



# HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL



## Chairman's report

The most immediate major concern of residents is the high accident rate along the B 1527 through Hempnall. Unless something is done soon to remedy the situation it seems that it will only be a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed. Numerous accidents have been logged by the Clerk and the locations at particular risk are: the Krons crossroads (this is not in Hempnall but many residents drive, cycle or walk here); the bends close to the bridge on Mill Road (our property alone has suffered 3 hit and run collisions in the past 8 months); the bends on Bungay Road close to Bay Cottages; the narrow stretch of road close to the entrance to the playing field; the bend, also on Bungay Road, at the eastern entrance in to the village and the bends near Road Green Farm.

The collisions are becoming ever more serious, more frequent and are increasingly involving larger vehicles - i.e. tractors, lorries and in one instance a bus.

The Parish Council has consistently lobbied the Highways Authority (Norfolk County Council) to take action to reduce the accident rate and councillors recently met with highway engineers and our County Councillor (Alison Thomas) to discuss what can be done. There was general agreement that the appearance of the B 1527 in the village (layout, surface, road markings etc) plays a part in encouraging drivers to drive too fast and that steps should be taken to reinforce the impression that drivers are passing through a residential area with pedestrians, children, cyclists etc and that they should therefore drive in a more considerate and slower manner.

However there is as yet no agreement on exactly what should be done to solve these issues. Several councillors support the introduction of chicanes to slow traffic. These are not acceptable to Norfolk Highways. We are prepared to spend parish council money, via the parish Partnership scheme, in order to produce solutions.

The problems are compounded by the fact that the B 1527 is a designated lorry route and also because traffic volumes are increasing all the time. It is anticipated that large scale housing development in Long Stratton and elsewhere will put further pressure on our roads 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.

It is important that anyone who observes an accident reports this to our clerk because we are logging all collisions in order to reinforce the case for action to be taken. I hope that residents present this evening will voice their concerns in the discussion slot allocated at the end of the Parish Meeting. Our County Councillor (Alison Thomas) is here and I know she wants to hear your views on this serious problem.

On a more positive note funding has been secured for the construction of a roundabout at the B 1527 / A140 intersection (currently a cross roads). Hempnall Parish Council has supported the provision of a roundabout for a long time and the large scale development of Long Stratton makes this improvement essential.

We have played our part in the consultation process regarding the emerging new local plan. This Greater Norwich Local Plan will guide development in our area through to 2036. We have made it clear that we do not think that any new housing sites allocated for inclusion in this plan should be built until the existing 36,000 housing commitments (as yet un-built) for South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich are constructed. Hempnall Parish Council supports CPRE Norfolk in their campaign on this issue.

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As a parish council we support new houses in the village when they are built on infill sites within the current development boundary and we have, in the past, supported a scheme for social housing on an exception site just outside the development boundary. There is potential for new housing in the village on an existing allocated site between Roland Drive and the playing field (20 houses) and on a site originally allocated for Millfields phase 2. The Millfields site is owned by SNC and could be used for social housing including extra provision for elderly residents. There is scope here for more than 20 social houses. Taken together these two sites plus windfall, infill developments could provide at least 50 new houses in Hempnall, with at least 20 of them being affordable (i.e. the social housing).

50 new houses seems an appropriate number for a village that currently houses around 430 households. It represents a greater than 10% increase but is on a small enough 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 plan (GNLP) are for large housing estates in Hempnall. When these were discussed at our February meeting there was general agreement amongst the large number of residents present that these were not wanted in our village and that they were too big to be assimilated successfully and would increase the already intolerable traffic problems.

The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) has been completed on the playing field and is proving to be popular. It would be good if we could extend facilities here – may be even provide some outdoor gym equipment and possibly a zip line. Extending our facilities in this location needs involvement from the wider community in order to raise funds and to help organise the development. If you would like to get involved please get in touch with the clerk.

At this point I would like to thank our Vice Chairman (Richard Delf) for the sterling work he has put in order to ensure the children's play area is maintained and is currently in a better "state of health" than it has been for many years.

There is much more that I could say but I would be here all night. However I cannot end without thanking all my fellow councillors for all the work that they have put in this past year. Thank you to Mike Turner for looking after our 2 speed monitoring devices and for reporting their findings on a regular basis – a lot of work involved in that. Thank you to Hamish Rose for over seeing the footpaths in Hempnall. Thank you to Steve Burley for co-ordinating Speed Watch (and thank you to his team members). Thank you to Roger Parker for taking a keen interest in planning and for providing hard copies of materials for our meetings now that South Norfolk no longer supply us with plans. Thank you to Liz Allen for representing us on the Village Hall Committee. Thank you to Richard Delf and Peter Workman for their work helping to look after the playing field and a thank you to Kevin Cunningham for his efforts on behalf of the village.

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

And finally a huge thank you 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. He even "railroads" us in to taking on the task of coping with the data protection requirements that are coming in to force soon. The amount of training and work he has done on this matter alone is already very considerable.

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

**David Hook - 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

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### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

<u>31st March</u> <u>2017</u> £	<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2018</u> £
<b>INCOME</b>		
17,000.00		17,000.00
1,422.00		533.00
77.37		76.34
200.00		200.00
-		2,887.55
245.00	7	150.00
-		-
-		-
-		-
8,773.59	5	4,025.00
1,525.00	6	1,525.00
<b>29,242.96</b>		<b>26,396.89</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
1,548.41		1,704.58
3,769.59		3,849.40
1,794.13		1,824.81
-		805.50
9,479.98	1a	25,434.13
181.75		195.96
323.71		435.80
660.00		680.00
1,012.66		1,574.44
195.00		479.99
-		-
260.16		400.00
1,336.00	6	1,409.60
<b>20,561.39</b>		<b>38,794.20</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
48,158.35		57,357.31
29,242.96		26,396.89
(20,561.39)		(38,794.20)
8,681.57		(12,397.31)
56,839.92		44,960.00
706.39		5,377.14
-		-
(189.00)		(115.40)
<b>57,357.31</b>		<b>50,221.74</b>



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## Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

Councillor/Clerk	Telephone No.	Email address
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