


HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL

I hereby give notice that the Meeting of the Parish Council will be held
on Monday 21 June 2021 at 7.30pm
at The Pavilion, Manor Road, Hemingford Grey, PE28 9BX

The order of business may be varied at the Chairman's discretion.

The Public and Press and County and District Councillors are invited to be present and Members of the Parish are welcome to attend and may speak under the Open Public Session item and make representation to the Council on items on the agenda during this section of the meeting

All members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted at the Meeting as set out hereunder


Mrs Gail Stoehr, Clerk
15/06/2021

AGENDA

Comments and observations on agenda items from members of the public and reports from the County & District Councillors

1. **To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda**
2. **To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting**
3. **To consider matters arising from the last or a previous meeting**
 - 3.1 (11.4) RoSPA report to consider quotations received
 - 3.2 (11.4) To consider quotes for repair or replacement of swing joints and signage for Daintree Green
 - 3.3 (12.1.1) To consider quotations for picnic benches
 - 3.4 (12.5) Parking in Marsh Lane – to consider response from London Anglers' Association
 - 3.5 (12.0.6) To consider the venue for the July and subsequent meetings
 - 3.6 (6.2.3 of 12.4.21) To consider the quotation for repairs to landing stage
4. **Finance, procedure and risk assessment**
 - 4.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills
 - 4.2 Clerk report on any actions taken using delegated powers or because of risk or health and safety
 - 4.3 To consider any matter that is urgent because of risk or health and safety
 - 4.4 To consider the Internal Auditor's report if received
5. **To receive reports and items from committees, working groups and members for info only unless stated**
 - 5.1 Environment Working Group proposals^(RW)
 - 5.1.1 Proposal that consultation meetings be held on site at Daintree Green, Vicarage Fields, YES estate, and Mitchell Close to get feedback on proposals for managing those areas. To authorise expenditure of up to £100 for the public consultations for the open spaces.
 - 5.1.2 Proposal to approach local organisations to join in growing plug plants for the proposed 'wild flower islands'. To purchase suitable seeds from Plantlife at a maximum cost of £80.00 (2 packets each of 8 species)
 - 5.2 Proposal that the Council reviews the date for the Somersham Town Band made on 13 January 2020^(RA)
 - 5.3 Proposal that the Council discusses the progress of the two classes One Leisure walking football and strength and balance classes^(AM)
 - 5.4 Proposal that the Council considers the Food Bank collection on Sunday 11 May and arranges for the help of Cllrs^(AM)
 - 5.5 Cemetery gate repair^(JF) – to consider quotation received
 - 5.6 Members Planning Training to set the date for training^(AM)
 - 5.7 Hemingford Hub charity status update and request the Council discuss ways the Hub and the Parish Council can work more closely together for the benefit of residents^(RE)
 - 5.8 Proposal that the Council contracts St Ives Tree to remove all the wood and old ivy in the corner of the allotments^(RW)
 - 5.9 Proposal that the Council considers the St Ives Transport upgrades, Have your Say consultation^(RW)
 - 5.10 Great Ouse Valley update report for info only^(RW)
6. **To consider correspondence/communications received**
 - 6.1 Resident – Fieldfare - Offer of wildlife focused events on Parish Council land

- 6.2 Hemingford WI – Request to plant a tree on Vicarage Fields - Proposal from EWG that the Cemetery is the most suitable site for a new native tree
- 6.3 Resident – London Road speed limit and concerns re speeding
- 6.4 FW Cook Monumental Masons – request to install a old style monument headstone (flatstone protruding from the ground)
- 6.5 Resident request that the Council removes a small oak tree adjacent to 25 Sadlers Way and the sycamore tree and bush on the small green between 24 and 25 Sadlers Way
- 6.6 Huntingdon Community Co-ordinator offer off support

7. Closure of meeting

CLERK REPORT TO HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12 APRIL 2021

Where I have info to support an agenda item this is below.

1. To receive apologies for absence – Apologies and reasons if received will be reported to the meeting.
2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 5 May 2021 – attached.
3. Matters Arising from the last or a previous meeting
- 3.1 (11.4) Rospa report – to consider quotations received
Quote received for ownership signage
“To supply and fix 1 No: A4 size 3mm thick Dibond sign
Ref: THIS PLAYGROUND IS OPERATED BY etc
@ £160.00 plus vat.”

