

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

April 2023



Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the Parish Council's April newsletter.

The flowering wild plum and cherry in the hedgerows, the arrival of chiff-chaffs and sand martins, lambs in the fields, and the lighter evenings, can only mean one thing. Spring has arrived!

Next month will see the Coronation of His Majesty The King on the morning of Saturday 6th May and a special Coronation Bank Holiday weekend. It's hoped that the event will bring communities together throughout the UK with everyone invited to join in, on any day, whether that is by hosting a Coronation Big Lunch or a special street party, watching the Coronation ceremony or spectacular concert on TV, or stepping forward during The Big Help Out to help causes that matter to them. Hemingford Grey is no different and the Sports and Social team at the Pavilion have organised "A Right Royal Occasion", to help us celebrate. I hope that residents of the parish will join in the celebrations in whatever way they see fitting.

We continue to seek ways to improve the parish and in the last month we have planted a Jubilee Oak at the Yes Development, two thousand Snowdrops at various sites across the village, and have a dedicated team of gardeners growing wildflowers to supplement the wildflower beds – all planned and delivered by our Environment Working Group. At the same time, the new 20mph zone has been implemented across the village to reduce speed and improve safety for all. More information on all these initiatives can be found inside this jam-packed edition of our newsletter.



Cllr Richard Allen
Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Parish Council Updates

Forthcoming Parish Council meetings

As the April and May Parish Council meetings fall on Easter Monday and the additional Bank Holiday for the Coronation this year, the Council has moved its Planning and Full Council Meetings to the 17th April and 15th May respectively. As normal, agenda's will be posted on our noticeboards and the website, all are welcome to attend.

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 17th April at 7.30pm in the Reading Room and will be followed by the full Parish Council meeting.

All Parish Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June. The purpose of the meeting is to give the Parish Council, and other local organisations an opportunity to let local residents know what they have been doing over the past year. The meeting is also an opportunity for electors to have a say on anything they consider valuable to the people of the Parish. We'd love to see as many people as possible at our Annual Parish Meeting.

Jubilee Oak planted at the Yes Development

The Council recently planted a native oak tree alongside the newly planted hedge at the front of the Yes Development to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Council have also agreed to place a plaque on the tree highlighting its significance.

The Council are proud to have been able to play its part in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative and in creating a living legacy which will serve as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty's extraordinary service to her country and her people.



Adopt a tree

The Council would like to encourage residents to help water our newly planted trees – regular watering in the first year of planting is essential – so, if you see a tree with this tag, please help by giving the occasional drink especially during dry weather.



One resident living near the Mitchell Close playground did this last summer and recently sent us this photo of the tree covered by a lovely display of pink cherry blossom. A great reward for a little effort!



PLEASE WATER ME

- ◆ Please water regularly during periods of dry weather.
- ◆ Bath, washing up or rain water is ideal.
- ◆ Watering in the early morning or evening is best.

Please visit:
www.trees.org.uk/watering

More snowdrops planted



A big thank you to all those residents who turned out to help with our community events during February. Nearly 2000 'in the green' snowdrops were planted at various locations throughout the Parish. Without your help these events would not be possible.

Wildflower project

A number of gardeners throughout the Parish are currently growing wildflower plants which will be planted in our three wildflower beds and the margins of our green spaces. If you'd like to get involved please let us know. Alternatively, look out for the posters that will advertise our forthcoming planting days. Many thanks to the gardeners.



Allotments available



The Council still has some plots available to let. Whether you want to grow your own fruit and vegetables, get more exercise, or just enjoy being out in the fresh air, if you would be interested in taking one, please contact the Clerk, parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Join our Environment Working Group

If you care about where you live and want to become more involved in improving our parish, why not come and join the Environment Working Group (EWG). Residents are warmly welcomed and we would love to hear your views. EWG meetings are held monthly in the Reading Room. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd May between 7.30-8.30pm.

Village noticeboards



The Council has five noticeboards spread across the village. These are located at the Thorpe, the Parish Centre, the Primary School, Armes Corner, and the Yes Development play area. One section of these noticeboards is for Parish Council notices, but the other section is available to anyone wishing to advertise an event or club etc. The number of posters around the village clearly shows how much goes on, but please try not to put them on the noticeboards provided rather than on resident's fences and use pins not staples. Finally when your event is over, please remove your notices.

Could it be you?

The Parish Council currently has a number of vacancies for Councillors. Could one of them, be you?



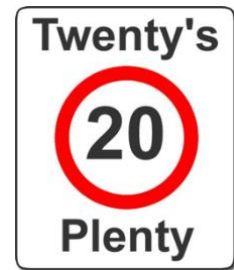
No experience or qualifications are needed to become a councillor - life experience is the best thing you can bring to the role. So, if you want to:

- make a difference to the local community and shape its future,
- ensure that the Parish is able to access the services it deserves, and
- represent the views of local people and ensure they count.

Please get in touch to find out more or speak to a current Councillor. You will be made very welcome as someone who wants to get involved!

