

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

December 2020



Notes from the Chair

2020 has been an extraordinary year, and certainly not one any of us could have imagine back in January. As I write this, we are hopefully mid-way through the second national lockdown of the year. Barring an extension of the stringent Covid-19 restrictions, we will at least all be able enjoy Christmas. However, the social side of the festivities may be somewhat curtailed - for example, sadly, the village carols on Vicarage Green has had to be cancelled.

Recent news regarding the effectiveness and safety of a number of the vaccines under development are very welcome, so, all being well, when the Covid-19 virus is under control, we will be able to return to some type of normality. That said, it's important that we all continue to follow the government guidelines, until the vaccines are available to help the fight against coronavirus, and to ensure the wellbeing of our community and those at greatest risk.

I'm delighted to report that at our October meeting we were able co-opt Tony Jackson on to the council. This still leaves us with two vacancies. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining. In particular those residents who would consider themselves to be younger.

At the November Parish Council meeting, we set our budget for the next financial year. As with all budgeting exercises, difficult decisions had to made about which projects to support to enable the Council to deliver a balanced budget. Where possible we used the information obtained from the Neighbourhood Plan survey that we undertook in March to inform this process. I'm therefore delighted to confirm, that the Council decided to support the continuation of our Community Chest initiative. This initiative has been designed to back projects such as the litter pick, bird boxes, bulb and tree planting etc. which will improve the parish environment. We're therefore keen to hear of any ideas that you may have about new projects that you or we can take forward.

On behalf of the Hemingford Grey Parish Council, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Cllr Richard Allen – Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Obituary - Sandy Smith

We are sad to hear about the passing of Sandy Smith (7 September 1929 – 26 October 2020), who was a familiar local face for many years.



Sandy and his wife, Norma, loved living in Hemingford Grey. The family originally came to the village in 1983, living in Meadow Close. They enjoyed life in the village so much that they chose to remain here even though Sandy travelled regularly to Perth in Scotland in his role as a senior manager at General Accident Insurance Company. Despite his demanding schedule, Sandy made time to join in village life as a Parish Councillor, a member of the village Investment Club and the Hemingfords' Regatta Committee.

Sandy chaired both the Parish Council and the Regatta Committee at various times. He was an excellent organiser and during his two years as Regatta Chairman the committee and the Regatta ran like clockwork. He had a meticulous eye for detail. Everyone knew Sandy as being exceptionally polite and a very good listener. Nobody had a bad word for him. He was quite simply a gentleman.

On retirement Sandy and Norma returned to their native Scotland for several years before being drawn back to the village in 2005, this time living in Payn Close. The move brought them closer to their son, Allister, who had himself relocated back to the South and daughter, Lindsey, and granddaughter, Eloise – as well as their many friends in the village. Sandy re-joined the Regatta Committee and maintained an active interest in Parish Council matters. For several years he was also Treasurer of Fireworks in Hemingford.



Over the last four years, falls and fractured hips left Sandy very frail. He and Norma finally moved to North London in 2017 so they could be close to Lindsey. We understand that he passed away peacefully in his armchair. He had recently celebrated his 91st birthday and 67th wedding anniversary. Sandy's love of Hemingford Grey and our community is reflected in his choice of final resting place – the village cemetery, where he will be close to one of his best friends, Derek Clifton, who also sadly passed away earlier this year.

The Parish Council remembers Sandy's presence at meetings right up until he left the village. He always had time for a chat and often offered words of wisdom to the council on village matters. We send our condolences to Norma and his family – we miss him

Parish Council Updates

Autumn Community Events - Thank you



Volunteers planting bulbs on the Yes Estate

A huge thank you to all those who volunteered for the community bulb planting and foodbank collection during October. Over 1000 bulbs were planted around the parish, and 325kg of foodstuffs were collected for the Godmanchester Food Bank. Sadly, November's tree planting event had to be cancelled, but we will reschedule it when conditions allow and advertise via our website and posters.

During 2021, we will be organising more litter-picks, bulb, tree or hedge planting events, and foodbank collections, and hope more of you will become involved. More importantly, if you have a community project or idea you'd like to develop, please contact the Parish Council to see how we can help.

