

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

December 2021



Notes from the Chair

During 2021 we have seen a steady move back towards normality and many of our community are enjoying the increased freedoms. For some there is ongoing concern about Covid and they continue to need support from friends and neighbours. Covid is still with us, so we need to remain alert, if we are to be able to celebrate Christmas without restrictions.

For me, one of the positives to come out of the last few years has been the increased connection by many with our living environment. This has been furthered by the UK's recent hosting of the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. Many more of us are willing to make changes to our lives to support the environment and help reduce climate change. The Parish Council is keen to play its part and key to many of the initiatives we take forward in to 2022.

At the November Parish Council meeting, we set our budget for the next financial year. As with all budgeting exercises, difficult decisions had to be made about which projects to support to enable the Council to deliver a balanced budget. Where possible we have used the themes identified as part of the Neighbourhood plan process and the information gained during our green spaces consultations to inform this process. I'm therefore delighted to confirm, that the Council decided to support the continuation of our Big Green Projects and Community Chest initiatives. These initiatives have been designed to improve the parish environment, and back smaller projects such as the litter pick, bird boxes, bulb and tree planting etc. We're therefore keen to hear of any ideas that you may have about new projects that you or we can take forward.

We currently have two vacancies on the Parish Council and always delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join us. At the same time, the Council will be up for election next May and, I would ask you to consider standing if you would like to make a difference to the future of the Parish.

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

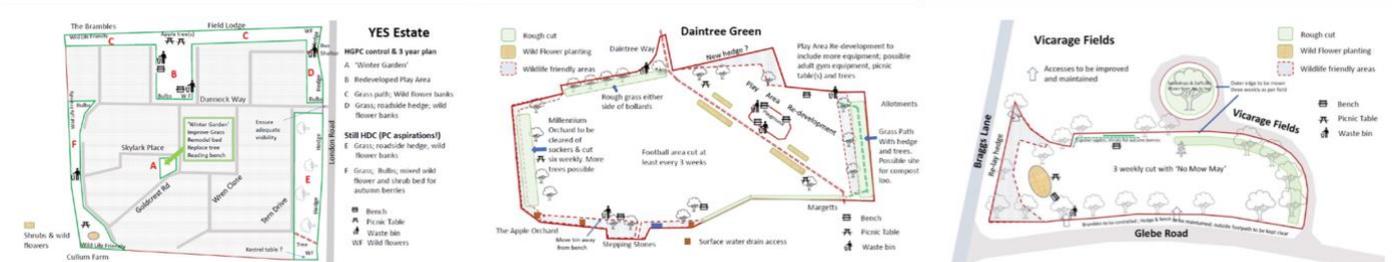


Cllr Richard Allen
Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Parish Council Updates

Reshaping our green spaces by Cllr Anne Meredith

At its meeting in November, the Parish Council adopted the draft plans that had been developed following the consultation exercise undertaken during the summer for our three green spaces (Vicarage Fields, Daintree Green and the Yes Estate). These draft plans set out the Councils vision to increase biodiversity, but also to improve facilities for all residents. We hope in the coming years to install picnic benches, along with fruit trees, hedges, bulbs, bug hotels, and wildflower meadows. The Green Spaces Team will now develop detailed action plans for the spaces based on these draft plans. The Council will be continually reviewing progress and amending its action plans if need be.



The council also allocated a budget for Big Green Projects and Village Infrastructure in its 2022-23 budget.

We will update you on our plans for next year as soon as we can, but in the meantime, some of the actions that we have already committed to take are as follows:

- Residents on the Yes Estate highlighted concerns over safety along the London Road boundary, so over the winter we will be planting a native hedge on the section of frontage managed by the Parish Council. This should improve safety, reduce noise and pollution. We do not currently manage the other section of frontage but have started discussions with the other stakeholders such as Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) to see how this could be progressed too.
- A native hedge and fruit trees will be planted by the allotments on Daintree Green. The fruit trees will be planted in February 2022

and all are welcome to come and help - please look out for further details.

