



HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman's report

The high accident rate along the B 1527 through Hempnall remains a major concern to residents and a petition requesting traffic calming measures has been signed by over 400 people representing more than 300 households (over 75% of the total number of households in the village – not including the Greens). I repeat my warning of last year that 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 continue to be logged by our Clerk and this past year has seen a number of vehicles crashing off the B 1527 at both the western end of the village (the Mill Road bends on and near to the stream bridge) and the eastern end (at the Bungay Road entrance in to the village and on the bends near to Bay Cottages). Additionally a large number of “wing mirror” collisions continue to occur close to the entrance to the playing field.

I would like to thank my wife, Melanie Hook, for the huge amount of time and effort that she has put in to organising the petition. Her doorstep discussions with residents revealed a massive amount of concern in regard to speeding in our village and great support for traffic calming measures. These discussions also showed that many people are scared to walk along Broaden Lane between the entrance to Old Market Way and the War Memorial for fear of being hit by a speeding vehicle – this section of road does not currently have a footway. The Parish Council must listen to these concerns. Is it not time for us to lobby for a pavement alongside Broaden Lane between the bus stop opposite the Old Market Way entrance and the War Memorial as well as for a speed reduction measure at this northern entrance in to our village?

The Parish Council has consistently lobbied the Highways Authority (Norfolk County Council) to take action to reduce the accident rate along the B 1527. Our efforts have generally been met with the response that the B 1527 is a designated lorry route and therefore traffic calming is not appropriate. While appreciating that NCC Highways is cash starved it is crucial that more is done and minor changes to road signs together with a promised re-surfacing of the B 1527 is not a sufficient response. In my opinion the B 1527 through Hempnall continues to appear as a fast modern road (in terms of its layout, surface, road markings etc) and this appearance plays a part in encouraging some drivers to drive too fast. Action must 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.

NCC has “roughed up” the road surface at various points along the B 1527 but it is questionable how beneficial this measure has been.

Within a short period of time (not long after the western bends were “roughened”) two vehicles left the road opposite River Cottage and crashed in to the bank. One of these overturned and the driver was taken to the surgery for treatment.

The housing development proposed for the land between Roland Drive and the playing field will be accessed via a road that links in to the B 1527. The Parish Council has written to NCC Highways stressing that it is essential that the junction between the link road and the B 1527 is designed in such a way that traffic moving along the B 1527 is slowed down. We have suggested a roundabout similar to the one installed on the B 1332 through Poringland which was put in place to facilitate access to the new housing estate near Budgens. Perhaps we can persuade the developers to finance a roundabout as a planning gain. Most certainly the building of this estate

Annual report 2019

provides an opportunity for at least one section of the B1527 to have a traffic calming measure installed and perhaps once we achieve effective traffic calming at one location in the village we can get other measures (e.g. chicanes) employed elsewhere.

I urge all parishioners who feel strongly about the safety issues on roads in Hempnall to write to NCC Highways in support of the Parish Council's efforts to obtain traffic calming measures and to also write to our County Councillor Alison Thomas asking that she support these efforts. The May District Council elections provide residents with an opportunity to quiz candidates in order to ascertain their views on speed reduction measures for Hempnall and to vote accordingly.

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.

It is inevitable 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Mike Turner for his work in looking after our Sam 2 speed monitoring devices. These machines not only show the speed of approaching vehicles but they also allow us to analyse average and peak speeds. While most motorists seem to be driving at sensible speeds average speeds (especially at peak periods such as 7.00 am to 9.00 am) usually exceed the 30 mph speed limit by a significant amount and top speeds are absolutely frightening e.g. a car was recently recorded doing 60 mph driving westwards past the entrance to the playing field and on Valentines Day, February 14th, at 5.00 pm a vehicle managed to reach 60 mph as it passed the Mill Centre entrance heading westwards – was the driver in a hurry to deliver a Valentines Card. Some of the driving in our village is truly atrocious – this morning a motor cycle overtook me on the church bends – presumably the rider was prepared to take such a risk because they considered a perfectly reasonable 20 mph at this location was too slow.

The parish council has ordered another Sam 2 as part of the parish partnership scheme with NCC. This will enable us to extend our speed monitoring efforts considerably.

I would like to thank Councillor Steve Burley for the work he has put in co-ordinating the Speedwatch scheme, a role that he has recently relinquished. Lesley Michenall is the new co-ordinator and I am sure she would welcome further volunteers in order that more that the Speedwatch team can carry out its beneficial work on a more frequent basis.

Our thoughts go out to Councillor Roger Parker who has had a difficult time health wise recently. Roger has been a model Parish Councillor who has taken a keen and extremely useful interest in planning applications making the effort to provide us with printed plans that allow us to more effectively make our decisions in regard to planning applications (we no longer receive hard copies of plans from SNC). Roger has contributed so much to this council as he has throughout the village, especially in regard to the village hall. We wish him a speedy recovery.

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 a thank you to Kevin Cunningham for his efforts on behalf of the village. Peter also represents the Council on the Town Estate Trust and his contribution to the work of that committee is enormous.

Annual report 2019

Being a parish councillor can be a thankless task – we have a say in decisions but our views are often overlooked or ignored. Nevertheless if any of you present tonight fancy representing Hempnall on the Parish Council elections are scheduled for this May and registration packs and details of how to register are available from Electoral Services at SNC.

I attended a meeting about the Long Stratton by-pass last week and will give a report on “progress” in the Parish Council meeting that follows this meeting. The long promised by-pass does not, as yet, have a start date or indeed a completion date.