Daintree Green

As a community resource, Daintree Green is available for everyone to enjoy. However, we've recently learnt of several cases of dog faeces being left behind and received reports of some children being chased and frightened by dogs running freely. If you are walking dogs on the Green, please ensure that all faeces are removed and placed in the bins provided. While if you see lots of children (e.g. Saturday morning football) please put your dog on a lead. We are trying to ensure that the football pitches leave plenty of space around the edge of the green for dogs and their owners.

The Neighbourhood Plan

Conserve Enhance Evolve

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



The Steering Group continues to meet monthly by zoom and work is being undertaken on a variety of projects; analysis of the resident survey, development of a survey for businesses and landowners, website design training. Our local history society, HEMLOCS, has been approached to provide illustrated historical background for the Plan based on its knowledge of the Parish.

The second lockdown will hinder our progress as we will be unable to hold any small meetings or interviews in person.



The Steering Group needs your help as we are keen to hear from you if the pandemic and the lockdowns have affected your views on the parish. Do you see the parish in a different way if you are working from home and perhaps exercising more locally? What have you appreciated, and

what could be improved? So please email or phone either Anne Meredith or Robin Waters (contact details on back page of this Newsletter).

For more information on the Neighbourhood Plan or to receive invitations to the zoom-based meeting please see our website or contact Robin Waters.

Environment Group

Locked down again, but not quite so bad. The good news is that this time the play areas will remain open. If you now have extra time at home, please have a look at any of your hedges or trees alongside public roads or footpaths and ensure that there is plenty of room for the public to pass by. We'll be taking a careful look at village maintenance over the next few months and, although the Parish takes care of the official Public Footpaths we do rely on the good will of our residents to keep most of our pavements clean and unobstructed. If you have particular concerns, or new ideas, please let us know.

Good news on Meadow Lane - the County Council Highways team are now at work on the stretch between Meadow Close and the gates to Hemingford Meadow itself. They are improving the drainage and filling the potholes so that we can keep our feet dry if walking to St Ives! They have already cut back the overhanging hedge.

Planning committee matters

The Parish Council has no direct planning powers but is consulted by and can make recommendations to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). It's HDC's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications. Residents are urged to make their own comments on the HDC web site.

Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC reference	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
18/02726/FUL	Former car showroom, London Rd, St Ives - development 62 dwellings	Commented	In progress
19/80044/COND	15 Langley Way- conditional information - materials	Noted	Cond. reply
20/00285/FUL	Vindis site, Low Rd - demolition of structures, erection of 106 dwellings	Refusal	In progress

20/00375/HHFUL*	9 Gore Tree Rd- addition of 1 st floor accommodation	Supported	Approved
20/00569/S73	Ag buildings, Long Lane- variations to conditions 2 and 3	Approval	Approved
20/00675/FUL	29 High St (St Francis House)- change of use to form 3 dwellings	Approval	In progress
19/02559/FUL*	AMENDED 8 Madeley Crt (Sycamore House) - demolition and new dwelling	Supported	Approved
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	In progress
20/00975/HHFUL	38 High St- erection of corner gazebo	Approval	Approved
20/01011/HHFUL	7 Norman Crt- single storey side and rear extension	Approval	Approved
20/00909/HHFUL	24a Margetts- small single storey extension to front of dwelling	Approval	Approved
20/01305/HHFUL*	38 Marsh Lane- demolition of conservatory, single storey extensions and raise roof height	Supported	Approved
19/02087/FUL*	Waters Edge, Meadow Lane- variation of condition 2; to amend plans	Approval	In progress
20/01106/HHFUL	The Old Dairy, Long Lane- proposed single storey extensions	Approval	Approved
20/01605/HHFUL	11 Langley Way- ground and first floor extensions	Approval	In progress
20/01332/HHFUL	3 Lea Rd- various extensions and replace conservatory with extension	Approval	Approved
20/01193/CLPD	The Maltings Studio House, Church St- removal of section of wall for car access	Refusal	In progress
20/01774/HHFUL	42 High St- single storey extension of kitchen into garage.	Approval	In progress
20/01621/FUL	Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore- construction of various buildings, change of use for an area to cafe, and diversification of existing activities to water-based activity centre	Refusal	In progress
20/80269/COND	8 Madeley Crt- C7 biodiversity method statement	Noted	In progress
20/00234/COND	16 Langley Way- C2 Landscaping plan	Noted	In progress

At its October 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 (as the application had already been called in). At the same meeting, the Parish Council also decided to submit a response to the Government's consultation on the proposed reforms to the planning system. The council's submission raised a number of concerns and a copy can be obtained from the Clerk.