- This summer we all admired the annual wildflower beds at Houghton Lock and on the road into Godmanchester, so we will be trialling a small bed by the playground in Mitchell Close.

Meanwhile at least a dozen volunteers (including from the local school) are growing wildflowers from seed or potting up wildflower seedlings from their gardens ready for planting out next Spring. If you would like to get involved or even sponsor a bench, tree or bulbs then please contact Cllr Anne Meredith.



Maintenance contract up for renewal

The current maintenance contract for the parish is coming to an end and we are now preparing the specification for the next contract which will include mowing and other maintenance tasks - please note that HDC and Cambridge County Council (CCC) are also responsible for verge mowing in the parish. For example, based on our plans some areas will not be mown as frequently as they have previously been to encourage wildflowers and therefore insects. Yet an area in Daintree Green will be mowed more frequently due to a problem with tree suckers and to keep the grass shorter around fruit trees in the Millennium Orchard.

New picnic table at Daintree Green



The Parish Council have recently added a new picnic table on Daintree Green. This picnic table has been specifically purchased as it offers easy access for wheelchairs and is made of recycled plastic for longer life. A number of wheelchair users, including Holly, pictured, have already tried it out and given it the thumbs up. The purchase of this bench and its placement were made possible thanks to a generous donation by a resident, for which the Council are extremely grateful. We plan to add similar picnic benches at Vicarage Field and at the Yes Estate.

Additional bus service



For those that may have missed it, Dews Coaches announced over the summer that they were taking over the St Ives Market Day No 9 Bus service. At the same time, they have added an extra return service to Huntingdon. This service leaves Hemingford Grey at 1.50pm arriving in Huntingdon at 2.20pm. The return journey leaves Huntingdon at 4.45pm and arrives back in Hemingford Grey at 5.05pm. Please

visit <https://dews-coaches.com/userfiles/Service916.08.2021.pdf> for the full timetable.

Allotments

It has been reported to the Council on several occasions in recent months, that a small group of secondary school aged boys have been entering the allotments helping themselves to produce and taking/moving items from allotments.



Allotment holders have reported these incidents to the police. Parents are asked to remind their children not to go on to the allotments.

A thank you to our bulb planters



A huge thank you to the volunteers who on Saturday 23 October turned up to plant hundreds of snowdrop bulbs at the Yes Estate play area and the cemetery verge in Pound Road. Because of your invaluable time and help, the parish will again burst into bloom next spring.



Community litter pickers



The Parish Council would like to give a big thank you to all the residents who are community litter pickers. You are regularly seen collecting rubbish throughout the parish – on the street where you live, along the roads through the parish and beyond to St Ives and down to the A1307. You are making a positive difference to where we live and being an inspiration to others. We very much appreciate your effort and commitment. Maybe you could become a community litter picker too by picking up litter on your street?

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. Residents are urged to make their own comments on the HDC website. The changing situation with regard to 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. This will be reviewed if the situation changes. Planning Committee meetings are now held on the second Monday of the month starting at 7pm in the Parish Centre, High Street.

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 (as the application had already been called in). Parish Council then considered another application for Liquid Skillz and this has also been referred to the Development Management Committee (DMC) at HDC. The two applications will be considered at the same meeting. There is no information yet as to when these two applications will be considered by the DMC.

Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC/CCC ref.	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
18/02726/FUL	Former car showroom, London Rd, St Ives - development 62 dwellings	Commented	In progress
20/00285/FUL	Vindis site, Low Rd - demolition of structures, erection of 106 dwellings	Refusal	In progress
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 existing activities to water-based activity centre	Refusal	In progress
21/00044/FUL	Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore - construction of 2 nd wakeboard line and associated buildings	Refusal	In progress
20/00164/OUT	Land west of Wychwood Hilton - Outline application for rural exception housing	Not suitable	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
20/02165/FUL	The Cock, High Street - installation of two pods in the garden	Approval	Approved
21/00681/HHFUL	19 Marsh Lane - rear single storey extension and new garage in front of property.	Part refusal	In progress
21/01162/HHFUL	45b High Street - replacement windows to front elevation	Approval	Approved
21/01557/LBC	1 Victoria Terrace - single storey garage, Listed building consent	Refusal	In progress
21/01556/HHFUL	1 Victoria Terrace - single storey garage	Refusal	In progress
21/01758/HHFUL	26 Weir Rd - two storey side extension, dormer bedroom and materials	Approval	Approved
21/01664/HHFUL	24 Church Street - two storey rear extension	Refusal	Withdrawn
21/01754/HHFUL	5 The Brambles - retrospective permission for raised patio and boundary fence	Refusal	Approved
CCC/21/088/FUL	ENVAR, St Ives Rd, Somersham - demolition of buildings and erection of new	Refusal	In progress
21/02075/CLED	Horseshoes, 8A Hemingford Rd - dwelling in separate existence for 10years	No contrary evidence	Approved
21/022007/HHFUL	1 St James Court - various extensions to side and rear	Refusal	Withdrawn
21/02271/HHFUL	17A Pound Rd - two storey side extension and single extension at rear	Approval	In progress
21/02477/EXTDET	7 St Ives Road - a single storey rear extension	Approval	In progress

Community Matters

Scouts 

Scouts Christmas Post is Back!

On Sunday 12th December, 9.30am to 1pm

At Hemingford Grey Reading Rooms

1st Hemingfords Scouts are excited to return with our annual opportunity for the young people to serve their community and fundraise for the group

Only 25 pence per card!

Early drop-off option at 6 Green Close, Hemingford Grey, tel: 464266 Please provide exact change

Deliveries to: Hemingford Grey and Hemingford Abbots including London Road, Elizabeth Court, Maytrees, Greenfields, Limes Park Yes Development, The Brambles, Bridgefoot, Bridge Terrace Mill Quay, Hemingford Road and Victoria Terrace



St James' Church (www.churchbytheriver.org.uk)



St James' Church sends to you their greetings for a joyous and hope - filled Christmas

Christmas 2021 – see church website for details

- Family Fun Event - 18th December from 1.30pm at the Parish Centre
- Nativity - 24th December at 3pm in the Church
- Christmas Eve 'At Home' - 24th December 7pm on Zoom
- Holy Communion - 24th December at 11.30pm in the Church
- Christmas Morning Worship - 25th December at 10am in the Church

Christmas Carols on Vicarage Fields cancelled

The Regatta Committee is sad to announce the cancellation of this year's village carols on Vicarage Fields. The Committee made this decision due to logistical issues and ongoing concern about Covid at its recent AGM. It is hoped that village carols will return next year.

Hemingfords Badminton Club

Hemingfords Badminton Club are playing again on Monday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm at Hemingford Grey Primary School. All welcome. For more information, please contact Sue Crafer on 07738 549598

Village Lunch and Tea Dance

The Village Tea Dance is on Sunday 12th December between 2pm - 4.30pm. While the Village Lunch is on Friday 17th December at 12.30pm. Both events will be held at the Pavilion.

Hemingford Grey Gardening Society *by Mike Henderson*

We are now moving into the quieter time of the gardening year, although there are still tasks to do with cuttings, vegetable patch tidying with preparation for late planting, and, of course, leaf collection. My own leaf pile is not wasted and goes into two big containers for leaf mould - a worthwhile if tedious task. Our club activities have moved inside again with our usual talks having started in September with a zoom talk, a facility we will be continuing to use until the new year at least. We are in the process of deciding what to do then; zoom or live!

