



HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman's report

I would like to thank you all for attending our Annual Parish Meeting and in particular thank those of you who have prepared reports to be read out this evening. I will begin proceedings with my Chairman's report.

B1527

The high accident rate along the B1527 through the village continues to be a major concern to residents. While some accidents are a result of drivers not observing the speed limit there are most certainly other reasons why collisions are now a regular part of village life. Last year I reported that the Parish Council had asked the County Council, who are the Highways Authority, to test the road surface to see if this could be a contributory factor. This they have done and as a result work to "roughen up" the surface has been carried out on Mill Road, on both sides of the bridge at the west end of the village, and on Bungay Road, on the bends near Bay Cottages and the butchers. This work appears to have improved matters but it is still too early to draw any firm conclusions as to the long term effectiveness of this measure.

We continue to push for other measures to be implemented that will slow down traffic and encourage drivers to progress more cautiously through the village. As a result of our involvement with Norfolk County Council in the parish partnership scheme we will be purchasing another speed monitoring device (SAM) exclusively for use in Hempnall – our current SAM is shared with Woodton and Langley with Hardley. Although our request for chicanes cannot be initiated via the parish partnership scheme we consider that the introduction of road narrowing at key points on the B1527 is the best way to improve safety along this increasingly dangerous road.

GNLP

10 years before the end date of the current local plan (The Joint Core Strategy) SNC, Broadland DC and Norwich City Council are working on its successor to be known as the GNLP (Greater Norwich Local Plan). The high level of development in the current local plan looks set to continue in the new plan to 2036. This poses a number of challenges for Hempnall. Very high housing targets, including 2,300 extra houses for Long Stratton in the current plan with more to be added in the GNLP, will continue to increase traffic volumes through the village considerably as more motorists seek "rat runs" that will avoid the A140. The impact on the Krons and the village street as well as the B1527 is becoming increasingly noticeable. We have asked NCC whether a roundabout at the Hempnall Crossroads (A140 / B1527 intersection) is guaranteed as part of the Long Stratton Area Action Plan. Their response falls short of a cast iron guarantee. A roundabout is certainly an aspiration of the plan but, just as I reported last year, the detail of how it is to be paid for has not been clearly defined.

In the current local plan Hempnall is protected from excessive development because it is defined as a Service Village in the Settlement Hierarchy and because it is located in the Rural Policy Area (RPA) not the Norwich Policy Area (NPA). There is no

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guarantee that this protection will continue in the new plan. The GNLP could see the distinction between the NPA and the RPA abolished.

With this possibility in mind the Parish Council has replaced its Policy 2 (Settlement Hierarchy & Development Boundary) with a set of Development Control Policies that relate to the GNLP to 2036.

These new policies are:

2a) Norwich Policy Area

HPC supports retaining the Norwich Policy Area (NPA) with its current boundaries (as defined in the Joint Core Strategy to 2026) for inclusion in the emerging GNLP to 2036. The distinction between the Norwich Policy Area and the Rural Policy Area (RPA) should not be abolished in the new local plan and the area covered by the NPA should not be extended.

HPC wishes to remain within the Rural Policy Area and asks that current JCS policies that protect the rural parts of Broadland and South Norfolk from excessive development (i.e. all places outside the NPA including Hempnall) should be retained in the GNLP to 2036. New development proposed for inclusion in the 2036 plan should be concentrated in the already suburbanised parts of the NPA.

2b) Settlement Hierarchy

HPC considers that the existing Settlement Hierarchy (as defined in the JCS) should be retained in the GNLP to 2036 and re-states its resolve to remain a Service Village and to resist any attempt to be elevated up the hierarchy in the new plan, e.g. to the next level currently known as Key Service Centre.

2c) Development Area Boundary

HPC opposes any development of the village outside the currently defined development boundary. We support infill of small groups of dwellings and small scale businesses and services inside the development area demarcated by this boundary but oppose large scale housing estates.

We have informed the authorities of our new policies and have asked our District / County Councillor to support us in achieving our policy aims.

In line with the adoption of these new policies our response to the sites proposed by landowners for inclusion in the GNLP was to oppose all sites that lie outside the current development area of the village including the large scale development proposed for Hempnall Greens – in this objection we were supported by a very large number of the residents of Alburgh Road.

