

**Minutes of the Hemingford Grey Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 25 April 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre**

In attendance: 10 parishioners including Parish Councillors and Dr Jade Gunnell (Fieldfare), and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Cllr Richard Allen presided and welcomed everyone to the meeting, which commenced at 7.35 pm.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Tony Jackson, Sue Duma, S Clemmow and S Harrison (Hemlocs), Phyllis Brooks and Margo Wemyss (Hemingford Grey WI), Christine Batter,

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop Richard Allen, 2nd Sarah Jakes)

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Reports

4.1 The Parish Council including presentation of the Audited Accounts

Cllr Richard Allen welcomed those present. The report covered:

- The recent uncontested election and Parish Council membership. Thanks were extended to Tim Puttick and Doug Dew, who had not sought re-election, for all their hard work over the years. There were now nine members and four vacancies. Residents were encouraged to consider applying for co-option.
- Details of the Planning Committee and working groups were outlined. Thanks were expressed to the members of the community who had helped with trees, road safety, lighting, drainage and footpaths. The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and their team were also thanked for their work.
- The Council had passed its audit and the Audited accounts for FY2021 were on the website and available for inspection. Approval of the accounts for 31 March 2022 would be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.
- The Parish Council had increased the precept by 5% due to increased costs, to maintain income against the increase in prices from suppliers, to maintain general reserves and to pay for the larger environmental projects planned by the Council in the areas around Daintree Green, Vicarage Fields and the Yes development.
- Planning Committee. The Planning Committee had dealt with just under 40 planning applications. The formal planning application for the proposed waste handling facility on the Hemingford Abbots Golf Club was still awaited. A small application for the Astro Turf site was opposed by the Parish Council and withdrawn. The two longstanding applications for the Liquid Skillz facility, for the introduction of water skiing and associated buildings, and for a second wakeboard line, were to be discussed at the HDC Development Management Committee meeting. Two other planning applications were outside the parish, namely for the redevelopment of the Vindis and Murkitts garages. The Parish Council had objected to both applications on the grounds of the increased strain on the sewerage system.
- The Cemetery Working Group is continuing to explore options and potential sites in the village for a new cemetery.
- Communications. The group had maintained the publication of the bi-monthly newsletter during the year. Thanks were expressed to the Webmaster, Kim Loader for his excellent work in keeping the website and social media updated.

- Environment. The Environment Working Group had done a very good job during the year. The recent Anglian Water work to reinforce the sewer from the Mill Lane pump to the field in St Ives Road was welcomed. However, the Parish Council had written to the CEO of Anglian Water expressing concerns and dissatisfaction with the 20 years of sewage overflows since the work was promised and seeking assurances that the Murketts site development is not given permission to pump surface water to Godmanchester via the Hemingford Grey sewer.
- The Council had worked with the County and District Councillors to improve road safety in the parish and had applied for a Local Highway Improvement funding for speed reduction measures in London Road, the outcome of which was currently awaited.
- Resilience group. The group is continuing to develop a comprehensive emergency plan for the parish. Efforts to find volunteer flood wardens were ongoing.
- Neighbourhood Plan. Following a further consultation, the Parish Council decided at its September meeting that there was insufficient appetite within the parish to take the initiative forward at this time and the working group was disbanded.

4.2 District Councillor

The District Councillor was not present. No report had been received.

4.3 County Councillor

The Council Councillor was not present. No report had been received.

4.4 Parochial Charity Reports

No reports had been received and no representatives were present.

4.5 Village Groups and Organisations

4.5.1 Hemingford Pavilion

Peter Dampney, Chairman of the Trustees, reported on behalf of the Hemingford Pavilion (appended in full):

- The Pavilion is a fantastic community centre for all residents of the Hemingfords and the surrounding area. Details of the facilities available can be found on the recently revamped website: www.hemingfordpavilion.co.uk.
- The last two years had been difficult due to Covid, resulting in a loss of income but Government business support grants had been received and the Pavilion is in a satisfactory financial position.
- The roles of the Trustees, Sports and Social Club and Pavilion Management Board were outlined
- The Trustees and Sports and Social Club will hold their joint AGM on Tuesday 6 September and all are welcome.
- The Pavilion is seeking volunteers to help with the management of the centre. Anyone interested was encouraged to get in touch via: enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk.

A question was asked about membership and annual membership renewals.

The Chairman confirmed that the recent application for a grant had been successful.

Thee Parish Council was thanked for its support every year and the importance of a link Parish Council member was emphasised.

4.5.2 Hemlocs

The Chairman read the report from Hemlocs in the absence of the Chair and Treasurer who had given their apologies. The report (appended) covered:

- Details of meetings and speakers during the year.

- Over the winter Covid concerns had affected attendance at face to face meetings, but these are now back at the Pavilion.
- The photographic display to be held in the church over the Jubilee bank holiday.
- Forthcoming events including a garden party for members at The Manor House, and visits to Burwell Museum and Bourn Mill.
- The healthy financial position.

4.5.3 Hemingford Park Cricket Club

The report, which is appended to these minutes, was read by the Chairman. The report covered:

- The new committee and their focus on boosting the Club's profile and engagement with the village.
- Last year the Under 13 side competed in local leagues. An Under 15 squad is being added this season, providing opportunities for all to be involved. The senior section play friendly 20/20 matches on Friday evenings and there is a Saturday league side which hopes to be promoted this year.