On a more positive note work on the construction of the roundabout at the B 1527 / A140 intersection has commenced. Hempnall Parish Council has supported the provision of a roundabout at this junction for a long time and the large scale development of Long Stratton makes this improvement essential.

In regard to the emerging local plan (The Greater Norwich Local Plan - which will guide development in South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich through to 2036) I repeat what I said last year. We have contributed our ideas at all stages in the consultation process and have made it clear that we do not think that any new housing sites allocated for inclusion in this plan should be developed until the existing 35,000 housing commitments in the current plan (allocated housing as yet un-built) have been built. Hempnall Parish Council supports CPRE Norfolk in their campaign on this issue.

As a parish council we support new houses in the village when they are built on infill sites within the current development boundary. We are also keen, in partnership with Saffron Housing, to promote a development of affordable housing on what would be an exception site alongside Millfields. This site could provide around 20 affordable houses which together with the new housing proposed on an existing allocated site between Roland Drive and the playing field plus anticipated windfall in-fill developments would lead at least 50 new houses in Hempnall.

50 new houses seems an appropriate number for a village that currently has around 530 dwellings. It represents a 10% increase which is small enough in 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 and the parish council is opposing development at these locations because they lie outside the development boundary and because they are too big to be assimilated successfully in the local community and would increase the already intolerable traffic problems.

A decision on whether the proposed sites will be included in the new local plan is likely to be made this summer. I urge any parishioner who wishes to express a view about these sites to contact the GNLP team ASAP i.e. before final decisions are made. I can supply the relevant contact details.

The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) continues to be well used. 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.

Several parishioners have complained about the state of the footpath linking the Street with Mill Road and although Norfolk County Council is the responsible authority for this path the Parish

Annual report 2019

Council has agreed to spend money on creating a more level and better drained surface. It is hoped that this work can be carried out soon.

The footbridge linking Swan Meadows to the Property Charity's meadows is now open. I was able to supervise this project in my role as a Town Estate Trustee nominated by the Parish Council. I am immensely proud of this bridge the building of which required a lot of work and effort to organise. Hamish Rose drew up the plans and Jimmy Dye constructed the sturdy and well built hardwood bridge which is to be dedicated to Miss Emery who sadly passed away in 2018.

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 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 – 19th March, 2019

Annual report 2019

Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

<u>31st March</u> <u>2018</u> £		<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2019</u> £	£
INCOME				
17,000.00	Precept		17,650.00	
533.00	Council tax support grant		231.00	
76.34	Interest on investments		165.35	
200.00	Recycling receipts		200.00	
2,887.55	Donations		-	
150.00	Land rent	7	150.00	
-	Community Infrastructure Levy		608.04	
-	Agency Services Reimbursed		-	
-	Loans taken out		-	
4,025.00	Capital receipts	5	-	
1,525.00	Playing Field Users Assn. Income	6	1,525.00	
<u>26,396.89</u>	TOTAL INCOME		<u>20,529.39</u>	
EXPENDITURE				
1,704.58	General administration		1,665.40	
3,849.40	Wages		4,437.95	
1,824.81	Grass Cutting		1,931.73	
805.50	Village improvements		632.64	
25,434.13	Capital spending	1a	552.82	
195.96	Street lighting		216.54	
435.80	Annual subscriptions & donations		405.85	
680.00	Litter Clearance		700.00	
1,574.44	Playground Maintenance		1,803.86	
479.99	Churchyard Maintenance		160.00	
-	Village Hall Car Park repair		-	
400.00	Dog Bins		280.00	
1,409.60	Playing Field Users Assn. Expenditure	6	1,349.50	
<u>38,794.20</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>14,136.29</u>	
GENERAL FUND				
57,357.31	General fund at beginning of year		50,221.74	
26,396.89	Add total income		20,529.39	
(38,794.20)	less total expenditure		(14,136.29)	
(12,397.31)	Surplus/(Deficit)		6,393.10	
44,960.00	General fund at end of year		56,614.84	
5,377.14	Transfers from/(to) Capital Fund		-	
-	Transfers from Earmarked Funds		-	
(115.40)	Transfers to Earmarked Funds		(175.50)	
<u>50,221.74</u>	Balance at 31st March 2019		<u>56,439.34</u>	

Annual report 2019

Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019

<u>31st March</u> <u>2018</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2019</u> <u>£</u>	<u>£</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	-
637.50	4	Debtors (Net of provisions)	150.50
334.00		Payments in advance	482.50
3,627.92	4	V.A.T. recoverable	1,031.56
-		Temporary lending	-
48,563.11		Cash at bank and in hand	<u>59,101.95</u>
<u>53,162.53</u>			60,766.51
<u>58,162.53</u>		TOTAL ASSETS	<u>65,766.51</u>
		CURRENT LIABILITIES	
5,468.42		Creditors	6,329.30
175.00		Receipts in Advance	525.00
-		Temporary borrowing	-
-		Bank overdrawn	<u>-</u>
<u>5,643.42</u>			6,854.30
<u>52,519.11</u>		NET ASSETS	<u>58,912.21</u>
		REPRESENTED BY:	
2,297.37	6	General Fund - Earmarked	2,472.87
50,221.74		General Fund - Not Earmarked	<u>56,439.34</u>
52,519.11			58,912.21
-	5	Capital Reserve	<u>-</u>
<u>52,519.11</u>			<u>58,912.21</u>

Annual report 2019

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Richard Delf -Vice Chairman - Playing Field Liaison	01508 499788	richard@delfsgarage.co.uk
Roger Parker	01508 499479	rogerparker34@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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