RoSPA report works – quotes will be brought to the meeting if received

Daintree Green Play Area

Gate – repair ground erosion at the side of the path at the entrance

Cableway – The end stop has moved to the end cross beam – relocate U bolt further in to the cable and secure spring and rubber stop

Cableway – Chain rubber cover damaged – reconnect the bolt

Cableway – strimmer damage to the base of the uprights – re-seal damaged area

Swing – Toddler 1 bay 2 seat – Remove covers from fitting at the top of the chain and check the shackle bolt for wear – if worn by 30% or more replace

Multiplay junior – Hand grips missing from platform rail – replace

Basket swing – support leg cap missing – replace and check surfacing for cracking

Swing – Junior 1 bay 2 seat - Remove covers from fitting at the top of the chain and check the shackle bolt for wear – if worn by 30% or more replace

Swing – Junior 1 bay 2 seat – check blue wear pad to see if further repair needed

Open space off Dunnock Way

Multiplay – slide platform boards starting to decay and splinter

Swing – mixed – 1 bay 1 junior 1 toddler seat - Remove covers from fitting at the top of the chain and check the shackle bolt for wear – if worn by 30% or more replace

Rocker boat – some timber end sections starting to decay and splinter - repair/replace

- 3.2 (11.4) To consider quotes for repair or replacement of swing joints and signage for Daintree Green
Quotations will be brought to the meeting if received.

- 3.3 (12.1.1) To consider quotations for picnic benches
Quotations will be brought to the meeting if received.

- 3.4 (12.5) Parking in Marsh Lane
Response attached. No response has been received from the Police at the time of writing.

- 3.5 (12.0.6) To consider the venue for the July and subsequent meetings

- 3.6 (6.2.3 of 12.4.21) To consider quotation for repairs to landing stage

The quotation will be brought to the meeting.

The Council is advised of its Financial Regulations which requires three sealed tenders for works of over £1,000. If the Council decides not to seek or does not receive the prescribed number of quotes Financial Regulations states “When applications are made to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition the reason shall be embodied in a recommendation to the Council.”

4. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

- 4.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills
Attached

For information only the Hemingford Grey Memory Lane and Friendship Group have returned a £250 donation that the Parish Council gave in March 2020. Their money was not used due to interrupting the group being able to hold monthly sessions. Due to personal circumstances, the group is unable to continue running.

- 4.2 Clerk report on any actions taken using delegated powers or because of risk or health and safety
Delegated decisions with regards to cemetery or allotment administration are as shown in the finance report. The Handyman has removed temporarily the cemetery gate on grounds of H&S.
- 4.3 To consider any matter that is urgent because of risk or health and safety
Nothing at the time of writing.
- 5. To receive reports and items from committees, working groups and members for information only unless stated**
- 5.1 Environment Working Group report^(RW) – attached.
- 5.1.1 Proposal that consultation meetings be held on site at Daintree Green, Vicarage Fields, YES estate, and Mitchell Close to get feedback on proposals for managing those areas. To authorise expenditure of up to £100 for the public consultations for the open spaces.
- 5.1.2 Proposal to approach local organisations to join in growing plug plants for the proposed ‘wild flower islands’
- 5.2 Proposal that the Council reviews the date for the Somersham Town Band made on 13 January 2020
The Council’s previous decision was to contract Somersham Town band formally for carols on the first Saturday in December until further notice.
They have said that they can’t do the first Saturday if that is the 1st of December as they have a prior commitment on the 1st December each year. Cllr Allen to make a proposal as to whether the booking should be for the 1st or 2nd Saturday in December.
- 5.3 Proposal that the Council discusses the progress of the two classes One Leisure walking football and strength and balance classes^(AM)
- 5.4 Proposal that the Council considers the Food Bank collection on Sunday 11 May and arranges for the help of Cllrs^(AM)
- 5.5 Cemetery gate repair^(JF) – to consider quotation received
Nick Gray has said “I have inspected the cemetery gates and the problem with the hinge. The job is really more than just repairing the hinge as both gates and posts are in need of attention as you will notice that the gates hang down into each other and the posts are perished at the bottom. I am only able to assist if the entire repair is done at the same time, namely dismantling the gates and posts, taking all gate furniture off and renovating, repairing the broken hinge also re-erecting the same posts on to concrete spurs which would be securely concreted into the ground then realigning the gates ensuring they are level and square.
This work I could do for a fee of £670. Repairing just the hinge would be a false economy and not something which I would be happy to be associated with. Although I have a lot of work on at the minute, I could do this work sometime in July if the parish council agreed to make the proper repairs.
I hope this has been helpful”
- 5.6 Members Planning Training to set the date for training^(AM)
- 5.7 Hemingford Hub charity status update and request the Council discuss ways the Hub and the Parish Council can work more closely together for the benefit of residents^(RE)
- 5.8 Proposal that the Council contracts St Ives Tree to remove all the wood and old ivy in the corner of the allotments^(RW)
- 5.9 Proposal that the Council considers the St Ives Transport upgrades, Have your Say consultation^(RW)
“Huntingdonshire District Council is working in close cooperation with the Combined Authority on plans to improve the A141 at Huntingdon as well as the roads serving the area around St Ives. The

