

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

December 2023



Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the December edition of the Parish Council's newsletter.

I can't quite believe that we are nearly at the end of 2023, a year in which we celebrated the coronation of a new King and endured a fairly disappointing and damp summer. The cost-of-living crisis, resulting from high inflation, interest rates, and energy prices has made this a difficult year for many, and I was delighted to see the generosity of villagers to our recent food bank collection.

Personally, I always enjoy this time of year and the build-up to Christmas. Once again, this year's annual carol concert, which the Parish Council are pleased to support, will be held at the Pavilion on Saturday 9th December at 5pm. Music will be provided by Huntingdonshire Concert Band who were excellent last year, and mulled wine, hot chocolate, and mince pies will be available. The village Christmas tree on Vicarage Fields will also be a colourful beacon of joy from the beginning of the month and we hope that you will take time to go and see it.

At the November Parish Council meeting, we discussed and agreed our budget and precept for the next financial year. As always, the Council has had to make decisions about its priorities, and the areas in which we wish to concentrate our efforts. While some areas of our spending are necessary but go unseen, we continue to target our efforts and spending on improving the built and natural environment of the village.

We still have three vacancies on the Council and would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join us. If you think you might be interested, why not come to our next meeting on the 8th January to see what it's all about.

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



Cllr Richard Allen
Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Parish Council Updates

Grants available for local organisations – apply now

The Parish Council has a limited amount of money available to award grants to local groups, charities or organisations for “purposes, which may bring a direct benefit to the area or any part of it for some or all the inhabitants”. To be considered for an award, please complete the application from available from the Parish Clerk.

Grants awards are made at the Council’s March and October meetings. Any payments made are subject to the normal budgetary constraints and only one grant is available to an organisation in any financial year.

Food Bank Collection - Thank You



A big thank you to all those residents who donated, collected, organised, or helped in any way with October’s Community Foodbank appeal. We’d also like to thank the Parish Church kindly allowed us to use the Parish Centre and also collected for the Food Bank as part of their

Harvest Festival. As you can see even in these most difficult of times your generosity is utterly amazing.

We collected a total of 656kg of food which is enough to provide 25-28 small family 3-day parcels.

Community support for foodbanks is vital in providing help for local people, so thank you once again.

Allotments

If you are interested in taking on an allotment, then please contact the Clerk. We don’t currently have a waiting list, so while you may not get a plot immediately, it’s unlikely that you will have to wait long. You will also be able to join the newly formed allotment association.

Budgets for 2024 set and agreed

At the full meeting in November, the Council set and agreed its budget and its proposed precept for 2024. Unlike last year, when our decisions had to be made against a backdrop of uncertainty due to the spike in inflation and electricity prices, this year our deliberations were made slightly easier by a more stable economic outlook. While we've still had to make some hard decisions about the Council's priorities, we continue to make these based on the desire to improve our built and natural environment. The Council have therefore decided to support the continuation of our Big Green Projects and Community Chest initiatives which underpin the Council's Green Spaces strategy. We have also allocated funds to progress our desire to update and improve the play areas at Daintree Green and on the Yes Development, and to support those local organisations that provide a benefit to the area and our residents.

As always, we're keen to hear of any ideas that you may have about new projects that you or we can take forward.

Environment Working Group (EWG) report

At the November EWG meeting, Councillors and residents met with HDC Councillor Lara Davenport-Ray. It was an interesting meeting with plenty of discussion on a variety of topics. As a result of the meeting the Parish Council has decided to register its interest in future grant programmes to install electric charging points in the Parish. The Council has not previously expressed an interest in this programme as it doesn't own any land where implementation of such a scheme would be possible. However, it is believed that in the future there may be grants available for joint projects. By registering our interest now, the Council will be informed about any new grants.

Cllr Davenport also outlined the new 'Biodiversity for All' grant programme and the EWG has therefore agreed to work up an initial proposal for Council to consider at its meeting in January. This is a two-stage application process whereby the first stage is to outline a scheme for consideration. If this proposal is accepted, then there is a second stage where a detailed grant application is made.