Local Highways Initiative (LHI) updates

The 20mph zone has now been implemented across the village and we are delighted to see a visible reduction in the speed of vehicles travelling through the village. We'd like to thank all those of you who are driving more slowly - making it safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists. We will continue to use our speed sign to monitor the maximum and average vehicle speeds across the village and will publish these in future newsletters.



Disappointingly, the Council's joint LHI bid with Fenstanton Parish Council, for the reduction to 30mph of the existing 40mph speed limit on London Road, is not going to proceed in its current form.

Having initially accepted our bid, the County Council's feasibility report for the scheme, indicated that without the inclusion of significant physical measures to encourage compliance, they do not believe it would achieve the required reduction of speed and are therefore unable to approve it. As such measures would require considerable additional financial contribution it will not be possible progress this under the LHI scheme. The report considered national guidance, the County Council policy on setting speed limits, and input from the Police's Traffic Management Officer.

There is good news, a reduction in the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph from Galley Hill to the existing the 40mph signs, is considered favourable and feasible. Therefore, we have agreed to use our existing LHI bid to pursue this and improvements to the existing 40mph zone, including:

- improved 40mph signage,
- the provision of a new Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) unit,
- and to explore installation of traffic speed roundel road markings to accompany the proposed 50mph speed limit reduction.

While both frustrating and disappointing in the short term, Hemingford Grey and Fenstanton Parish Councils, the County Council, and our District and County Councillors have agreed to continue to work to find a long-term solution. We will therefore work together to develop plans and identify sufficient funding that will enable us to change the road geometry to be conducive to a 30mph limit.

Planning committee matters

The Parish Council has no direct planning powers but is consulted by, and can make representations to, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). It is HDC's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications. Residents are urged to make their own comments on the HDC website. Councillors will usually call on the applicant and relevant neighbours to explain how the council considers applications and how residents can make their views known to the parish council and to HDC. The next Planning Committee meeting will be at 7pm on Monday 17th April in the Reading Room, High Street.

Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC/CCC ref.	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
18/02726/FUL	Murketts showroom London Rd – 49 dwellgs	Comments	Approved*
20/00285/FUL	Vindis showroom, Low Rd – 94 dwellings	Refusal	Approved*
20/01621/FUL	Liquid Skillz – expansion inc. water skiing	Refusal	Approved**
21/00044/FUL	Liquid Skillz – 2 nd wakeboard line, etc.	Refusal	Approved**
CCC/21/088/FUL	ENVAR, St Ives Rd, Somersham – expansion of waste facility inc. incinerator	Refusal	In progress
21/01768/FUL	Hemingford Park – change to mixed use	Refusal	In progress
22/02258/HHFUL	2 Vine Close – 2 storey side, 1 storey rear ext	Refusal	Withdrawn
22/02436/HHFUL	24 Church St – 2 storey rear extension	Approval	Approved
22/02461/HHFUL	17 The Thorpe – loft conversion & grey windows	Approval	Approved
23/00302/FUL	St Francis House, 29 High Street – 1.95m gates to existing entrance on Church Street	Approval conditions	In progress
23/00321/HHFUL	2 Vine Close – single storey rear and side ext.	Approval	In progress
23/00370/HHFUL	7 Green Close – Single storey side extension	In progress	In progress
23/00397/HHFUL	Czardas, Pound Rd – Single storey side ext.	In progress	In progress

*HGPC continue to monitor both sites which have severe implications for both foul and surface water drainage as well as significant traffic and (for Vindis) pedestrian access issues. Construction is now in progress on Vindis site and pile driving likely into April. HDC/Anglian Water have not yet accepted a surface water drainage plan for the Murketts site.

**These applications were approved by HDC's Development Management Committee (DMC) on 23rd January. Our opposition was presented by Cllr Meredith & District Cllrs Keane & Dew.

Community Matters



A Right Royal Occasion is being planned at the Pavilion and everyone in the community is welcome to come along and share in the celebrations together from 10am 'til late. There will be no entry charges and most children's activities will be free of charge.

From 10am - BBC Coronation Coverage will be shown in the Hayward Hall on a 9ft screen. Morning coffee, tea, cakes and bacon rolls will be on offer (cash only). The HEMLOCS local history group will have a display in the hall.

In the Children's marque from 10am - Soft play will be set up along with other children's activities. 'Steve Sausage' will be providing entertainment in the afternoon.

Throughout the day - Bouncy castles on the field, BBQ/hot food, tuck shop, bars, Pavilion Pictures for kids, Fantastic Face Painting.

And lots of live music from 6pm.

www.hemingfordpavilion.com

Email: enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk **Tel:** 01480 464490

Hemingford Ladies Choir

Hemingford Ladies Choir invite you to join them for an Informal Spring Concert at St Margaret's Church, Hemingford Abbots on Sunday 14th May commencing at 3p.m. Refreshments will be available and there will be a retiring collection.

