelchairs to Swan Meadows.

Speeding in the village continues to be a major concern. Our SAM 2 machines show consistent law breaking and some truly horrendous top speeds. The 20 mph limit is not observed by a large number of drivers. We are campaigning for traffic calming measures to be implemented and for the B1527 to be declassified in order to enable chicanes to be put in place.

As reported last year the safety improvements we have managed to achieve continue to offer positive benefits. The previously very high accident rate on the B1527 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.

We would like to see a 20 mph speed limit throughout the village but the Parish Council has at least secured partial coverage. The picket gates installed at 2 entrances to the village and the flashing sign warning of a sharp bend at the bridge at the western end of the village were proposed by the parish council.

I would like to thank the Hempnall Speedwatch Team for the work they do in monitoring speeding in the village. Their efforts are really important in securing police speed checks and even resulted in the appearance of the Chief Constable at a speedwatch session in Broaden Lane last week. I managed to have a chat with him and he was supportive of our aim to “design out” speeding in the village.

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The team would benefit from more volunteers so please consider joining and 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 Richard for all he did in ensuring that a defibrillator was fitted in to the telephone kiosk. 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.

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 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 – 21st March, 2023

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL					
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT					
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023					
31st March				31st March	
2022		Notes		2023	
£				£	£
	INCOME				
17,850.00	Precept				18,300.00
-	Council tax support grant				-
24.29	Interest on investments				372.55
200.00	Recycling receipts				200.00
400.00	Grants				56,053.00
-	Loans taken out				-
-	Insurance receipts				-
500.00	S106 receipts				-
-	Insurance Claim				1,553.55
-	Capital receipts	5			413.00
150.00	Land rent				150.00
9,640.36	Community infrastructure levy				27,077.11
-	Football Club rent	6			-
175.00	Tennis Club rent	6			175.00
28,939.65	TOTAL INCOME				104,294.21
	EXPENDITURE				
1,804.35	General administration				2,776.30
4,379.34	Wages				4,664.07
2,293.03	Grass Cutting & Maintenance				2,061.28
-	Village improvements				-
879.29	Capital spending	1 a			48,760.20
278.47	Street lighting				404.65
2,118.19	Annual subscriptions & donations				625.07
780.00	Litter Clearance				820.00
1,494.46	Playground maintenance				424.35
-	Churchyard maintenance				580.00
400.00	Bus shelter maintenance				827.33
15.25	Noticeboard maintenance				2.83
-	War Memorial maintenance				-
1,189.30	Footpath maintenance				239.33
-	Defibrilator maintenance				99.92
-	Telephone box maintenance				1,777.20
372.00	Dog Bins				372.00
-	Agency services				-
-	Provision for bad & doubtful debts				-
-	Repayment of Loan				-
-	Interest on long term debts				-
-	Playing Field Users Assn. Expenditure	6			-
16,003.69	TOTAL EXPENDITURE				64,434.54
	GENERAL FUND				
77,325.20	General fund at beginning of year				81,100.09
28,939.65	Add total income			104,294.21	
(16,003.69)	less total expenditure			(64,434.54)	
12,935.96	Surplus/(Deficit)				39,859.67
879.29	Transfers from Earmarked Funds				47,246.55
(10,040.36)	Transfers to Earmarked Funds				(83,130.11)
0.00	Transfers from/(to) Capital Fund				0.00
81,100.09	Balance at 31st March 2023				85,076.20

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL				
BALANCE SHEET				
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023				
31st March			31st March	
2022		Notes	2023	
£			£	£
	LONG TERM ASSETS			
10,000.00	Investments - National Savings Bonds			10,000.00
-	Long term debtors			-
10,000.00				10,000.00
	CURRENT ASSETS			
-	Stocks and stores		-	
-	Work in progress		-	
1,061.38	Debtors (Net of provisions)	4	750.00	
-	Payments in advance		-	
1,040.46	V.A.T. recoverable	4	10,958.35	
-	Temporary lending		-	
79,207.39	Cash at bank and in hand		109,706.02	
81,309.23				121,414.37
91,309.23	TOTAL ASSETS			131,414.37
	CURRENT LIABILITIES			
300.38	Creditors		370.85	
-	Receipts in Advance		175.00	
-	Temporary borrowing		-	
-	Bank overdrawn		-	
300.38				545.85
91,008.85	NET ASSETS			130,868.52
	REPRESENTED BY:			
9,908.76	General Fund - Earmarked	6	45,792.32	
81,100.09	General Fund - Not Earmarked		85,076.20	
91,008.85			130,868.52	
-	Capital Reserve	5	-	
91,008.85			130,868.52	
The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2023 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.				
D Hook		I Nelson BFP FCA CF CLCA		
Chairman		Responsible Financial Officer		
#####		16 May 2023		

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Councillor/Clerk	Telephone No.	Email address
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Joan Cann	01508 498743	joan.cann1944cann@btinternet.com
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Robert Elliot – Norfolk ALC rep	07887 768478	robertelliott1692@btinternet.com
Hamish Rose	01508 498486	hamishandgeorgina@btinternet.com
Mike Turner- Tree Warden - SAM2 Officer - Highways Liaison	01508 499423	mike.turner45@btinternet.com
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Ian Nelson - Clerk	01508 498467	theclerk@hempnallpc.org