Alternative Land Management (ALM) proposal

The District Council is proposing to amend its mowing scheme on five verges in the parish. The verges will be mowed once a year, but the edges will be mown regularly. As part of the scheme a floral meadow is proposed for a verge in Margetts. Further details of the verges and the mowing regime are available on the Parish Council website.



The new scheme will come into operation from March 2024 for an initial one year trial period. If you have any concerns about the verges proposed, please contact the Parish Clerk by the 15th December who will pass your concerns onto the District Council.

It is hoped that the biodiversity of the verges will increase with wildflowers emerging and the floral meadow should be attractive as well as providing pollen and nectar for butterflies, moths, bees and other insects. The parish council and volunteers may sow wildflower seed and plant wildflower plug plants to give nature a helping hand.

The wildflower beds planted by the Parish Council flourished in Daintree Green and Vicarage Fields this year and provided weeks of colour and food for insects. The bed in Mitchell Close suffered from an invasive weed and so will be monitored more closely next year. The bollard strips of longer grass in Daintree Green and Vicarage Fields were sown with donated Yellow Rattle seed (which reduces the vigour of grasses allowing wildflowers to thrive) and squares of wildflower plants were planted with some of the plants flowering this summer.

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 January 8th in the Reading Room, High Street.

Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC/CCC ref.	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
18/02726/FUL	Murketts garage London Rd – 49 dwellings	Comments	Approved*
20/00285/FUL	Vindis showroom, Low Rd – 94 dwellings	Refusal	Approved*
CCC/23/093/FUL	Envar. St Ives Rd, Somersham – new waste transfer station application, etc.	Refusal	In progress
CCC/21/088/FUL	APP/E0535/W/23/3331431 Envar appeal against refusal of original application that included a clinical waste incinerator	HGPC not active in appeal	In progress
23/00435/HHFUL	18 The Brambles – Erection of block wall	Refusal	In progress
23/01194/FUL	Mere Way, - farm building conversion	Refusal	In progress
23/01480/HHFUL	12, Gore Tree Rd – front & rear extensions	Approval	In progress
23/01190/HHFUL	8, Church St – new garage & convert old	Approval	In progress
23/01818/LBC	67 High Street – Instal mezzanine and other internal alterations	No recommendation	In progress
23/01823/FUL	Czardas, Pound Road – Subdivision of existing plot and erection of new single storey semi-detached dwelling	Approval with conditions	In progress
23/02041/HHFUL	28 Weir Road – Side and front extensions	Approval	In progress

*Neighbouring councils but HGPC monitoring for surface water and traffic issues.

Community Matters

Scouts 

Scouts Christmas Post 2023!

Saturday 9th December, 9.30am to 1pm
At Hemingford Grey Reading Rooms
With Cake Stall, Raffle and Tombola!

Only 30 pence per card




Early drop-off at 6 Green Close, Hemingford Grey
tel: 464266 until 8th Dec - exact change please

Deliveries to Hemingford Grey and Hemingford Abbots,
London Road, Elizabeth Court, Maytrees, Greenfields, Limes
Park, the Brambles, Bridgefoot, Bridge Terrace, Mill Quay,
Hemingford Road, Victoria Terrace and the Yes development

NATIVITY EXHIBITION

120 nativity sets from around the world




Each set is different, some are large, others are extremely small and one or two are so tiny that they have been made for dolls' houses! Some feature teepees, others Llamas, some are made from paper or bamboo – but each tells the story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.