two improvement schemes are expected to be developed in such a way as to link and complement one another.

People wishing to assess and comment upon the various improvement options are able to do so from Monday when the “[Your St Ives, Your Say](http://www.your-stives.co.uk)” website goes live on Monday 14th June, 09.30am at this address: www.your-stives.co.uk “

A Resident has written “I have had a preliminary look at the consultation, opened today, re the St Ives Road network. Not easy to find but it is here: <https://www.your-stives.co.uk/map/entity/gnzMtAZnfEwWjsUW3IHX/addentity/feedback>

If there is further information on the Combined Authority website I will appreciate receiving a link to it.

So far to find the options in the Consultation I opened the site, ignored the name, address etc page, and went through the tabs until the Options were finally displayed.

Most options envisage connecting St Ives to the A141 at Wyton on the Hill; this is clearly going to be popular for long distance traffic between the A14 east and A141 north. All options seem to terminate at the London Road/Hemingford Rd roundabout. (Previously I had noticed in earlier CA documents that improvements to the London Road/A1307 junction have been dropped.) This seems to be confirmation of that position.

It is notable to me there are no traffic projections for any of the options, but as I comment above I envisage any link to save A141 traffic several miles by not having to go west via the Brampton Hut interchange to end up going east towards Cambridge will be very popular. Consequently I consider London Road will be a very unsafe section of this new route, where most of the rest of the route is likely to away from existing populations. Considerable improvements to London Road and its various junctions would be required. These improvements are not part of the consultation. The result will be very poor for the residents of Hemingford Grey and Fenstanton, more traffic congestion and worse air pollution.

In short, the proposed ending of the new route at the London Road/Hemingford Rd roundabout is unacceptable to me, I trust the Parish Council will take the same view.”

5.10 Great Ouse Valley update report for info only^(RW)
Attached.

6. To consider correspondence/communications received

6.1 Resident – Fieldfare – Offer of wildlife focused events on Parish Council land

“I run a small business called Fieldfare, which aims to help develop a culture of natural history engagement, where observing, engaging and learning about local wildlife is as normal a part of the week, as popping out to the gym for some exercise.

Having just moved to the area, I am in the early stages of looking to establish my business operations in St. Ives and the Hemingfords, and am looking for some guidance and insight into how best I might connect with and support the local community.

I also wondered whether the parish council has areas of green space that I could make a valuable contribution to, by offering wildlife focused events and opportunities. As I explore the local area, I notice that some of the green spaces are privately owned, some are held in trust, and I assume others are publically owned, but am looking for some clarity on this matter.

6.2 Hemingford WI – Request to plant a tree on Vicarage Fields - Proposal from EWG that the Cemetery is the most suitable site for a new native tree

“On behalf of the Hemingford Grey W.I., I would like to request permission to plant a tree on Vicarage Fields.

Our branch of the W.I. has been operating in the village for 100 years.

We would like to plant the tree in recognition of Climate Change and to mark the Queen's Green Canopy Jubilee campaign.

We would, if permission were granted work with the Woodland Trust to ensure a suitable tree was chosen.

We hope that this will be possible and look forward to hearing from you."

6.3 Resident – London Road speed limit and concerns re speeding

"I am a resident of London Road and would like the speed limit on London Road discussed at the next parish council meeting.

Could this be placed on the next agenda please? Doug Dew is aware of residents' concerns of the speeding o. A now residential road."

