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HETHERSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Message from the Chair



Cllr Bridget Williamson
Chair to Hethersett Parish Council

As you may know, this has been a very difficult time for us at Hethersett Parish Council, with our long standing clerk resigning in June 2023, and her replacement resigning after five weeks; however, this situation also gave me, the chair, with the wonderful support of our deputy clerk, Sara White, to get to grips with our finances, enabling us to make informed decisions. A great deal of time was taken over the budget for 2024/2025, considering what amount the parish council needs to keep in reserve, and how to make the best use of the remaining money.

It is recommended that a council of our size keeps 6 months' expenditure in reserve for emergencies, which for us is £105,000, so that is the figure we know we have to set aside. With £88,306.97 in our CCLA Public Sector Fund, and £84,040.48 in our NS&I fund, we have over and above the £105,000 we need as a back up, so we decided to pay for the first phase of lighting replacement from our reserves (approximately £40,000), and set aside £20,000 for the future extension of the burial ground. We will also be using £23,508 CIL money (money we receive from property development in the village) instead of adding to the precept; we are planning to replace the tennis net in the court behind the village hall, and purchase extra and new litter bins for the village. We would welcome any other suggestions as to how we could put this money to good use.

At the end of March, which is the end of the financial year, we will review any surplus we have from the financial year 2023/2024, and will debate what to do with this money; one option is to partly pay back the Public Works Board Loan for £400,000, which we had to take out to pay for the Hethersett Hub.

We also took great care in allocating expenditure for next year - we have firm responsibilities which must be met, such as paying for the maintenance and running of street lights, and the emptying of dog poo bins - but all other areas were carefully reviewed before decisions were taken. Both the youth club and the Memorial Playing Field received the full amount which they requested, but in future, this grant money will only be paid on receipt of relevant invoices. We have also set aside £3000 to start a fund for the replacement of play equipment on the Memorial Playing Field when the time comes.

With Penny, our new clerk, and Sara, our deputy clerk, on board, Hethersett Parish Council is now in a strong position to continue giving the residents of Hethersett the best value for money, using our resources to continue to improve facilities within our community in a clear and transparent way.

Council announces reduction of 2024/2025 precept



The precept is the parish council's share of the council tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, South Norfolk District Council, which collects the tax for the parish council. The 'precept' is converted into an amount per council tax band that is added onto the council tax bill. Income and expenditure for the next financial year are calculated in the form of estimates.

Following a thorough and careful process which started in October 2023, the parish council resolved to fund services and projects through a precept of £83.12 per band D property; a decrease of £1.43 per year, per band D property. Residents in bands A-C will pay less and those in receipt of council tax support will be unaffected. Bands E to H will pay more.

The parish council has asked for a precept sum of £234,229 for the year 2024/2025.

New Parish Councillor

Hethersett Parish Council is pleased to announce that Rameez Asif has joined as councillor following his co-option.

Dr Rameez Asif is an associate professor in the School of Computing Science at the University of East Anglia and lives with his family in Hethersett with his children attending Woodside School.

He told councillors *"Having been a member of Hethersett community for 2.5 years, I have had the privilege of witnessing the positive impact that a dedicated and passionate Parish Council can have on the lives of its residents. Inspired by the spirit of community service and a genuine desire to make a difference, I am eager to offer my skills and commitment to the council."*



Cllr Rameez Asif

New Parish Clerk

Hethersett Parish Council is pleased to announce that Penny Hubble has been appointed as the new clerk and responsible finance officer to Hethersett Parish Council. Penny formally took up the new position in December 2023 and was previously clerk to Barford and Wramplingham, and has experience serving as councillor to Wymondham Town Council for an election period.



Penny Hubble Clerk

“My first action has been to begin the upgrading of the street lights. I hope this will be representative of the improvements that will be implemented moving forward.”

New beginnings

There have been many new changes and improvements over the past six months. We were kindly given permission from the artist Alice Pattullo, to use part of her graphic illustration as our new logo. Alice was commissioned to create the graphic commemorating the Olympic flame coming to Hethersett in 2012. You can see the original artwork in Hethersett Library.