Easter Services at St James Church, Hemingford Grey



Maundy Thursday, 6th April

Holy Communion at 7.00pm

Good Friday, 8th April

All Together Worship at 10.00am

Easter Sunday Celebration, 8th April

Holy Communion at 10.00am

Easter Fair – Saturday 7th April

10am – 3pm on Vicarage Fields

Easter egg hunt, crafts, bouncy inflatables, refreshments (donations only), free entry.



by Kirsten Marriott, Headteacher

At Hemingford Grey Primary School, we aim to work in collaboration with the community. Our pre-school and school places are on offer to anyone in the catchment area and local area. We currently have spaces in all year groups, see our website for information

www.hemingfordgrey.cambs.sch.uk

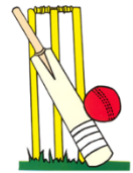
We have a holiday club running for primary aged children through the holidays with fun activities and a range of sports on offer. This is open to all school age children who attend the school and surrounding areas. Information can be found here: www.ak-tivities.com

If you are interested in volunteering to fill one of our Governing Body vacancies, please contact chair@hemingfordgrey.cambs.sch.uk to find out more about this rewarding role.

Hemlocs *by Simon Clemmow, Chair*

Our 2022/23 season is coming to a close, and we have just two more talks to go. On Thursday 20 April we'll be learning about the history of Papworth Hospital from Becky Proctor and announcing plans for our summer activities. On Thursday 18 May we'll be holding our AGM and hearing from Richard Storey about Grafham Water. I am confident that the high attendances we've been getting lately will continue, but if you fancy coming along, please do – we can always put out an extra chair or two. As ever, 7.30pm at the Pavilion.

Hemingford Park Cricket Club



The huge success of the 'Cricket Ball' at Slepe Hall in conjunction with the pre-season training means that Hemingford Park CC has not been in such a strong a position for many seasons. We've made significant progress over the last 18 months and look forward to another highly successful and enjoyable summer when the newly promoted senior side will have the challenge of taking on new and better opposition, the Friday night side will play a full fixture card of social T20 games and the youth section will again compete in local leagues as well as having their weekly training sessions.

The winter nets training sessions have been very well attended, with the youth players, particularly, impressing with their bowling. Much of the development plan can now move from ambition to reality, given the additional finance raised at the recent Ball.

We're always keen to welcome new players and supporters, so please do get in touch with Mike at heminfordparkcricketclub@gmail.com

Hemingfords Action Group update *by Iain Muspratt, Chair*

The transaction whereby Mick George Group is to be acquired by UK subsidiaries of Heidelberg Cement continues to proceed and is targeted to be completed by June 30th. Heidelberg have stated that the deal enables them to enter the Waste and Recycling business. Recently available Land Registry records show that American Golf have an option to break their lease of the Golf Range in August 2025. There has been some clearance of excess materials at the Astro Turf site – presumably at EA insistence.



Coronation tea party - Wednesday 3rd May at 3pm

Anyone wishing to join us for our Royal-themed tea party can let us know at the next HubClub meeting they attend. This event will undoubtedly be popular as it kicks off our villages' celebrations. You're welcome to come dressed for the event.

Claire accredited as our seated exercise leader

We congratulate Claire Weston on passing her exam with flying colours as our inspirational tutor. One participant summed up how the group feels, "It's brilliant and the time flies by. I feel so happy afterwards." If you'd like to join in just come along fortnightly on Wednesdays currently at 2pm (soon to revert to 3pm) in the Pavilion. It's fun and free... and then there's tea!

HemingfordHugs

We hold quarterly gatherings for anyone wanting to find out what our village offers. It's also a chance to make new friends. It's held on Sundays from 2pm in the Pavilion bar. Next meeting 23rd April.

HubClub events at the Pavilion (events are subject to change)

- **4th April:** Seated exercises
- **12th April:** Fun and games - an afternoon of cards, jigsaws and games
- **19th April:** Seated exercises
- **26th April:** Tish-talk on Assam and Bhutan - our intrepid Chair's tour of these stunning locations

Details of Hub events appear on village posters or contact us to receive information by email or WhatsApp.

Contact details: T: 07308 035416 E: hemingfordhub@icloud.com,
www.hemingfordhub.co.uk

Hemingford Grey Parish Council



Proud to serve the people of Hemingford Grey

The Parish Council now meets in the **Reading Rooms** on the **second Monday of each month** (except August and December) at 7.00pm for the planning meeting and 7.30pm for the main parish council meeting.

All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and the first ten minutes or so are open to residents to ask questions or make comments and observations on matters or on items on the agenda (please note that after this time, further comments or questions are not permitted when the meeting is in progress).

Agendas are posted on our website and on the village notice boards. Information is also available on our social media pages:

Website: www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc

Twitter: www.twitter.com/hemgreypc

Parish councillors:



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Robin Waters (v/c)

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Tony Jackson

12 Madeley Court
07973 751679



Sarah Jakes

Meadow View, 99 London Rd
466813



Anne Meredith

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465774

All our councillors can be emailed using the following format:
firstname.lastname@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: Gail Stoehr, 30 West Drive, Highfields, Caldecote, CB23 7NY
Tel: 01954 210241, Email: parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

The next edition of the newsletter will be out in June 2023