6.4 FW Cook Monumental Masons – request to install a old style monument headstone (flatstone protruding from the ground)

This does not conform with the Council's Cemetery Regulations but the Monumental Masons say it does conform to NAMM Regulations.

6.5 Resident request that the Council removes a small oak tree adjacent to 25 Sadlers Way and the sycamore tree and bush on the small green between 24 and 25 Sadlers Way

6.6 Huntingdon Community Co-ordinator offer off support

"As your new Community Connector, working as part of the Think Communities Team for the County Council, I would love to have a quick chat to find out more about what's going on in Hemingford Grey, especially now that Covid restrictions are lifting.

My role is to map all the great services and people we have in Huntingdonshire, especially those making a difference to people's lives, to support and champion them and to link them up to the community or other complementary resources when required. It is also to try and spot any gaps where there might be a need for more support or attention.

I look forward to hearing from you. I'm more than happy to come out to Hemingford Grey to meet you, or chat virtually if you prefer.

Warm regards,

Ann Pinkney

Community Connector | Huntingdonshire Think Communities Team

7. Closure of meeting

LONDON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION

President:

Mr J Woods

Chairman:

Mr C Moore

Administrative Officer:

Mrs M E Burns



FOUNDED 1884

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2A Hervey Park Road
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Our Ref: CM/MEB/H.1

Mrs G Stoehr
Clerk
Hemingford Grey Parish Council
30 West Drive
Highfield Caldecote
Cambridge
CB23 7NY

23 May 2021

Sent by email to: parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Stoehr,

RE: PARKING IN MARSH LANE, HEMINGFORD GREY


Thank you for your letter sent via email dated 19 May 2021.

As you rightly state in your letter the car parking area at the lake has been considerably reduced, this was carried out by the owners whilst their work is taking place. The reduction in space at the car park is the main reason our members are looking elsewhere to park.

The Association pay a substantial amount in rental for the lake and being a lovely place, we can understand why our members wish to fish this. As I stated in my previous email if our members are parked legally and have paid their road tax, we cannot stop them from parking anywhere.

Our on-site Fishery Keepers are trying to keep an eye on the situation and they try their best to keep the peace for all parties. It would be nice if the residents could bear this in mind and not abuse them on the lake, for the first ever they are both having to wear body cams.

Yours sincerely,

 Colin Moore,
Chairman,
London Anglers Association

THE L.A.A. HAVE 58 VENUES COVERING 12 COUNTIES INCLUDING
RIVERS:- THAMES, HAMPSHIRE AVON, GREAT OUSE, SUFFOLK STOUR, CAM, BEULT, TEISE,
SEVERAL MILES OF THE GRAND UNION CANAL AND MANY STILL WATERS.
SEVERAL OF THE ABOVE FISHERIES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST BY ENGLISH NATURE
2000/2001 - CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARDED BY ENGLISH NATURE
FOR MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE FAMOUS PORTHOLME MEADOW

HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

£

Jun-21

Balance B/Forward	177218.45
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ADJ'S + Chq's Approved at Previous Meeting/Between Meetings		
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Adjustments		
SALARIES & PENSION - APRIL	ADJUSTMENT	96.00
Payments		
PEACE MEMORIAL FIELD	GRANT	-2400.00
SSE	STREETLIGHT ELECTRICITY	-177.38
K&M STREETLIGHTS	STREETLIGHT MAINTENANCE	-87.88
KINGFISHER DIRECT	CENTURION BINS	-373.58
PLAYSAFETY LTD	ROSPA INSPECTION	-267.60
ST IVES TREE	TREE WORKS	-1700.00
Receipts		
NEW195	INTERMENT FEE	140.00
OLD490A	MEMORIAL FEE	145.00
NEW196	MEMORIAL FEE	145.00
OLD450A	MEMORIAL FEE & TRANSFER	195.00
MEMORY LANE & FRIENDSHIP GR	GRANT RETURN	250.00
NEW99B	INTERMENT FEE	140.00
NEW99B	ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTION FEE	40.00
SANTANDER	INTEREST	0.36
SANTANDER	INTEREST	0.35
HDC	PRECEPT	60031.00
<i>Total Fund movement</i>		56176.27
Balance revised after adjustments		233394.72