4.5.4 Hemingford Hub

The financial report, detailing the receipts and payments and carry forward, was summarised by the Chairman.

The main report, which was not to hand at the time of the meeting, is appended in full to these minutes and covered:

- During the year there had been a return to the original focus following a focus on Covid last year.
- The grant of charitable status, which had enabled the Hub to register for Gift Aid.
- Details of the donations received during the year.
- Costs included the 24/7 phone line, which has proved to be essential and very important to residents.
- The website is being updated.
- DBS check renewals and checks for newer volunteers who have joined.
- The Hub had subsidised the provision of nutritious hot meals and hosted volunteer meetings.
- Money received from the A14 project had enabled installation of hedgehog houses, bird boxes and insect hotels as well as a tree planted in the cemetery as a Covid memorial and also to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Hub worked with the school, including holding a sunflower competition.
- The Hub has been encouraging people to start socialising again after the lockdowns, via a new Hub Club which meets every fortnight on Wednesday afternoons at the Pavilion from 3 – 5 pm. This has been very popular with 30 attending every week and new people joining every week. A wide variety of activities and events have taken place and a trip down the river is planned for May.

4.5.5 Hemingford WI

The report, which was received too late for the meeting, is appended to these minutes and covered:

- The use of modern technology to keep in touch during the pandemic.
- Regular monthly meetings have resumed. Details of speakers and social events were given although trips had not been possible in recent times.
- A Climate Change sub-committee had been formed and was collaborating with the school to raise awareness of the importance of nature and help in their own gardens. A competition was held and prizes and certificates were awarded.

- WI members had been busy sewing bunting to display around the village for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

5. **Environmental and Green Issues for Village Groups**

Anne Meredith gave a presentation regarding the Parish Council's work carried out on Environmental issues. All were aware of the impact of Climate Change on the environment and Covid had highlighted the impact of green spaces on well being.

In February 2020 the Parish Council had declared that there was an internationally recognised Climate Emergency requiring the community to take action. The Council adopted the Environmental and Sustainability Policy in March 2022 and adopted a Tree Policy in April 2022. The Council considers the impact on the environment in all its decisions, such as using recycled plastic for benches and the village gates; increasing the Green budget to do more; using local contractors to save money. The Council recently replaced 117 street lights with LED lights to reduce maintenance and energy costs.

Re-shaping our Green Spaces was an important part of the Council's work. Consultation events had been held between September and November 2021 to find out what residents wanted, and develop an approach to meet residents' needs for amenities and users of green spaces, and maintain and increase biodiversity in the green spaces. A wheelchair accessible picnic table had been installed at a resident's request. Community involvement was key.

The mowing specification was reviewed and re-written when the contract was due for renewal. Some areas were now mown more and others less frequently to promote growth and wild flowers. At Vicarage Fields the Council supported No Mow May whereby wild flowers were allowed to grow, as well as in the High Street verge between the shop and the village sign. Wild flowers were already growing.

A community project involved the installation of wildflower beds with volunteer support. The Parish Council had bought seeds and others had donated seeds, enabling the planting team of volunteers to plant 400-500 plants. An annual wild flower bed was being trialled at Mitchell Close.

Tree and hedge planting – Although there was not much Parish Council land for trees, some had been planted and opportunities for further planting were being sought. A project to plant a native hedge along the London Road frontage of the YES development had been initiated. In addition to improving biodiversity, this would also address a safety issue, and reduce noise and traffic pollution. The Council was currently bidding for a grant from a local foundation to fund the second section.

Community Action days had been held for environmental projects. Grants had been received from local organisations and the Cubs and Scouts were involved in installing bird boxes, sponsored by residents. Litter picks and bulb planting had taken place. A hedge had been planted alongside the allotments and a Jubilee orchard planted between the allotments and the hedge to Daintree Green. These projects would not have been possible without the help of volunteers.

The Parish Council's commitment to enabling all residents to enjoy the environment led to its commissioning a local company, Fieldfare, to run nine nature workshops in this financial year.

Dr Jade Gunnell, the director of local wildlife engagement business Fieldfare, and a resident of Hemingford Grey, introduced herself and outlined its mission to increase residents' access to nature and wildlife. The Parish Council had contracted her to run a series of workshops over the summer with five main objectives:

- 1) Increasing biodiversity through local community actions. Each workshop would focus on a practical action such as installing bug hotels or wildflower monitoring.

- 2) Increasing the environmental awareness and understanding of the community, through discussion of the features and biodiversity of the green spaces, and making people more aware of the implications of the actions for biodiversity.
- 3) Creating ownership over green spaces. The workshops will allow participants the change to take responsibility for the interventions through a sense of ownership.
- 4) Inclusivity. The activities would be varied to appeal to all and open to community groups such as the Gardening Society and Cubs/Scouts, as well as all residents of Hemingford Grey. This would build a sense of community.
- 5) Engagement sustainability. People would be encouraged to go out and see the projects, follow up and record outcomes, and share information.

The events, beginning in May, would be spread across the three sites and take place until October. These would include:

- Installing bug hotels
- Hedgehog houses and monitoring in Daintree Green
- Installing bat and bird boxes and making bird feeders. Some activities could be replicated at home

Anyone wishing to volunteer was encouraged to contact Dr Gunnell.

6. **Any other parish matters including any resolutions**

None.

7. **Closure of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.18 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)