Group visits by arrangement
Contact: 23heatherc@gmail.com

DEC 4TH - 9TH
MONDAY - WEDNESDAY 12:00-3PM
THURSDAY - SATURDAY 10-3PM

www.churchbytheriver.org.uk



Christmas at St James' Church

Carol Service
Sunday 17th December 3pm

Nativity Service
Sunday 24th December 4pm

Midnight Communion
Sunday 24th December 11.30pm

Christmas Day Celebration
Monday 25th December 10.00am

www.churchbytheriver.org.uk

Hemingford Ladies Choir is a friendly, traditional four-part Ladies Choir. We rehearse every Wednesday morning from 10a.m. to 11.30a.m. in St Ives Free Church under the direction of Elaine Gunn and we sing everything from Bach to Beatles. If you love to sing and are looking for fun and friendship or would like more information, please contact Viv Oxley on 01480 417925 or vivienneoxley64@gmail.com

Hemlocs *by Simon Clemmow, Chair*

We have had the first three talks of our 2023/24 season, on topics ranging from 'quacks and quackery' to a VC hero and his son, and Peterborough Cathedral. All have been well attended and very interesting. We resume in the new year with talks on the Norris Museum, Ramsey Abbey, the Cold War, airfields of Huntingdonshire, and Lucy Boston. In the meantime, of course, it's Christmas and our Christmas party! If you're not a member of Hemlocs, on behalf of the committee I wish you a very happy Christmas. If you are, I'll see you at the party!



Our Governing Body is looking for volunteers from the community to fill current Governor vacancies. The commitment: attending meetings held monthly on a Tuesday from 6.30pm for 2-2.5 hours, meeting pre-reading, completing regular training (can all be virtual) and undertaking 1-3 monitoring visits in school per year. The role of the Governing Body is about ensuring the school leadership is delivering on their responsibilities - strategic direction, educational performance, and use of financial resources. To express interest or find out more contact clerk@hemingfordgrey.cambs.sch.uk

At Hemingford Grey Primary School we are excited that our parent/carer fundraising group – Friends of Hemingford Grey (FOGs) are coming together as a team within our school community and having lots of fun running great events and raising valuable funds for the school. If any members of the community do not have children at the school but would like to get involved with school life, we always need reading volunteers to hear our children practice their reading skills. If you are interested, please contact office@hemingfordgrey.cambs.sch.uk

Hemingford Grey Garden Society *by Mike Henderson*

The garden society has had an excellent range of speakers this year since we started again in September. The first was a talk on "rare plants" by Colin Ward, followed by Kate Boston's talk on "bee keeping" in October, and this last talk was a little different as it was on "Cannabis - medicine or menace" by Tony Moffat who lives in St Ives, but is also Emeritus Professor at UCL School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Life Science, and a forensic scientist to boot. Beside talks in December and January, we also hope to hold our usual social on 20th January in Hemingford Abbots.

Hemingford Colts

2023 has been another successful year for Hemingford Colts, our thriving village football club! Supported by a team of 18 coaches, a volunteer Committee, and our wonderful friends at Hemingford Pavilion and Hemingford Grey Primary School, we are proud to enable football training for over 100 children and young adults from 5-18 years of age. To support the club's growth, we are looking for a volunteer to manage communications and events. If you're interested, we would love to hear from you so please email welfare.officer@hemingfordcolts.co.uk for further information. Hemingford Colts would like to wish all our players, coaches, volunteers, supporters and players a very merry Christmas!

 <p>Manor Road, Hemingford Grey, PE28 9BX</p>	 <p>Come and enjoy the Festive Fun with us</p>
<p>Friday 1st December Free Music Night in the Lounge Bar with the every popular MJs</p> 	<p>Saturday 9th at 5pm The Annual Hemingfords' Carols Huntingdonshire Concert Band Mulled wine Hot chocolate Mince pies and more The main car park will be closed for this event</p> 
<p>Sunday 10th December 11am to 4pm Christmas Craft Fayre Festive Gifts and Crafts Refreshments and Bar SANTA'S GROTTA—Tickets £5.00 book @ s_l_events@outlook.com</p> 	<p>Wednesday 13th December MACMILLAN CHRISTMAS BINGO 7PM FOR EYES DOWN 7.30PM</p>
<p>MONTHLY VILLAGE LUNCH—FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER & 19TH JANUARY 2 delicious courses + filter coffee/tea £7 per person. 12.30pm for 1pm (lounge bar open) Must be booked. If you would like to join us please contact: Mandy Woodrow ajwoody32@gmail.com or 01480 393015 (answer phone)</p>	
<p>NEW FOR JANUARY 2024 PAVILION PICTURES, YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA IS RE LAUNCHING AT THE NEW TIME OF 3PM ON THE 4TH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH COME AND JOIN US FOR A RECENTLY RELEASED FILM SCREENING. ALL WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME 26 JANUARY—'THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY' WITH JIM BROADBENT & PENELOPE WILTON TICKETS £5 FROM BUDGENS HEMINGFORD OR ON THE DOOR www.pavilionpictures.org Facebook.com/Pavilion Pictures</p>	
<p>www.hemingfordpavilion.com Email: enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk Tel: 01480 464490</p>	