DD

Bank Reconciliation			
Item	Funds	Statement	Outstanding
Unity Trust Current Acc	10071.01	10,303.36	-232.35
Unity Savings Acc	25005.17	25,005.17	
Santander Current Acc	155949.43	155,949.43	
Santander Deposit Acc	42369.11	42,369.11	
Total	233394.72	233627.07	-232.35

Expenditure for month	Amount (£)
SALARIES & PENSION	1449.13
CAME AND CO	1339.65
HDC	37.50
K&M STREETLIGHTS	87.88
VICTOIRE PRESS	520.00
MICK GEORGE	205.20
SSE	151.40
ICO	35.00
Total Expenditure	3825.76

DD


DD


Balance c/f	229568.96
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Notes:

Late invoices will be brought to the meeting.

HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL Environment Log 26 May 2021

Ser No	Date	Issue	Comment	Response	Action	Status 26 May 2021	WHO!	Due Date
81	May 20	Review maintenance of grass in parish	Current status in paper circulated. Response from HDC received. Useful info and examples	Clrs Meredith, Waters, Jakes met on sites and have made proposals	Proposals to be considered at EWG on 28 Apr.	Proposals recommended and now need consultation	EWG	See 120 below 
87	Jul 20	Fences on YES Estate	Clerk has raised issues about state of fencing and use of barbed wire		Need to decide whether fences can be repaired or need to be replaced	Letter received ref responsibilities	Clerk	Deferred
88	Jun 20	Resident request for public slipway	Has resolved to be a new or extended landing stage after contact with resident.	Needs 'concrete' (!) proposal.	Estimate for repair received and £3k budget allocated by PC	Await more detailed proposal	TJ, RA	asap
89	Jul 20	Green policy for the Parish	Proposed Green working group to draft a parish policy for managing parish owned land and for engaging with residents and landowners on wider environmental issues.	EWG proposes a sub group	Liaise with St Ives and other parishes, agree common themes, create supplement for March newsletter	Meeting planned for 25 May delayed until June	Green Group, RM, CB, SJ, PQ	June 21
96	Oct 20	Overhanging trees and hedges	There are many footways obstructed by overgrowing trees and hedges	Prepare template letter to residents	Clerk advises caution based on previous bad experience	Letters sent & all but one replied positively.	RW, DD to monitor	Ongoing
100	Oct 20	Pennywort in river	A volunteer group is clearing pennywort from our stretch of river and liaising with riparian owners and HAPC	No action required from PC at this time	n/a	Volunteers led by Cllr Jackson (TJ) but outwith PC insurance etc.	Volunteers	Ongoing
101	Oct 20	Effects of gravel pit re-opening	Infrastructure work in progress but paused for flooding	CB monitoring. LL are checking drainage weekly	n/a - monitor	Archaeology in progress. New access gates constructed.	Ongoing liaison with Land Logical by RW, CB	Ongoing
103	Oct 20	Orchard and hedge planting near allotments	To be arranged	Quotes received	PC agreed to accept local SITG quotation	Postponed to autumn – contractor could not deliver in spring	Tree group	Ongoing
106	Jan 21	River/Surface Water Flooding	PC has reported to HDC/CCC and asked EA to respond to several suggestions. Emergency Group set up – met 20 Jan	Reports sent. Emergency Group drafting proposed plan.	EWG should monitor state of surface water drainage within parish	Awaiting reports from CCC & HDC. Recent inspection at Glebe Rd	Move to Emergency Group	n/a
109	Jan 21	Leaf clearance from pavements	Several pavements in High St need leaf clearance	Ask handyman to do asap	Discuss with Clerk/Handyman	Clerk instructing handyman to do	Clerk/Handyman	Completed?
110	Mar 21	No Mow May	Proposal that the PC should promote this initiative and set example with Vicarage Fields	EWG to discuss	PC approved	Mowing halted in May	Clerk, Fergusons	May
111	Mar 21	Rubbish behind football container	Apparent rubbish associated with footballers being kicked around	Ask footballers to clear	SJ to talk to football coach	All cleared	Thanks to SJ	Completed