Due to the first lockdown some applications (identified by *) were not considered at a planning committee meeting. Instead councillors submitted their opinions on the applications to the Clerk who submitted a response on the council's behalf - hence the change in wording. Official site visits were not made to the applicant or neighbours. From September a notification sheet has been hand delivered to applicants and neighbours informing them of the application and how the Parish Council will be considering the application; at a meeting (Zoom) or by Parish Councillors individually submitting their opinion to the Clerk. The deputy Parish Clerk has recommended that we do not personally visit applicants or their neighbours.

Community Matters

All new Hemingford Store

Following the temporary closure of the village store for refurbishment, the new local community Budgens store will open on the 4th December, with a Grand Opening taking place at 10.00am on the 5th December. We welcome Seelan Thambirajah and his team and we're sure you will be well supported by the village.

We would also like to thank Vid Soni for his service as the village shopkeeper for the last 18 years and wish him well on his retirement.

Hemingfords' Regatta

For many families, the Hemingfords' Regatta is an annual event that contributes to making these villages such special places to live in. It was therefore with great sadness that the Committee were forced to make the decision to cancel both the event this year and the four weeks rowing practise that precedes it.

The Regatta has been in existence since 1901, and in the ensuing 120 years, it has only been World Wars, and flood defences that have prevented it taking place. Until this year – when much to everyone's surprise, a tiny but potent virus stalled so many aspects of all of our lives, including of course the Regatta.

Dates for your diary

However, we remain keen to get you all back on the water next summer. The boats, oars and willing volunteers are ready to go, so we remain optimistic that next year's regatta will go ahead on Saturday 10th July 2021, and the marquee will be up for the Ball again in June 2022.

Please come along and join us or support us and enjoy this unique event in our beautiful riverside village.

Village carols cancelled

The Regatta Committee are sad to announce the cancellation of this year's village carols on Vicarage Fields. The Committee decided at its recent AGM, that they had little option due to the pandemic and the current rules surrounding gatherings.

1st Hemingfords Scout Group *by Tony Rogers, Group Scout Leader*

Although Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had restarted limited face-to-face meetings in October, as a result of the new lockdown arrangements, all Scout meetings are prohibited for the foreseeable future, and at least until 2nd December. It is most disappointing for the young people and their leaders who would prefer to be enjoying the interaction that their weekly meetings bring. They will continue with virtual meetings via Zoom for the time being. (By the time you read this the restrictions may have been lifted, or at least eased, and we may be able to get back to face to face meetings soon.)

Reminder – Scout Christmas post cancelled

We are most disappointed to have had to cancel our Scout Christmas Post this year and apologise to all who usually rely on us or support us. We had to make a decision in early October due to the uncertainty in current circumstances. We hope to be back next year.

Hemingford Grey Gardening Society *by Mike Henderson*

Everything has quietened down a little here in the Hemingford Grey Gardening Society world. The active season finished with a very successful and enjoyable Boston Tea Party in early September, where members were encouraged to bring food or drink if they wished to and enjoy a pleasant and sociable time in Diana Boston's lovely garden. It went very well with about thirty adults, a very young grandson providing entertainment, plus one dog. What more could one ask for! Even the weather performed giving us blue sky and sun. Our thanks to Diana for giving us that opportunity.

We have now moved into the speaker season, which has obviously provided us with added problems. The Reading Room was a no-go area, and we eventually hoped to use the HA village hall, but in the end, with a reduced number of people allowed to use it, we decided to go down the Zoom route. We ran our first session with a recognised speaker in early October which went well, and our next one was on Monday, 9th November with a local speaker, Robin Bletsoe, of St Ives talking about growing vegetables and fruit.

Hemingford Pavilion

The Hemingford Pavilion was getting back to normal until the government announced the current lockdown. In accordance with government guidelines the Pavilion is now closed. Once restrictions are lifted, the bar will be open every day, with shorter hours, but with the usual friendly ambience and live sport on TV. Social distancing and other safety measures will be in place, so that we are COVID-19 Secure.

Bar Opening Times: Monday – Friday: 6.00pm – 8.30pm
Saturday: 1.30pm – 7.30pm
Sunday: 12.00pm* – 6.30pm*

*Sunday hours are subject to change - please visit www.hemingfordpavilion.com for updates.

