

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

August 2021



# *Notes from the Chair*

Since our last newsletter, three separate events have taken place, namely the village litter pick, the Hemingfords yard sale, and the foodbank collection. All of these, have proved in some way that many of us wish to protect and improve our environment, want to support others, and feel a real sense of community. In these uncertain times, when some of our normal village social events have had to be cancelled, we should celebrate these events, those who organise them, and their ability to bring us together.

Earlier this month saw the lifting of most of England's remaining coronavirus restrictions, but this has clearly been tempered by caution over rising infections. While the social-distancing rules have ended, many people have continued to stay at home, and the Government have suggested people should still wear masks out of "personal responsibility", even where they were no longer legally obliged. Many businesses are keeping some social-distancing arrangements in place, perhaps mindful of public unease. As thousands of people are being told to self-isolate following close contact with those who had tested positive for Covid, and with infection rates rising we should remain vigilant. More importantly, we must continue to look out for each other, offer support where we can and continue to be kind. Some villagers will not yet be ready or may even be fearful of returning to normality now that the restrictions have been lifted. Unfortunately, it's likely that Covid is still likely to disrupt our lives for some time to come.

The good news is that many of our village activities, groups and societies have either already started up again, or are planning to do so over the next few months and we've plenty of updates from many of them.

By the time our next issue is published in October, we will be heading into the Autumn. So, whether you decide to stay at home in the village, enjoy a staycation, or venture further afield, I hope you all enjoy the summer – stay safe!

***Cllr Richard Allen*** – Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

# Parish Council Updates

## Our village environment

The pandemic has made us all more aware of our impact on the environment and the lockdowns have meant that we have enjoyed what our local green spaces can offer to us in relation to exercise and



relaxation. A group of residents and councillors are looking at how we can develop our key green spaces – Daintree Green, Mitchell Close, the YES estate, and Vicarage Fields



- to meet the changing needs of our residents and yet protect and enhance the natural environment. We hope to host community events on a Saturday in September when we can gather to celebrate the end of summer. So please keep an eye out in early September for details on the events.

## Roads and speeding

Further to the news in last month's newsletter that the Council's bid to CCC to implement a 20mph zone in the centre of the village has been successful. We're now working with Fenstanton Parish Council to obtain meaningful data about vehicle speeds on London Road with a view to making a Local Highways Initiative bid to have the speed limit reduced.

Please continue to report highways faults – including potholes, overgrown hedges, blocked drains and old or missing signage – to CCC via their website <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

## New larger litter bins



The increase in walkers in the village has led to our litter bins getting fuller quicker. The Council have therefore recently installed new larger bins near the shop and outside the school entrance. We must also apologise for the delay in emptying bins during the May half term.

## **Garden fly tipping**

We hope that you all agree that green spaces including road verges and footpaths in and around the village should not be used for dumping your own garden waste. HDC operate an efficient free green bin system and CCC provide free recycling sites (Bluntisham being our nearest) if you have too much waste or bigger items (hardcore etc.). If you do make 'tip trips', please help neighbours who may also have stuff to go. We are very lucky to live in such a nice green village – please try to keep it that way.

Please also remember that the responsibility for keeping pavements clear of overgrown trees and hedges lies with the landowner and not with any of the councils. We hope that you won't mind us reminding you!

## **Advanced Warning!**

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September a new event, The Cambridge Triathlon, will be taking place in the village. This event will start and finish at Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore. The event will start at 8:00am and is expected to have finished by 1:00pm.

The organisers, Tough Runner, anticipate that the event will attract around 400 participants and is licensed by the British Triathlon, the national governing body.

The 1500m swim will take place in Lake Ashmore. The 36km bike ride will take cyclists through Hemingford Grey (via Gore Tree Rd, The High St, St. Ives Rd, and Hemingford Rd), along the B1040 and A1198 with a turning point at Godmanchester. Please note all roads will be open, and participants will be asked to follow the highway code. Finally, the 10km run will include a loop of Liquid Skillz and use other public footpaths and public rights of way within the area. All route maps can be found at <https://toughrunneruk.com/events/cambridge-standard-triathlon/>

The Parish Council have and will continue to liaise with the organisers and CCC in the run up to the event to limit the impact on the village.

## **Litter pickers - Job done**



Thanks to all those involved in June's Community Litter Pick. It was a great opportunity to get out and about in the sunny weather, and as you can see volunteers collected a dozen bags of rubbish and the obligatory traffic cone! A great community effort. Thank You.

## Flooding

The recent heavy rain has not caused as much flooding as in the past and it is clear that CCC Highways clearing of some drains has had a beneficial effect. Anglian Water are also taking some steps to improve the maintenance of the sewer network and the pumping stations at the Thorpe and Mill Lane. We will press for this to continue. The Parish Council is looking closely at and considering the impact of all planning applications in relation to the drainage system.