Ser No	Date	Issue	Comment	Response	Action	Status 26 May 2021	WHO!	Due Date
112	Mar 21	Parish Tree Policy	New HDC Tree Policy has been adopted HGPC's policy needs to follow within the limitations of our resources	AM to draft HG policy for April meeting		Proposal deferred	AM	Deferred
113	Mar 21	Litter pick	Parish litter pick proposed for 12 June to coincide with Great British Spring Clean 2021,	JF organising	JF to organise as before	Approved at April PC meeting. All in hand.	JF	12 June
114	Mar 21	New/replacement litter bins	Some smaller litter bins overflowing despite more frequent emptying.	Replace some smaller bins with larger.	Proposal approved at April PC	Removals and new bins in hand	Clerk	May/June 21
115	Mar 21	Verge project (flowers)	County council is experimenting with 'protected' verges allowing wild flowers to flourish.	Apply for protected status for some verges	PC approved	Application made	Clerk	May/June 21
116	Apr 21	Picnic bench(es) being donated	Donor is offering funding picnic bench(es) for Daintree Green	Have identified possible site(s) in Daintree	Contact donor with approx. costs	PC resolved that Clerk seek quotations for tables and installation	Clerk	May 21
117	Apr 21	Repair of grass along riverside	Heavy usage during a wet winter and a dry spring have left the riverside as bare soil.	Reseeding needed	Get quotes in August	PC resolved to support reseeded. AM & SJ to measure for spec.	EWG, Clerk	Aug 21
118	May 21	YES Estate maintenance	Need to organise on-site meeting during summer to plan for next maintenance contract that will include all estate.	Set up with EWG, YES councillors and residents assoc?	Arrange during May	Await meeting	RW, AM, NI, TP	See 120 below 
119	May 21	Encourage involvement of local organisations	To encourage participation in wild flower planting	Propose contacts and joint action	Propose to PC; make contact with orgs.	Await PC but make contacts	AM, JF, Clerk	June 21
120	May 21	Review of maintenance regime	Maintenance contract to out to tender this winter. This includes mowing and hedge cutting for Daintree Green, YES estate, Vicarage Field & Mitchell Close	Sub Grp to create draft specification for consultation(s) in summer.	Propose that PC authorise up to £100 for consultations.	Sub Group up and running.	PQ, RM, AM & others	June 21
121	May 21	WI tree	WI will be asking for permission to plant a tree for Climate week in September.	EWG believes front of cemetery rather than Vicarage Field	Propose that we accept proposal for a native tree and suggest cemetery location	Awaits letter from WI to PC	PC	June 21
122	May 21	Bare verge in the Thorpe.	Verge cleared by resident but house now for sale.	? involvement of PC resources or leave to resident(s)	RW and AM to discuss off line	RW/AM to put proposal to PC if necessary	RW/AM	June 21

Proposals for June meeting of PC

- **81 & 118 Proposal that consultation meetings be held on site at Daintree Green, Vicarage Fields, YES estate, and Mitchell Close to get feedback on proposals for managing those areas. To authorise expenditure of up to £100 for the public consultations for the open spaces.**
- **119 Proposal to approach local organisations to join in growing plug plants for the proposed ‘wild flower islands’. To purchase suitable seeds from Plantlife at a maximum cost of £80.00 (2 packets each of 8 species)**
- **121 Proposal to suggest the Cemetery as the most suitable site for a new native tree when WI request received.**

In addition, it was agreed that wild flower planting would involve the Gardening Society, Newsletter, School (if possible) and Scouts (RW to approach). It was also suggested that we approach the shop for some sponsorship (they have already promised some). RW to make contact.

The Maintenance Review Group will draft a revised specification for the maintenance contract that needs to be tendered this winter. This will incorporate (or amend) the ideas put forward by AM for wildflower areas and for hedges/brambles.

Afternote

RW has reported visibility issues at Mill Lane Church St junction on CCC Highways website and will follow up with our new County Councillor if no immediate action (Immediate = 10 days in CCC time!)

News Update from the Chair – April-May 2021

At last the unseasonable cold and damp April and May weather has come to an end and summer has arrived on cue at the beginning of June. The visitor honeypots of the Ouse Valley have once again become a huge attraction. The use of our landscape for all kinds of leisure activities is very encouraging but does of course produce its own challenges with car parking becoming a real issue over the holiday weekend in many places.

