

Hemingford Grey Parish Council

www.hemingfordgrey.org.uk



Hemingford Grey High Street, Leslie Sims

Parish Newsletter December 2015

Welcome to our December issue. I trust that you have had a good summer and autumn.

We are making great efforts to engage with all parts of our community and if you or your groups wish to involve us, just ask.

Can I ask you to welcome our new/old Parish Clerk, Gail Stoehr, who has rejoined us. Also I need to thank Colin Meadowcroft, Alan Williams and Julie Dew who stood in as Clerks and administrator since our last clerk left.

I also hope you approve of our decision to lay a wreath from the Parish at the Cemetery Memorial Gates. This is our second year and was also supported by the District Council. Next year we propose to open this up to involve other village groups.

Only one housekeeping issue. Please could I ask you to consider pedestrians, especially the young and old by not parking your vehicles half on the pavements. The road will do fine.

Can I end by offering you our best wishes for Christmas and New Year from all of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Doug Dew – Chairman, Hemingford Grey Parish Council



Environment Group

Allotments: We currently have three full plots and two half plots available for fruit and vegetable growing. If you would like to take over one of these would you please contact the Parish Clerk: Gail Stoehr Tel: 01954 210241

Trees: Huntingdon District Council are offering free trees to Parish and Town Councils and we would like to take up this offer for the village.

Our Tree Warden, in conjunction with HDC, has recommended that new trees are to be planted on Vicarage Fields to replace the Ash trees on the perimeter which are likely to succumb to Ash dieback in the next 5 years. They will be replaced with Oak, Wild Service and Field Maple. A Mountain Ash will also be planted near the old tree stump.

If you have any suggestions as to where we may site any further trees on village land or are aware of any trees that may need replacing would you please contact Janet Brasnell on 01480 492033.

Hedgerows: The hedgerow on the boundary of Braggs Lane and Vicarage fields, planted by the Parish Council some years ago, is to be cleared of bindweed and reduced in height allowing the two crab apple trees to develop.

Speed Signs: The Parish Council has been asked by residents to consider installing speed signs along Hemingford Road/St Ives Road. There are various options: fixed signs, signs that can be moved between different locations, a set speed limit indicator or actual speed indicator.

Do you support this initiative? Do you have any comments to make? If so, please contact Janet Brasnell on 01480 492033 or any other Councillor with your views.

Finance and Policy Group

The F&P Group consists of Cllrs. Dew, Waters, Jenkin and Herring. We have recently worked on the budget for 2016/17; managed to hold the precept constant (the village part of council tax); reduced expenditure on administration; but increased the amount spent on grass cutting and on village improvements. We are also in the process of

refreshing, or in some cases creating, council policies (e.g. standing orders, finance, etc.). During the next financial year we have to decide how to deal with the new workplace pension legislation and have already taken professional advice on this complex matter with a view to keeping our (your) employer's contributions within reasonable bounds.

Communication Group

The Communications Group is responsible for maintaining the Parish Council's website and notice boards as well as producing the Parish Newsletter. We also recently hosted a successful 'Meet the Councillors' event at the Pavilion.

We are always looking at new ways of getting the information that matters out to the community to promote the good things we do for the village. We are continuing to increase our presence in the village and on the web.

If you feel you are able to help (or offer advice) with any of the above and would like to join us (you don't need to be a Parish Councillor) then please contact us via the details below or come along to our next Parish Council meeting to have a chat with us.

We are particularly keen to hear from you if you have a flair for marketing or website design (Wordpress).

Go to: **Website** www.hemingfordgrey.org.uk

Like us on: **Facebook** www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc

Follow us on: **Twitter** <https://twitter.com/hemgreypc>

School Crossing: Whilst canvassing for both District and Parish Council elections last year it became clear that what was required from many parishioners in the village was a crossing by the school. An opportunity arose with the offer of a joint works bid between the Parish and County Council to put some money together to be able to fund a crossing and once agreed at the Parish it was all set!

After having submitted our request, I spoke in December last year on behalf of Hemingford Grey and put our case forward to a panel of Councillors from the County Council. In January we heard that we had been successful and plans were set. After much toing and froing we finally had a Zebra crossing placed at the school in the recent half term period. This was put forward as the best position by the Health and Safety Engineers at the County Council. I trust that it will be welcomed by the village.