In addition, we recently launched a new Facebook page and have adopted the gov.uk format for our website and emails.

In the future, residents can expect to see a revamped website which will provide useful services for reporting, with improved, ease of use and functionality.

The new website address:
www.hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk

To contact the parish office by email:
office@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk

LED Streetlight upgrades and new energy deal



In 2022 the parish council declared a climate emergency and set out ambitions for working towards becoming a Carbon Neutral Parish by 2030 as part of its Green Charter. This streetlight upgrade supports Hethersett Parish Council's ambitions, as a benefit for the environment, supporting a reduction in carbon emissions by saving energy and reducing light pollution.

The total carbon footprint for the council's activities is currently around ~17.0 Metric Tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂e). The Council's street lighting accounts for ~11.7 tCO₂e. The number of street lights the council is responsible for is 226, with many of the columns being over 25 years old, resulting in some corrosion.

Sodium lights were initially used and whilst it was the technology of the day, compared to today's standards they are very inefficient, meaning we have a constant stream of reported faults. The total Sodium light consumption per year is ~60,566 Kwh at the cost of 0.50188p/Kwh. The overall cost to the parish council ~£30,396.

Progress so far:

The parish council asset register has been updated, correcting identified errors. As of October 2023, there were 60 reported faulty lights, which is 25% of the total streetlights. These 60 lights are identified as phase 1 of the 4 phased upgrade program, with work commencing in February 2024. Phased upgrades ensures the cost to the parish can be spread over a number of years. Some of the 60 reported lights have been subject to a temporary fix, due to being sited in key locations. The decision to replace the bulbs was made after a comprehensive survey of lighting in the village by Councillor Jenny Walpole and her husband David Walpole.

Hethersett Strategic Open Space & Allotments Update

"Following last October's meeting between the Developer Consortium and representatives from the Parish Council and District Council Planning Department, work has continued to progress to update the planning application to address comments and matters raised during the application's consultation. Revisions include a small number of additional public parking spaces for casual visitors to the open space area (with low fences/barrier to stop vehicular incursions onto the area); increasing path width sizes and path realignment to better link to existing crossing on Harness Maker Way; improved natural surveillance from public areas; additional cycle stands next to the allotments; reconfiguration of the allotment car park layout and path to minimise impacts on trees; and a low level fence on the verge adjacent to Shoemaker Court to discourage parking on the verge. The revisions and supporting updated technical reports are due to be submitted to South Norfolk Council later this month/early next month and South Norfolk will then publish the revisions for a further period of consultation. Following consideration of any comments made, a decision is likely later in Spring and work on site will then start during the following planting season (Autumn 2024 to Spring 2025)."

John Long Planning

What we want to achieve

The new LED variety will provide 50% dimming from midnight to 05:30.
The carbon footprint will go from ~11.7 tCO₂e to ~2.8 tCO₂e.

The consumption will go from ~60,566 Kwh to ~14,536 Kwh.

This change equates to a 76% reduction.



New energy deal

The parish office has worked hard to find the best energy savings for streetlight electricity. The new energy deal secured, results in a reduction from £90,000 to £50,000 over the next three years. That's a 40% saving using 100% renewable energy



Additional savings of over £1000 per year have been found by replacing the parish office ink jet printer with newer technology

HETHERSETT ENVIRONMENTAL

ACTION TEAM

Bringing back the buzz!



Sunday 30th June 2024
10am-4pm
Village Hall & Field, Back Lane, Hethersett. NR9 3JJ

GREAT BIG GREEN PICNIC

Persimmon
Together, we make your home

Hethersett Parish Council is committed through its Green Charter to do all we can to help reduce the impact from climate change in our parish and to inform and engage our residents in taking steps to make the everyday changes that will help us and future generations live in a greener and more sustainable environment.

We have decided to hold our Great Big Green Picnic on Sunday 30th June at our village hall and field, on Back Lane, Hethersett from 10 am to 4 pm. A free event for all, sponsored by Persimmon Homes, it is intended to be a celebration of 'All Things Green' and a 'Festival of Summer Fun'...to include interactive displays, stalls, pop-up workshops, short talks, music, entertainment and refreshmentsas well as enjoying a picnic! Aimed at the whole family, this event will have something for everyone!