## Neighbourhood Plan

*By Cllrs Robin Waters and Anne Meredith, co-convenors of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)*



Thanks to all those residents who responded to the Covid survey published in the April issue. All your responses were useful but sadly we only received 62 responses which is 4.8%. This means that we cannot take the responses as reflecting the opinions of all residents. We were disappointed but not too surprised as the Residents Survey in March 2020 had a response rate of 16%.

However, the responses showed clearly that residents were making more use of public footpaths, the fishing lake walk, the riverside walk and green spaces in general. Walking, cycling and running had increased in popularity. It was also clear that residents had missed the social and learning opportunities provided by the myriad of societies and clubs in the parish. The Cock and the Garden Room Cafe had been missed.

The survey specifically asked about home working due to Covid as we were aware that there had been a shift to home working. 27 respondents replied that they were home working and 23 of them thought they would continue to work from home. Some of respondents requested access to local working spaces where perhaps they could have shared access to facilities such as printers or be able to hold meetings. Broadband and WIFI was also mentioned as an issue.

The Steering Group intends to present a report to the Parish Council at its September meeting, where the viability of continuing with the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered as it seems there is not the appetite for one currently.

## **Food Bank Collection – Thank You**

Community support for foodbanks is vital, so a massive thank you to residents for your generosity in donating to last month's Community Foodbank appeal. The Godmanchester foodbank had to make two trips to collect all the donations.

We're told, the 558kg of donated food is equivalent to sufficient food to provide about **22** family parcels or **35** parcels for a single person. A parcel containing enough food to provide 3 meals a day for 3 days.



## **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 the district council's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications. We urge residents to make their own comments on the HDC website. The changing situation regarding Covid means that the Parish Council has varied how it has considered planning applications. As of June 2021, visits were resumed for most planning applications. Councillors will 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. From September the Planning Committee meeting will be held on a different evening from the main Parish Council meeting. The September, October and November meetings will be held in the Hayward Hall, The Pavilion on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm.

At its October 2020 meeting the Parish Council considered an application from Liquid Skillz at Lake Ashmore. The council recommended refusal to HDC and voted to speak at the relevant Development Management Committee (DMC) - as the application had already been called in. At its March meeting the Parish Council considered a separate application for Liquid Skillz, to which it also recommended refusal, and this has also been referred to the DMC at HDC. It is understood that the two applications will be considered at the same meeting. As of mid-July, no date has been given for these two applications to be considered by the DMC.

## Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC ref.	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
20/00285/FUL	Vindis site, Low Rd – demolition of structures, erection of 106 dwellings	Refusal	In progress
19/02280/FUL	AMENDED Land north of the How – redevelopment including new houses	Refusal	In progress
FMW/072/19	AMENDED New Farm Rideaway - changes to conditions for waste management	Refusal	Withdrawn
19/02087/FUL	Waters Edge, Meadow Lane - Variation of condition 2; to amend plans	Noted	Approved
20/01193/CLPD	The Maltings Studio House, Church St - removal of section of wall for car access	Refusal	App lapsed
20/01621/FUL	Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore, Gore Tree Rd - construction of various buildings, change of use for an area to cafe, and diversification of activities to water-based activity centre	Refusal	In progress
21/00044/FUL	Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore - construction of 2 <sup>nd</sup> wakeboard line and associated buildings	Refusal	In progress
21/00194/HHFUL	1 Lea Rd - erection of brick wall to replace existing fence	Approval	Approved
21/00234/HHFUL	6 Apple Orchard - proposed garden room extension	Approval	In progress
20/00164/OUT	Land west of Wychwood Hilton - Outline application for rural exception housing	Not suitable	In progress
20/01546/FUL	The Willows Guest House, 45 High Street - change of use to 2 dwellings	Approval	In progress
18/02726/FUL	Former car showroom, London Rd, St Ives - development 62 dwellings. Amended plans for 47 dwellings (by letter 15.04.2021)	Refusal	In progress
21/00454/HHFUL	4 High Street - replacement of garage with single storey extension	Approval	Approved
21/00326/HHFUL	5 The Brambles - proposed patio and increase height of fence	Refusal	Withdrawn
21/00277/HHFUL	38 Marsh Lane - various extensions	Refusal	In progress
20/02165/FUL	The Cock, High Street - installation of two pods in the garden	Approval	In progress
21/00139/HHFUL	22 Manor Road - single storey rear extension	Approval	Approved
21/00681/HHFUL	19 Marsh Lane - rear single storey extension and new garage in front of property.	Part refusal	In progress
21/00542/HHFUL	45 Marsh Lane - various extensions and new entrance door.	Approval	Approved
21/01084/HHFUL	26 Weir Rd - first floor extension, dormer windows	Refusal	In progress
21/00847/HHFUL	8 Haley Close - single and double storey extensions	Approval	Approved
21/00727/HHFUL	6A The Thorpe - single storey extension	Approval	Approved
21/01162/HHFUL	45b High Street - replacement windows to front elevation	Approval	In progress
21/00974/HHFUL	14 Priors Rd - single storey and side extensions	Approval	In progress
21/00961/HHFUL	12 Priors Rd - single storey rear extension and porch	Approval	Approved
21/00896/HHFUL	2 Mill Close - alterations to front elevation of the property	Approval	Approved
21/00549/HHFUL	1 Glebe Rd - side and rear extensions	Refusal	In progress
21/80212/COND	St Francis House, High St- information on various conditions	Noted	In progress
21/01413/HHFUL	3 Priors Rd - garage and rear single storey extensions	Approval	In progress
21/01359/HHFUL	14 Church St - single storey rear extension	Approval	In progress
21/00277/HHFUL	AMENDED 38 Marsh Lane - first floor and rear extensions	Refusal	In progress
21/01464/HHFUL	24, Hemingford Rd - extensions and changes to fenestration	Approval	In progress