Hemlocs *by Simon Clemmow, Chair*

The news is a bit gloomy this time I'm afraid. Continuing concern about the persistence of Covid has been reflected in a fall in the turnout for our monthly meetings. We are not alone in this - we have heard that many local history societies are experiencing the same thing. At the time of writing, we are taking a poll of our membership to gauge the viability of having a Christmas Party and considering the possibility of holding talks on Zoom again in the new year. In the meantime, thank you to our speakers and members who have turned out thus far, and a Happy Christmas to everyone.

Hemingford Pavilion (www.hemingfordpavilion.co.uk)

The Pavilion is back to normal operations though we ask all our visitors to continue to take sensible precautions to help prevent the spread of Covid. All winter sports clubs (football, gym, squash, tennis) are open and very active with thriving junior sections.

The Hayward Hall and Chris Page Room are well used by many groups and are available for hire for your party or other event (email: bookings@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk). Exercise classes include Yoga (lucyhocknell@icloud.com), Pilates (nicolaguitart@gmail.com), Outdoor exercise (sabrinasily@icloud.com), Ballroom dancing (lesleycollier@hotmail.com), Tai Chi (malcolmsavannah233@gmail.com). The Village Lunch is held on the 3rd Friday each month (contact Mike Gledhill on 07881 922287 for details).

Please note that Pavilion Pictures will return on Friday 10th December. Tickets can be purchased from the village shop.

The Pavilion Bar opening hours are Monday to Friday 5.30pm - 9.00pm; Saturday and Sunday 4.00pm - 7.30pm.

Hemingford Grey Walking Football needs you!



Come and channel your inner Ronaldo, or whoever your football hero is. This is your opportunity to get out in the fresh air, meet people, play a bit of gentle sport, and more importantly get active!

Targeted at (but not

limited to) the over 50s, male or female, regardless of ability or experience, walking football is non-contact, no run, fun sport. Organised by One Leisure, sessions are every Tuesday, 10am-11am, at the Pavilion playing field. Cost is £2.00 per session which can be booked online, www.oneleisure.net/outdoor-activities, via the One Leisure app, or phone 01480 388111



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

'Astro Turf Site' - HAPC have received response from Environment Agency regarding the site clearance which is unclear. MGL continue to claim they have purchased the site (and plan to continue to use it) but to date Land Registry records do not confirm this.

We have written to Steve Cox, CCC Executive Director Place and Economy regarding continued breaches of Planning Permission and raised the matter with CC Doug Dew and await a response

Hemingford Golf Centre - A new restaurant is being created at this popular venue

Use of footpaths and bridleways

We are fortunate that Hemingford Grey is situated in a very attractive part of the Great Ouse Valley between Huntingdon and St Ives. There is a good network of paths, cycleways and bridleways that provide circular routes along and across the river. So, there are always many people (residents and visitors) out and about here, enjoying the countryside.

In the last two, exceptional, years of Covid we have seen a huge increase in numbers. And with the increase in people comes an increase in pressure on the countryside itself.

Sadly, the Countryside Code is often forgotten. One particular problem is litter – and we must all be grateful for those individuals who clear up after others on daily basis. Another problem is that many people seem unaware that they must stick to the paths and cannot wander on to private land. For example, most residents of the Hemingfords realise that the 'Regatta Field', is in fact private land, public access is along the pathway atop of the flood bank only, while the riverbank is rented out to the Great Ouse Boating Association (GOBA) for the use of its members.

Only the paths are public Rights of Way and therefore the Parish Council asks that users of the Rights of Way first respect their designation – i.e., footpaths are for walking, not cycling. And, secondly, that people to keep to the paths, and always respect the land either side as private land.

Hemingford Grey Parish Council



Parish Council meetings are now being run face to face rather on the second Monday of each month in the Parish Centre. Dates for our next meetings are as follows:

Planning Meeting	7.00pm	10 Jan / 14 Feb
Main Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	10 Jan / 14 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 Rd 494783		Robin Waters (v/c)	18 Hemingford Rd 07833 901680
	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			

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

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Tel: 01954 210241
Email: parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

The next edition of the newsletter will be out in February 2022