Football, squash and tennis will also resume, as will the activities in the halls, which are available for hire, i.e. classes for ballroom dancing, art, keep fit and “yogalates”. It is hoped that regular community sessions, such as Pavilion Pictures, Tea Dances, Village Lunches and Hemlocs, plus the scouts, cubs and beavers will also be able to start again soon. In the meantime, a Quiz Night, with fish and chip supper is planned for 4th December, comprising teams of up to 6 (teams need to be registered in advance via email address below).

Hall Hire and Conference facilities are available and are COVID-19 Secure – please email enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk for further information.



We're here to help you stay well this winter

GP Call your GP practice or visit their website to arrange an appointment. This may take place over the phone or via video. If needed, you will be seen face to face.

PHARMACY Prescriptions, over the counter medications and first aid help, everything you need is still available at your local pharmacy.

111 NHS 111 can help if you're not sure what to do. Call 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk 24/7. If you're in a mental health crisis call 111 and select option 2.

URGENT TREATMENT CENTRE or MINOR INJURY UNITS Located in Ely, Wisbech and Peterborough you can get help with minor injuries and illnesses, as well as xrays

Visit www.nhs.uk for more information

HEMLOCS *by Simon Clemmow, Chair, Hemlocs*

Hemingfords' Local History Society held its first Zoom meeting in October, when Bridget Flanagan gave a very interesting talk on 'The Houses and Gardens of Houghton Hill'. Many thanks to her, and to Stuart Harrison for organising and co-hosting. We estimated that about forty people joined the meeting, and a survey of our membership afterwards indicated a strong desire to continue. At the time of writing, our next meeting is planned for mid-November when we hope to have Bob Bates and Mike Wassall speak to us about 'Pye in Cambridge'. Let's hope that by the time you read this it will have gone smoothly and been well received. There will be no Hemlocs Christmas Party this year, for obvious reasons, but we plan to resume our Zoom talks in January. Because there is no limit to the number of joiners, non-Hemlocs members are welcome. There is no charge. If you are interested in joining one of our talks, please get in touch with Stuart Harrison on 466094 or info@hemlocs.co.uk. Meanwhile, copies of Bridget's latest book, 'Sketches of Hemingfords' History', published by Hemlocs at £8, are selling fast. Please contact Stuart if you would like a copy.

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

Members of the Group recently met Senior CCC Officers regarding the 'ASTRO TURF SITE' – Planning Application Ref: *FMW/072/19* to reiterate our concerns regarding huge volume increase and attendant HCV traffic and that application exceeded Section 73 parameters. It is clear that CCC are taking our concerns very seriously and they advised that the matter is unlikely to be decided until early 2021.

Following our participation in the Public Examination, CCC have launched a Proposed Main Modifications Consultation as part of their overall Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation, which includes amendments relating to matters we raised. We are reviewing the amendments with our lawyers and will before end of consultation period - 15th December 2020.

If anyone would like to be added to our email list, please contact Audra Green at audra.green@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk.

We are also strengthening our Board. If you're interested please e-mail: iain.muspratt@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk



Hub steps up to new lockdown

by Riva Elliott



HemingfordHub is ramping up as we go into a winter lockdown. We have restarted weekly deliveries of hot, nutritious meals for our older residents living alone or with caring responsibilities. We are raising more funds so we can continue this into the new year.

On the fun side, we ran one ITea party before lockdown. We had men and women participants guided by two tutors. There was tea, cake, learning and much laughter. Also, Tish Peek, our chair, spoke live in a couple of recent Radio Cambridgeshire interviews.

We are being featured in a video for HuntsForum's AGM on 2nd December. It highlights the friendships that have blossomed between Hub clients and volunteers. It also discusses the many errands and tasks we offer.

We still help with shopping, prescriptions, post, dog-walking, making friendly phone calls, personal advice, providing bird seed, lending jigsaws and contacting handymen who can fix broken things ... you just have to ask. If you, or you know anyone who needs some help, please contact us. We are always Covid-careful. Stay safe and stay healthy.

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



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Hemingford Grey

Parish Council



Parish Council meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month in the Reading Room, although they are currently being run online.

Main parish council (including planning) 7.30pm 11 Jan / 8 Feb

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc

Twitter: 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
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
Mark Sheridan	1 Burlington Way	07885 277698
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

The next edition of the newsletter will be out in February 2021