# Community Matters

## Hemingford Grey WI

Our branch was opened in 1919 - 102 years ago - and has flourished ever since. WI is an organisation which has fought for women's rights since its inception - equal pay, nursery schools, breast screening - far too many causes to list. Our current cause is Climate Control / Saving the Planet as so much precious wildlife and countryside has been lost and we are working in conjunction with the village school with competitions for children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

We meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday at 7.30pm. We have a wide variety of speakers at our meetings and enjoy outings and theatre trips. The branch also has a Craft Group, a Book Club, a Choir and Country Dancing, and there are various day classes and events at our Federation Headquarters in Huntingdon. There is also a Walking Group which meets with other local WI members once a month. Please email Phyllis Brooks, President, at [phylbrooks@live.co.uk](mailto:phylbrooks@live.co.uk) for more details.

## Farewell to "Squirrel"

A joint meeting of the Beavers and Cubs, plus parents and helpers, recently wished Diana Cann aka "Squirrel" a happy retirement after over 20 years of dedication to 1st Hemingford's Scouts Group. Diana was first Beaver Leader between September 1987 to April 1993, resuming her role again in November 2005 and has been in charge ever since. From sleepovers and camps to activity days, Diana has always made Beavers, the first part of many children's scouting journey, accessible and fun for everyone. With around 200 beavers having passed through the colony during her leadership, the village owes her a debt of gratitude. We wish her well for her well-earned retirement.

The 1st Hemingford's Scout Group are on the lookout for members for its Executive Committee, which is the supporters' group and Trustees for the Group. Please contact [tony.rogers@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:tony.rogers@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk) if you feel you could help.

## A "Swift" update *by Susan Cooke*

Swifts have been seen flying around the church tower in response to the swift calls that are being played. Hopefully they will be young birds who will want a nest site next summer.

## **Village Lunch and Tea Dance**

The Hemingford Village Lunches and Tea Dances have started again. The August lunch will be in the Pavilion Bar and then in the Chris Page room on the 20<sup>th</sup> from 12.30 pm. The tea dance will be in The Pavilion's Hayward Hall (downstairs) on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm to 4.30 pm. If anybody wishes to join us, please let us know so that there is sufficient catering available

## **Hemingford Ladies Choir**

It is a well-known fact that singing is good for your health and well-being. Hemingford Ladies Choir is a friendly, traditional four-part Ladies Choir that has Zoomed through lockdown. We rehearse every Wednesday morning from 10a.m. to 11.30a.m. under the direction of Elaine Gunn and we sing everything from Bach to Bernstein. If you love to sing and would like to join us or would like more information, please contact Viv Oxley on 01480 417925 or [vivienneoxley64@gmail.com](mailto:vivienneoxley64@gmail.com)

## **Community Learning in the Hemingfords**

A Workers Educational Association (WEA) branch flourished in the Hemingfords for more than thirty-five years and meetings in the Reading Room were well supported. When Cambridgeshire WEA's funding was cut off, we decided to press on independently. Hemingfords Adult Lifelong Learning (HEMALL) was established and joined the Cambridgeshire Alliance of Lifelong Learners (CALL). HEMALL provided several courses but, with the onset of COVID, it was impossible to continue.

The restrictions on face-to-face meetings encouraged the use of Zoom and CALL has a programme for the coming Autumn. Full details can be found on their website ([www.call-ed.org.uk](http://www.call-ed.org.uk))

However, the future of HEMALL is less certain. While there is interest in restarting meetings, the team that has sustained the idea of lifelong learning has decided that it is time to retire. If you're enthusiastic about this aim and would be willing to put together an active group - with help and support, please contact Maureen Rolfe (01480 463493).