- Energy**
From fossil fuels to sustainable energy
- Transport**
From car to bike/bus/on foot
- Waste & Recycling**
Discard, repair repurpose, recycle
- Water Conservation**
From wasting to conserving
- Open Spaces**
From using village facilities to embracing our lanes, open areas and wildlife. Increasing biodiversity
- Wellbeing**
From looking after ourselves to helping others.

Messi Gardeners

If your school or community group would like to be involved with the back garden project, contact the parish office

Woodside Primary School - Messi Gardeners at the Back Garden

For the last year, some of the children of Woodside Primary School have been attending weekly gardening sessions at the Back Garden provided by Jenny and Bridget. Their expertise, calm, caring nature and knowledge of nature and the local area has been inspirational to all attending.

During this time we have noticed that the children were feeling happier, calmer and felt a great sense of achievement with each coming week. I have noticed that my own well-being has improved and the chance to reconnect with nature whilst learning about our local area and the surrounding community has proven to be an immense source of inspiration.

The children who have attended have learnt to work together as a team, planted and weeded flower beds and have grown (and eaten!) their own vegetables. We have also taken part in arts and craft activities, led by Jenny and Bridget, that are linked to nature and our local environment.

We look forward to working with Jenny and Bridget and we hope that together we can watch the garden grow alongside the young people of Hethersett Woodside Primary School.

By Mr Kev McCabe, Pastoral Lead at Woodside Primary and Nursery School.





Community Litter Pick



We have seen a fantastic turn out of volunteers, including families with young children, since our Christmas litter pick. In January we were joined by volunteers who collected 13 bags of litter! Huge thanks to our volunteers and also to Tesco Express for disposing of the litter. Please do join us for the next litter pick on **Saturday 16th March 2024, 10am outside the methodist church.**

Community Speed Watch

The community speed watch team is a small group of local volunteers who monitor the speed of drivers in Hethersett once a week. The main aim of Speed Watch is to reduce the speed people are driving at to within the safety limits of the road. We hope we have the full support of Hethersett residents in trying to make the village safe for all. Our SAM 2 data unit monitors the volume and speed of vehicles and is sited in rotation over different roads in the village.

The latest data retrieved from our unit on Mill Road (30mph) between 04.01.24-01.02.24:

- 10mph - 379 vehicles
- 15mph - 1467 vehicles
- 20mph - 4187 vehicles
- 25mph - 7125 vehicles
- 30mph - 4263 vehicles
- 35mph - 810 vehicles
- 40mph - 97 vehicles
- 45mph - 8 vehicles
- 50mph - 3 vehicles
- 55mph - 1 vehicle



Jubilee Youth Club
 Back Lane, Hethersett, NR9 3QW

5:45 - 7:15 Weds club (9-11yr olds)
 7:00 - 8:30 Fri club (High School age)

JUBILEE YOUTH CLUB WETHERSETT

Activities include games, craft, social area, football tables.. and the very popular tuck shop!

£2 entry each week, plus extra for tuck.



Climate Emergency Response Team - Route map to Net Zero



Hethersett Parish Council recognises the urgent need to respond to the climate change and ecological emergency. As custodians of our village we will help to ensure we do everything possible to create and preserve the green, healthy, village environment that we enjoy.

Working with the parish council's Climate Emergency Response Team (CERT), Net Zero East - Opergy will be responsible for developing Hethersett's route map, which will offer a pathway for the council and community to work towards reaching net zero by 2030.