Energy and zeal

There is a great burst of enthusiasm and call to action from many of our Partner Members keen to get involved in actual projects on the ground. There is a great desire to restore meadows to their former glory, to reinstate lost hedges, plant riverside trees, improve water quality and much more - and there is no lack of support from our volunteers. The real issue is the identification of landscape and biodiversity projects that are achievable. These can only be accomplished with the cooperation of landowners and farmers. Many of them are waiting on the new post Brexit Government scheme to promote environmental benefit in farming, and are reluctant to promote new initiatives until they have some clarity on the details.

Black Poplar progress

A local farmer, however, Alf Peacock, has been a great supporter of GOVT. The Trust has begun to plant native Black Poplars on his hay meadow opposite Brampton Mill and volunteers have successfully carried out the first planting using 'cactus' cattle protectors. For this project we have been grateful for a £2,000 grant from Astra Zeneca. We continue to work with local landowners, and with FWAG (Farmers Wildlife Advisory Group), to find more sites for riverside tree-planting to support the Woodland Trust initiative to 'Cool the Rivers'.

Clearing the way - and the Pennywort

We are confident there will be plenty of opportunities for volunteer groups to engage in new planting and habitat restoration in the future. In the meantime, there is much work to do on clearing footpaths, especially on the Ouse Valley Way. Huntingdon Rotary is clearing the path between Bromholme Lane and River Lane, but there are many other sections that need attention. In fact, a great many of our public footpaths need work and our Partner Members are rising to the challenge. Please let us know about all the individual projects that you may be undertaking so we can publicise them and offer help as needed. Here we must mention the initiative of Partner Member Southoe and Midloe PC who have taken advantage of our offer to provide special waymarkers for the the OVW through their parish and which they have already installed. Well done Southoe! Brampton PC too have been quick off the mark with improvements to their section.

The battle by the Environment Agency and many volunteer groups to stop the spread of Floating Pennywort has been very successful in the upper sections of the river, but now needs to continue downstream. There is an opportunity for our Partners Members and Supporter volunteers to engage in the recording of any new Pennywort sitings. Please see this link to Rivercare - [Pennywort Alert \(rivercare.org.uk\)](http://rivercare.org.uk) for more information and details.

Important new Trust developments

This is a pivotal moment for the Trust as we embark on new ventures. We have had much success over the last two years, for example: overturning the decision to build a new, elevated river crossing; Black Poplar planting projects; and working with the County Council to upgrade the Ouse Valley Way and the information boards. Now we are looking to move to another level, working with our Partners and Natural Cambridgeshire to create a Great Ouse Valley Landscape Partnership, giving the opportunity to apply for larger sums and to employ a coordinator. This will be discussed more fully in June.

Following the presentation by Barry Bendall of the Rivers Trust at our AGM in April we are now in discussion to move towards GOVT becoming the Rivers Trust representative for our Great Ouse. It has previously been unrepresented! This will mean that we would work to improve the water quality and biodiversity of the river with the support of the Rivers Trust as the national body.

Publicity

We offer special thanks to St Neots Town Councillor Stephen Ferguson for his donation of £2,000. He raised this from his walk as Town Mayor of the entire Ouse Valley Way from Buckinghamshire to Kings Lynn in appalling weather last year. We trust your blisters have healed Stephen!

The latest edition of the Inland Waterways Association *The Great River Ouse and its Tributaries* has just been published. Its author, Chris Howes is a Supporter of the Trust and the book includes a brief summary of the work and aims of GOVT. The book is the standard document for all those who use the rivers for leisure in all sorts of craft. It is published by Imray at £14.95 and is available from all good bookshops and marinas, or from Imray online.

AONB on-going

The Trust's working party on the application for AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) status has produced a further document to upgrade the original 2016 application to Natural England. We are awaiting the much-delayed formal response from Natural England to the Glover Report recommendations.

We have a vacancy

Graham Wilson has been a GOVT Trustee since our inception and has been a vital link with the County Council and a great campaigner against the third river crossing. Following his recent re-election as a County Councillor, and his appointment as Chair of Audit and Accounts for the new Combined Authority administration, he feels he will no longer have sufficient capacity to continue as a Trustee. The Trust wishes him well in his new role. If you feel you have a special skill and enthusiasm to become a Trustee please contact me for a chat.

Finally

There is a great deal for the Trust to achieve this year but with foreign travel all but eliminated this summer I am reminded just how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful landscape to enjoy on our doorstep.

[All photographs by GOVT]

Graham Campbell, June 2021