

Hessett

Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES

of a meeting held at
Hessett & Beyton Village Hall, Hessett at
7.30am on Monday 21st May 2018

(The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of the village, and not a Council meeting.)
The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those attending. He explained that copies of written reports were available and that members of the public would be invited to ask questions or make comments after each report.

1. Apologies for Absence - There were none.
2. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were agreed to be a correct record and so were signed as such by the Chair.
3. The Chair of Hessett Parish Council gave a report and invited questions; there were none.
4. A written report had been received from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee and was considered by the meeting. Cllr Heymoz, a member of the Hall committee added that she and her husband, who are neighbours of the hall itself, had replaced the fence that had blown down between their garden and the hall. There were no questions.
5. A written report had been sought from the Hessett Charities but none had been received and no representative was present.
6. A written report from the Friends of Hessett Church had been received and was augmented verbally by the Chair of the Friends, Mr Phil Barrett. He explained that the name of the group was being changed to Hessel Church Preservation Society and efforts were underway to re-invigorate the group. There were no questions.
7. Open Forum - A member of the public reported that the churchyard was looking very poor and is heavily overgrown, especially towards the rear. This was noted and it was suggested that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) be contacted as the Churchyard is the responsibility of the Church and no members of the PCC were present.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm, there being no further business.

Hessett Parish Council

Chairman's End of Year Report 2017-2018

This year started with only six councillors (3 elected & 3 co-opted) instead of the seven we should have. It also began with the appointment of a new Clerk Mr. M Clay after the existing Clerk Mrs. E. Seaman retired after many years service.

Due to the poor audit report the Parish Council received during the previous year it was agreed that all councillors should receive training to enable them to understand their roll and responsibilities better. This would enable them to better serve the community.

The Council participated by submitting their views on the proposed Boundary Review. The finding will affect all Parish Councils from 2019. At present Hessett is grouped with Beyton and Thurston sharing the same District Council representatives. The proposal is that Hessett will be grouped with Rattlesden, Drinkstone, Gedding and Felsham.

The Parish Council submitted comments on several planning applications during the year. The most controversial were two applications for the village Five Bells Inn. The first invoked many public comments and required the council to hold a public meeting. So many villagers attended that the meeting had to be moved to the village church. Although the Parish Council supported the application it was refused by the District Councils Planning Department. A subsequent application which attracted less public contribution was finally agreed by the District Council. The P.C. hopes that a refurbished establishment will soon be available to villagers in the future.

The last Parish Council vacancy was filled by co-option in September.

During this year the Council submitted requests to both the County Council and the District Council representatives for funds to be released from both councillors community budgets.

These were for a village defibrillator, grit bins and two benches for the Heath area.

The request for the defibrillator from the District Council was unsuccessful. However the funding for the grit bins and benches from the County Council was successful.

We also applied for a Government Grant for "Fostering Transparency" to enable the Parish Council to purchase equipment that will enable it to display Agenda's, Minutes and other documents at Parish Council meetings. This will reduce the need to print such papers for the public and the cost of such. This was successful.

The new Clerk is assisting the council in ensuring that it now conforms to the proper way of working and that all Policy documents and other legal matters are adhered to and updated to meet new laws that all Parish Councils must follow.

In January the Parish Council agreed a modest increase in its precept of £223 for the financial year of 2018/2019.

The Council is ending the year again with a vacancy which it is hoped to fill in the next financial year.

The one regret I do have is that Hessett villagers do not interact with the Council.

Often the Council meets with no villagers present, just District and County representatives.

Without villagers attending meetings and giving their views on agenda items the Council works in isolation without the wishes of villagers being known.

Apathy only results in one ending – a reduction in democracy and the ability of the Parish Council do what the people of Hessett want.

Michael Poulter

Chair

Village Halls Report

April 2018

Chairman's annual report on Hessett & Beyton Village Hall This has been another year of consolidation for this village amenity. Our refurbishment two years ago has meant more bookings and, together with our Lottery, a healthier financial situation. This year we have 97 participants in the Lottery which is a small decrease on the last two years but still a great boost to our funds. Our situation now is such that we can consider some further small additions and updates of our furniture which, probably because of our increased usage, are now showing some signs of wear. It has also meant an increase in the workload for our bookings secretary on whom we rely almost entirely for the smooth running of the Hall.

I am very grateful to all our committee members who invariably respond to all the requests for help as well as promoting the use of the venue in both villages.

We are still short of committee members, particularly from Hessett, and any volunteers would be most welcome - we are quite friendly.

Roger Wyartt

Chairman, Hessett & Beyton Village Hall Management Committee