Cllr. Doug Dew, Chairman, Hemingford Grey Parish Council



Flooding in The Apple Orchard: As a result of the PC sponsored survey we have established that flooding in The Apple Orchard is caused simply by the roots of one tree blocking a short length of drain under the road junction itself. This is now in the hands of the CCC Highways Department who have promised to clear the pipe although they are not yet prepared to remove the offending tree which is in the verge. They are also checking the blockage beyond the Marsh Lane culvert where The Apple Orchard drain eventually runs into the Marsh Lane Lake

Parish Council vacancies: Do you want to work together with our residents to achieve changes that make a real difference to the quality of our lovely village? Do you have some spare time to get involved? If you do, we would be delighted to meet up with you. Contact our Parish Clerk: parishclerk@hemingfordgrey.org.uk or 'phone 01954 210241

Vicarage Green Carol concert: Once again the Regatta Committee are organising the Carol concert on Vicarage Green on behalf of Hemingford Grey Parish Council. This will take place on Saturday 12th December starting at 5:30pm. The Somersham Town Band will be playing all your favourite carols and Christmas songs. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available plus a Christmas draw for Xmas goodies will take place.

This event has been taking place on the Vicarage Fields for the last 26 years so come along, bring the family, and enjoy a lovely festive village evening.

Anglian Water Pumping Stations: In September pumps were blocked for several days requiring a continuous supply of tankers, operating 24 hours, to avoid sewage spills into local rivers and waterways. The blockages were caused mainly by wet wipes.

Putting things like fat, oil and grease down our sinks, and sanitary waste and wipes down the loo, can cause sewer pipes and pumps to block leading to sewer flooding in homes and gardens.

More information can be found at anglianwater.co.uk/keepingitclear

Street lights: The new numbers should now be stuck on all of our parish street lights – in the range 101 to 212. The labels also carry the number for K&M – the

company maintaining our lights (01480 395808). County lights have a distinctive label which carry alphanumeric codes beginning with 'L'. They incorporate an 0800 number for Balfour Beatty. It is also useful to give the street name when calling to report a fault. This month we have had foliage around our lights cleared and we hope that will improve the coverage.

1st Hemingfords Scouts - Christmas Post: This is an opportunity for Scouts to perform a duty to their community, whilst at the same time raising funds for their local group. A collection point will be set up at the Reading Room, Hemingford Grey on Saturday, 12th December between 9:30am and 1pm. If not convenient, take your post and payment to 6 Green Close, Hemingford Grey, any time before Saturday 12th December. Delivery will take place on Sunday 13th December. The cost is only 25p per item.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CAN ONLY COLLECT AND DELIVER POST FOR HEMINGFORD GREY AND HEMINGFORD ABBOTS plus London Road, Elizabeth Court, Maytrees, Greenfields, Limes Park, the Brambles, Bridgefoot, Bridge Terrace, Mill Quay, Hemingford Road, Victoria Terrace and the Yes development.

Neighbourhood Watch: Following a successful presentation to residents by the Police, The Hemingford Grey Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was officially re-launched last month with more than three-quarters of village streets being represented by co-ordinators in the first 2 weeks! Is YOUR Street registered? Have you signed up yet? *Contact Village Co-ordinator Esther Harrod on 01480 392991 or email esther.harrod@ntlworld.com*

Once registered, you will receive automated email alerts when a crime has been committed in the Hemingfords, St Ives or other very local villages. Fore-warned is to be fore-armed, as criminals often repeat their acts in other communities. You will also, from time to time, receive notification of any relevant scams or cyber-crime. If you do not have access to a computer, please phone Esther as above

You can report 'soft intelligence' to the local policing team by emailing: huntsops@cambs.pnn.police.uk or by contacting your Street or Village Co-ordinator. It might be a suspicious vehicle, or someone acting suspiciously in the village. Or perhaps a cold caller or a trader offering a service that might seem a bit suspicious. Watching out for, and reporting this sort of activity is an important part of a successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme. However, 'live' criminal activity should always be reported immediately by phoning the Police on 101 (or 999 in an extreme emergency).

We hope you will seriously consider joining the Hemingford Grey Neighbourhood Watch Scheme *Esther Harrod, 01480 392991, esther.harrod@ntlworld.com*

Village bus services: Since the summer Whippet Coaches has withdrawn the direct links by bus to both Huntingdon and Cambridge and the village is now connected to St. Ives only. For onward journeys it is now necessary to change buses in St. Ives. If you have any views regarding the new service we would like to hear from you. *Please contact Cllr. Janet Brasnell 01480 492033*

Post Office: The Post Office is proposing to move our branch to a new location at the village stores. This change is part of a major programme of modernisation taking place across the Post Office network.

A 6 week consultation process started 27th October and ends 8th December giving you the opportunity to express your views about the proposed location. Notices to this effect have been placed at the village store and the Post Office. But it is not too late to let the Post Office know your views, contact details are below:

Email: comments@postoffice.co.uk Telephone: 03457 22 33 44

Hemingford Grey Mobile Library Service: Take advantage of this excellent community service and visit the mobile library on the second Thursday of every month

11.30am – 12.10pm Church Street/High Street

12.20pm – 12.35pm Old Pound Close.