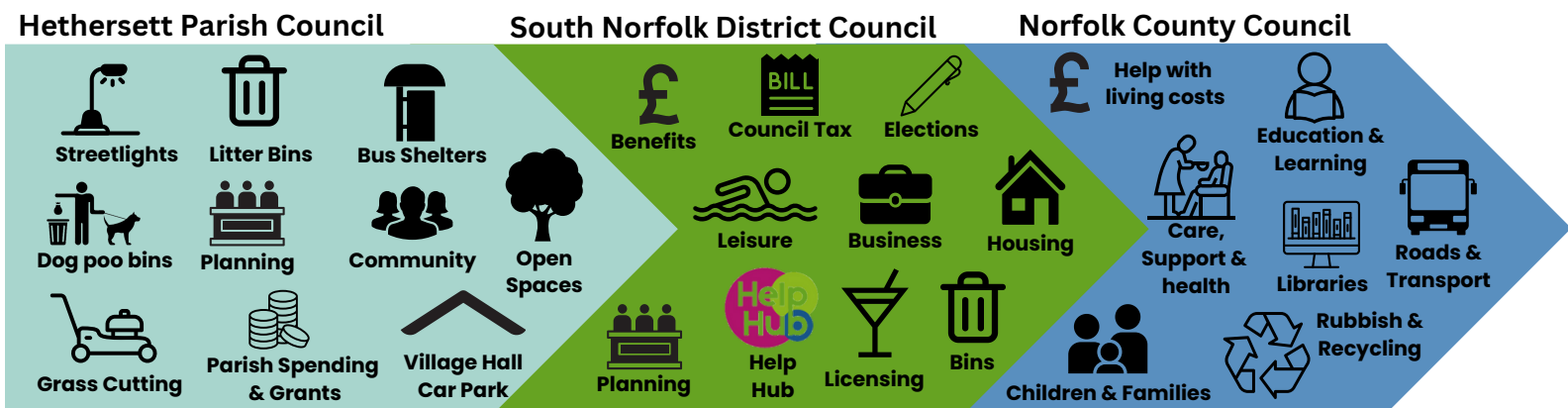
Net Zero East, an Opergy Net Zero company, is replicating the success of the Net Zero Leiston project in Suffolk by initially supporting six locations across Norfolk on their pathway to become net zero communities, providing tailored costed route maps for each. Hethersett was selected to be one of those locations.

The projects aims pertain to the Green Charter, adopted by the parish council in 2022, which states **"It is an intent also to support the parish in moving towards carbon net zero by 2030 so that we can play our part to address the planet's climate change and ecological emergency"**.

As part of this project, we are very keen to engage with residents and the business community in providing practical ideas and suggestions for carbon saving solutions, which if implemented, will contribute to moving Hethersett towards net zero.

We will be promoting this engagement work very soon.

Local Government Services Guide



Hethersett Parish Council Contacts

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Sara White	Deputy Clerk		

NAME	EMAIL
Cllr Bridget Williamson (Chair)	cllr.bwilliamson@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Cllr Habib Rehman	cllr.hrehman@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk
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You can also follow Hethersett Parish Council on Facebook for live updates and information

Hethersett Parish Council is a third tier local government organisation and sits under district and county authorities. Each authority has dedicated statutory functions, responsibilities and powers. The above diagram breaks down the services provided by each authority.

The district or borough council has statutory functions which include street trading, licensing, development control, building control, environmental health, street parking, traffic regulation, housing and waste collection for its area. South Norfolk District Council consults the parish council on all local planning issues, appeals, inquiries and licensing where these affect Hethersett.

The county council has statutory functions in relation to the wider county area in relation to, for example, education, social services, highways, rights of way, and some planning matters.

The parish council, either through its own activities or by giving assistance to other village groups, is involved in providing, maintaining and protecting: • Open spaces • Grass cutting in the Village • Litter control • Seats and shelters • Street lights.

The Memorial Playing Field, Hethersett Hub and the Village Hall are run by respective management committees separate from the parish council, with nominated council representatives on the committees, although the parish council is a custodial trustee. The Jubilee Youth Club is also run and managed by its committee, however, the parish council doesn't own the building and is not a custodial trustee.

The council's role is to support Hethersett community groups and carries out this duty by issuing quarterly precept grants to the Jubilee Youth Club, Memorial Playing Field Trust and St Remigius Church.

The Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Trust is looking for volunteers to join its committee. Do you have a few hours to spare each month? Please email:

**mpfthethersett@gmail.com or call
07470689803**



The defibrillator outside Boots Pharmacy, Great Melton Road and the one situated on the wall outside the Hethersett Hub (pavilion) is managed by the parish council.



**To book the Hethersett Hub, please message or email:
mpfthethersett@gmail.com or call
07470689803**