We have also informed SNC that the site that they propose for residential housing development alongside Millfields should be used for social housing for the elderly as was originally intended when Millfields was first constructed. This would be of benefit to the Mill Centre and address a local need that is likely to increase over the next 2 decades.

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Conservation Area

SNC is consulting on Conservation Area boundaries and management. We have met with the Conservation Officers and have requested that the Conservation Areas in Hempnall are not reduced in area so that the protection they provide to the character of the village is not reduced

Children's Play Area

Our village is set to benefit from a much improved and extended Children's Play Area including a Multi Use Games Area. The Parish Council is offering financial support to this project. Planning permission has been granted and hopefully we will see building work initiated over the next year. I would like to thank Sharon Howard and our councillors for the work that they have put in to make this project possible.

Speed Watch

I would also like to thank Steve Burley and his volunteers for continuing with the speed watch initiative and in so doing helping to make Hempnall a safer place. Together with our SAM speed monitoring machine the speed watch team will enable us to assess the extent to which speeding vehicles are the reason why the B1527 in Hempnall is the scene of so many accidents.

Improvements to the path linking the village hall car park to the play area

The parish council is seeking to improve the path that links the village hall car park to the play area. It is often very muddy after periods of heavy rain. We have asked for quotes to resurface the path and hope to progress this work soon.

Dogs and Vehicles

The parish council regularly receives complaints about dog fouling and illegal parking – especially when this involves parking on pavements and across drive ways. We share the concerns of residents about these matters but are powerless to enforce the law without evidence. We regularly report transgressions to the relevant authorities, including the police, but we need the help of parishioners in providing evidence. In this context the widespread use of digital devices that allow photos to be easily taken provides a convenient way to obtain proof of wrong doing.

Conclusion

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all the work they have put in this last year and our clerk Ian who ensures that our paperwork and accounting are in first class order. Ian – we could not function without you – thank you very much. A word of thanks also to Alison Thomas who, as both District Councillor and County Councillor, continues to use her influence to ensure that our voice is heard in the right places. And finally - a big thank you to Richard Delf, our Vice Chairman, who has taken over the reins on a couple of occasions when I have been unable to attend meetings.

Hempnall is a very pleasant place in which to live and as the reports you are about to hear confirm it is obviously a very busy place in which lots of good things happen.

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Definitions

JCS –The Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk to 2026

GNLP – The emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan (to 2036)

HPC – Hempnall Parish Council

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

<u>2016</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2017</u>
£		£
INCOME		
28,000.00		17,000.00
1,883.00		1,422.00
85.12		77.37
200.00		200.00
115.00		-
125.00	7	245.00
272.25		-
-		-
-		-
3,775.40	1b	8,773.59
1,392.25	6	1,525.00
<u>35,848.02</u>		<u>29,242.96</u>
EXPENDITURE		
1,887.22		1,548.41
3,675.60		3,769.59
1,688.46		1,794.13
379.05	1a	9,479.98
222.61		181.75
315.35		323.71
640.00		660.00
314.39		1,012.66
450.00		195.00
252.56		260.16
1,643.38	6	1,336.00
<u>11,468.62</u>		<u>20,561.39</u>
GENERAL FUND		
26,924.17		48,158.35
35,848.02		29,242.96
(11,468.62)		(20,561.39)
24,379.40		8,681.57
51,303.57		56,839.92
(3,396.35)		706.39
251.13		-
-		(189.00)
<u>48,158.35</u>		<u>57,357.31</u>

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HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

BALANCE

SHEET

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017

<u>31st March</u> <u>2016</u> £	<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2017</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	-
125.00	4	Debtors (Net of provisions)	487.50
375.25		Payments in advance	499.00
1,184.72	4	V.A.T. recoverable	969.30
-		Temporary lending	-
<u>50,552.48</u>		Cash at bank and in hand	<u>58,720.22</u>
<u>52,237.45</u>			60,676.02
<u>57,237.45</u>		TOTAL ASSETS	<u>65,676.02</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
827.60		Creditors	759.60
175.00		Receipts in Advance	-
<u>1,002.60</u>			759.60
<u>56,234.85</u>		NET ASSETS	<u>64,916.42</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
1,992.97	6	General Fund - Earmarked	2,181.97
48,158.35		General Fund - Not Earmarked	57,357.31
<u>50,151.32</u>			<u>59,539.28</u>
6,083.53	5	Capital Reserve	5,377.14
<u>56,234.85</u>			<u>64,916.42</u>

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