As well as a good selection of books for all ages, the library offers large print and audio books.

Parish Council meetings: All meetings are held in the Reading Room, High Street, Hemingford Grey and start at 7:00pm. Agendas are posted on village notice boards and at the village store. Minutes can be inspected at the Post Office and on the Hemingford Grey Parish Council Website www.hemingfordgrey.org.uk

Mon, Jan 11th Planning Parish Council meeting

Mon, Jan 25th Planning Finance and Policy meeting Environment meeting

Mon, Feb 8th Planning Parish Council meeting

Mon, Feb 22nd Planning Finance and Policy meeting Environment meeting

Mon, Mar 14th Planning Parish Council meeting

Mon, Apr 11th Planning Parish Council meeting

Where has our village sign gone? The village sign has been taken down and is in the process of being re-furbished. This is a fairly lengthy job and we do not expect to see it back until the New Year.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council has no direct planning powers but is consulted by and can make recommendations to Huntingdon District Council. It is HDC's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications but Hemingford Grey Parish Council normally sends Councillors to look at the property concerned and call on neighbours for their views

Long Lane Lake: We are still awaiting the outcome of the wakeboard site appeal which is being carried out by a written process. There will be no public hearing or enquiry.

Lest We Forget: The application for the change of use of the Hemingford Abbots Golf Course to the National Centre for the Great War (NCGW) has now been submitted to HDC and will be open for comments until February.

Galley Hill Chicken Farm: Work appears to have started on the wind turbine for which planning permission was granted two years ago despite opposition from the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Plan. The PC has set up a small working group of councillors to investigate the pros and cons of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The time (approx. 2 years) and effort required are considerable and, although grants are available, there will also be costs associated with public meetings and a referendum that would have to ratify the plan before it becomes operative. In theory it should give the parish more control over planning matters and entitles the PC to a greater share of the Community Infrastructure Levy that must be paid for small developments. However, it does have to integrate with the forthcoming HDC Local Plan and it is not yet clear whether the benefits outweigh the costs.

Watch this space and please contact Robin Waters (see list of councillors) if you can offer special expertise relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan process and/or you have a particular issue that you believe would affect our recommendation. We need help with project management, publicity, digital mapping, planning experience, etc.

Outcomes of recent planning applications

Applications	Details	PC Recommended	HDC Status
15/00366FUL	Wayside, St. Ives Rd, change of use, garage to dwelling.	Refusal	Approved
15/00546FUL	9 Pound Road, Create Gable Ends and loft conversion	Refusal	Approved
15/00829FUL	3 Gunnings Close, Replace cladding & flat roof.	Approval	Approved
15/00901FUL	6 Church Lane, replace outbuildings with oak framed building	Approval	Approved
14/02055FUL	1 Hemingford Road – amended application	Approval	In progress
15/01487/FUL	Houghton - Change of use: mixed equestrian field & stables	Approval	In progress
15/01488/HHFUL	14 Manor Road – external insulation to front and sides	Approval	Approved
15/01541/HHFUL	28 Marsh Lane - Single storey front & rear extensions	Approval	Approved
15/01813/TRCA	Arlberg House, Gore Tree Road - tree trimming	Approval	Approval
15/01731/FUL	Daintree Green - Continuation of use of storage container	Approval	In progress
15/01951/PMBPA	Long Lane Farm - Change of use of agricultural buildings to 3 dwellings	Comments	In progress
15/01829/HHFUL	32 Weir Road - One and two storey extension to the rear	Approval	In progress
15/01898/NMA	4 Gore Tree Road - Amendment to alter windows.	Approval	In progress
15/00185/FUL	14 Pound Road - Proposed detached bungalow	Refusal	In progress

Parish Councillors

Doug Dew (Chair)	4 Weir Road	469814
Robin Waters (Vice-Chair)	18 Hemingford Road	467077
Janet Brasnell	1a Pound Close	492033
Derek Clifton	Dockseys Farm,	463365
Don Costello	7 The Apple Orchard	469296
Riva Elliot	38 Church Street	494142
Jason Hall	3 Gunnings Way	395567
Steve Herring	21 Weir Road	392991
Steven Hunt	23 Old Pound Close	382976
John Jenkin	Tanglewood, 4 Mill Close	465092
Peggy Seamark	8 Victoria Terrace	497384

Parish Clerk: Gail Stoehr **Tel:** 01954 210241 **email:** parishclerk@hemingfordgrey.org.uk

Editor: John Jenkin