## **The Hemingfords Yard Sale**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June saw the first ever Hemingfords Yard Sale. Over 100 stall holders, and shoppers from near and far, enjoyed a fantastic day, and truly met the organisers objectives of reducing waste, building community and raising money for charity – with over £1500 being raised for the Hub. Well done to all those involved, and who knows, maybe they will do it again next year!

## **Hemingford Pavilion**

With the Covid restrictions lifted from 19th July, The Pavilion is looking forward to getting back to normal. However, like many other similar venues, we plan to follow the government's advice to be cautious, when indoors. For the time being, we'll be asking people to wear a face mask when entering the building and maintain social distancing, where appropriate. Face masks may be removed when seated in the bar or when participating in exercise, dancing, etc. Table service in the bar will continue, so please take a seat, and wait to be served. Hall hirers will also be encouraged to adopt the advice, as appropriate for their activity.

We believe that all who use The Pavilion will accept that such measures are sensible and, if everyone complies, we will be able to return to normal, i.e. no restrictions at all, sooner.

In the meantime, hall hire and all out outdoor activities, bowls, tennis, cricket and football (soon) are operating more or less normally. New members are always welcome, so come and join us!

## **Hemingfords' Regatta 2021**

As many of you will have already heard, and with much regret, the Regatta Committee decided that they had no option but to cancel the Regatta again this year. We had made contingency plans to move it from its usual July weekend to early August, but the extension of restrictions until mid-July, and continuing need for social distancing during the weeks of practise evenings made that impossible. Holding it later in the summer is also not practical as the evenings start drawing in too early.

We very much hope that everything will be back to normal next year, and we look forward to welcoming you back to the riverbank to enjoy this unique village event!

## **Hemlocs** by *Simon Clemmow, Chair*

It seems a little early to be mentioning our next season of talks, but actually it's not long before our first meeting of 2021/22. Hopefully we'll be in the Pavilion on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, when Eric Sommerville will talk to us about 'Opium eating in the Fens in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century'. This promises to be a strong start, I'm sure you'll agree. The rest of the programme is shaping up nicely too. So, whether you'll be renewing your membership or joining us for the first time, you can be sure that an informative and entertaining series of local history talks is waiting for you just around the corner.



**HemingfordHub awarded charity status** - HemingfordHub has become a charity. Founded three years ago as a good neighbour scheme, at the peak of the pandemic it had more than 140 volunteers helping with shopping, collecting medicines, sorting household problems, delivering hot meals and providing telephone friendship and support.

"Charitable status means we can achieve so much more," said, Tish Peek, the group's chairman. "It means we can accept donations, attract gift aid and embark on much larger projects."

**HubClub meetings prove popular** - The summer months are bringing together old friends and new at our fortnightly Club meetings. Future events include nature talks on birds and birdsong, wildflowers, trees, and bats, and a not-to-be-missed talk on scams to beware of.

For more information on the HubClub's events or if you need help or advice visit our Facebook page, website [www.hemingfordhub.co.uk](http://www.hemingfordhub.co.uk), call 07308 035416 or email us [hemingfordhub@icloud.com](mailto:hemingfordhub@icloud.com).

## **The Hemingford Action Group update** by *Iain Muspratt, Chair*

**'Astro Turf Site'** - MGL have withdrawn application FMW/07/19 which is good news but in doing so have stated that they intend to use the existing consent granted in 2000 to expand operations. HAG shall oppose this, while the EA continue to press for the site to be cleared.

**'New Waste and Minerals Plan'** – This should be adopted by CCC at their July Meeting.

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council



Parish Council meetings are now being run face to face rather than online. The venue for the Main Parish Council meeting is still to be confirmed, but dates for our next meetings are as follows:

Main Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	13 Sept / 11 Oct
Planning Meeting (at The Pavilion)	7.45pm	21 Sept / 19 Oct

Our agendas are posted on the website, village notice boards, and at the village store. Information is also available on our social media pages:

**Website:** [www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc](http://www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/hemgreypc](http://www.twitter.com/hemgreypc)

## Parish councillors:

Richard Allen (chair)	Maristowe, London Road	494783
Doug Dew	4 Weir Road	469814
Sue Duma	The Grange, 1b Hemingford Rd	469795
Riva Elliott	38 Church Street	494142
Janice Flint	30 Marsh Lane	07816 438765
Nick Irish	10 Skylark Place	464665
Tony Jackson	12 Madeley Court	07973 751679
Sarah Jakes	Meadow View, 99 London Rd	466813
Anne Meredith	18 De Vere Close	465774
Tim Puttick	3 Skylark Place	509481
Robin Waters (vice-chair)	18 Hemingford Road	07833 901680

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](mailto:parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

***The next edition of the newsletter will be out in October 2021***