Hemingford Park Cricket Club

Hemingford Park CC concludes a season of triumph! Our upgraded playing grounds, embellished with an artificial wicket, set the stage for spirited training and lively matches. Youth teams, from u9 to u15, revel in success, while the senior Saturday league side claimed 3rd place with the promise of further celebration through potential promotion. The player family grows, thanks to those joining the Friday social side, providing a lively backdrop for increasingly popular pavilion BBQs and live bands. We warmly welcome new players and supporters. Connect with Ross at hemingfordparkcricketclub@gmail.com, and let the festive spirit continue!

Hemingford Action Group update *by Iain Muspratt, Chair*

On 19th September the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) started its formal investigation into the proposed acquisition of Mick George Limited by a subsidiary of Heidelberg Cement AG – thus it remains on hold. The CMA has confirmed it will make its initial decision on 27th November. If CMA decides there is a realistic prospect of a substantial lessening of competition it will launch a further investigation.

Join the NEW GARDEN WASTE Subscription Service

Huntingdonshire DISTRICT COUNCIL

Early Bird Discount
£50
IF YOU SIGN UP BY 31st JANUARY 2024

How do I sign up?

- 1 Our garden waste service is changing to a chargeable service. Find out more and sign up from December 2023 at: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/gardenwasteservice, scan the QR code below or call 01480 388584.
- 2 Pay an annual fee of £50 for a garden waste bin for a 12-month subscription from April 2024 to March 2025.
- 3 You will receive a subscription sticker to put on your garden waste bin prior to April 2024.
- 4 The service will start in April 2024, for those who have subscribed. For those residents that choose not to, your garden waste bin will NOT be emptied after April 2024.

SCAN ME

HDC



Bus committee on a roll

We will shortly be sending out a brief feasibility study questionnaire to measure the need for a regular dedicated bus within the village. The hope is to have a service up and running by this time next year! We invite more residents to help us launch this project.

New Trustees — new roles

We have now inducted our three new trustees, Gareth Evans, Men's Shed, Denise Felstead, volunteer liaison shared with Rachel Winton, who also has a Hub Club organiser role.

Emergency support at a reasonable fee

Care Micro Enterprises are a new way to get reliable help, e.g. if you break an arm. The Hub has a list of Cambridgeshire County Council vetted local helpers you can contact (for a reasonable fee).

Tish back on the radio

Tish Peek was recently asked by Radio Cambridgeshire about digital exclusion for the over 65s. Tish suggested that up to 60% of people of this demographic were reluctant to engage with authorities via their phones, tablets or computers. The Hub offers help with (DBS-checked) email buddies if you're reluctant to engage purely online.

HubClub events - 3pm at the Pavilion (subject to change)

- Dec 6 St James's nativity exhibition, mulled wine and food
- Dec 13 Seated exercises
- Dec 20 Musical Christmas party
- Dec 27 Seated exercises
- Jan 3 Games and social gathering
- Jan 10 Seated exercises
- Jan 17 Tish Talk - Who do you think I am?

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:

	Richard Allen (Chair)	Maristowe, London Road 494783		Robin Waters (V/C)	18 Hemingford Road 07833 901680
	Maria Di Gaetano	17 Dunnock Way 07444 330921		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 Road 466813
	Anne Meredith	18 De Vere Close 465774		Stephen Wright	20 Weir Road 07429 956982

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

Parish Clerk: Ben 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 2024

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