

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

February 2022



# Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the Parish Council's February newsletter.

As this is our first newsletter of the year, I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope you all managed to have a rest over the festive period, I certainly enjoyed some down time. I thoroughly enjoyed some walks around the area, particularly on those frosty mornings when everything appears to be dressed in diamonds.

If the last few years are anything to go by, I am sure the year ahead will throw up some challenges, but at the same time, I'm looking forward to 2022 with significant optimism. We are learning to live with Covid, and I believe that there will be a more sustained return to normal life for us all this year. Vaccinations also appear to be breaking the link with hospitalisations and while we are not totally out of the woods yet, I am convinced better times lie ahead. Please do get vaccinated and your booster if you haven't already.

The year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations will mark The Queen's historic seventy-year reign and is likely to generate a tremendous feel-good factor. While much attention will be focussed on the extended bank holiday weekend at the beginning of June, there are opportunities to get involved throughout the year and across the whole country. Hemingford Grey is no different, and I hope that the residents of the parish will join in the celebrations in whatever way they see fitting.

We currently have two vacancies on the Parish Council and would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join us. At the same time, the Council will be up for election in May and I would ask you to consider standing if you would like to make a difference to the future of the Parish. But if being a Councillor isn't your thing, we can still all do our bit to maintain the parish.

Keep safe.



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

# Parish Council Updates



## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

This year, The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service.

The extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for our community and people to come together to celebrate this historic milestone. Everybody can get involved and some of you may have already started planning a street party or a Big Jubilee Lunch with your neighbours or entered the Platinum Pudding Competition.

The Parish Councils of Hemingford Grey and Abbots, along with the Pavilion's Sports and Social Committee, and the HemingfordHub have started to discuss how we can coordinate and facilitate activities across both villages and provide residents with a schedule of events. Please get in touch, if you are an organisation, group or individual and would like to be involved, already have plans you'd like to share, or have some ideas.

## The Queens Green Canopy

Another way to celebrate includes tree planting as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees until the end of the Jubilee year.



It's hoped that this will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service. The initiative will also create its own green legacy, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

The Parish Council like all levels of government are backing this initiative. We will be planting trees on the limited amount of land that we own or manage. We've also written to all the significant landowners in the parish, to ask if they might also like to participate.

Everyone can get involved. So, if you're an individual hoping to plant a single sapling in your garden, you own any suitable land or have any other ideas of how to support this project, please contact our parish clerk, and we will be very happy to discuss and, if appropriate, to publicise your contribution.

## **Holding back the flood**

Nothing brings the terrifying reality of the climate emergency closer to home than flooding, and as we all know extreme weather events like the heavy rain which fell in Cambridgeshire in December 2020, are set to become ever more frequent.

Most residents of the village know that it has had a long history of river flooding. After floods in 1998 and 2001 the Environment Agency (EA) created flood defences protecting the village from river flooding. The work was completed in 2007 and was designed to reduce risk based on historical data available at that time.

The EA's Flood Management Plan for this area published in 2011, stated "Flooding is currently managed appropriately but future changes, for example climate change, are expected to have a significant impact as existing flood defences. Flood risk management activities need to respond to the potential increase in flood risk."

The Huntingdonshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in 2017 described the condition of our defences as variable, ranging from poor to very good. On the plan with the report the majority (in length) of the defences are shown as fair or good, with rather more being fair than good. Fair is defined as "Defects that could reduce the performance of the asset".

Groundwater flooding arising when our drains become inundated is another risk. Our main drains were completed in 1963 when the village population was a great deal smaller, with many being of pitch fibre construction which are prone to leakage and collapse as they age. Unless a major upgrade is undertaken, it likely that surface water flooding will become an increasing problem for us.

Although we cannot say for certain whether we may flood again soon, we do know that we are at risk. The EA are clear that communities in flood prone areas such as ours should take sensible precautions even if we have defences. For that reason, the Parish Council is having Personal Flood Plans prepared which will be circulated to each household with our next newsletter. The Personal Flood Plans will provide a ready reference for actions to take if we are ever unlucky enough to experience flooding again. In the meanwhile, if any villagers would like to take part in the preparation of a village flood plan, please contact any parish councillor with your details. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

## Councillors wanted – Elections Thursday 5 May 2022



If you are looking for an opportunity to influence local decisions, about development and planning, the quality of life and the environment, are concerned about flooding or road safety, wish to improve our open spaces and play areas, or just want to support our village, you might like to join us.

On Thursday 5 May 2022, elections will take place in all of Huntingdonshire's district council wards and all town/parish councils including Hemingford Grey.

If you're interested in becoming a parish councillor, the best way to find out what it's like is to talk to someone who's already doing it. Do come along to a parish council meeting, speak to one of the current councillors, or look out for details of a Saturday morning session we will be running for anyone interested in knowing more.

Of course, if you can't wait until May to start making a difference, we currently have vacancies for two parish councillors. We'd be delighted to hear from you.

## Responsible dog owners wanted

While most village dog owners are responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets. The Parish Council has provided dedicated dog-waste bins throughout the village, but any of our 24 public bins can take the waste. So, there is no excuse to leave it.



Under the terms of the current Huntingdonshire District Council's Public Spaces Protection Order, it is an offence to allow your dog to foul and not remove the faeces from any land in the district of Huntingdonshire, unless the owner of the land has given you permission to do so. Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100, and if the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000. The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.

Dog Fouling can be reported to the district using the following link:

[https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/forms/Operations/New Street Cleaning 1.html](https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/forms/Operations/New%20Street%20Cleaning%201.html)

## Reporting crime or anti-social behaviour

In recent months there have been a few drug related incidents and arrests within the village. Luckily crime and anti-social behaviour remains generally low and I'm sure that's how we'd all like it to stay.

To that end, the Parish Council would encourage residents to report crime or anti-social behaviour to the police, so they can build up a better picture of what's going on in our area or prevent someone else from being a victim of crime. Non-emergency crime or information can be reported to Cambridgeshire Constabulary by calling 101 or online at <https://beta.cambs.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Alternatively, you can report a crime anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers ([www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) / 0800 555 111) who will pass the information about the crime to the police.

## 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. 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. This will be reviewed if the Covid situation changes. Planning Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of the month starting at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

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) meeting (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 DMC at HDC. The two applications will be considered at the same meeting. There is **still** 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	Pending decision
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 <sup>nd</sup> wakeboard line and associated buildings	Refusal	In progress
20/00164/OUT	Land west of Wychwood Hilton - Outline application for rural exception housing	Not suitable	Pending decision
18/02726/FUL	Former car showroom, London Rd, St Ives – development 62 dwellings. Amended plans for 47 dwellings (by letter 15.04.2021)	Refusal	Pending decision
21/00681/HHFUL	19 Marsh Lane - rear single storey extension and new garage in front of property.	Part refusal	Approved
21/01557/LBC	1 Victoria Terrace - single storey garage, Listed building consent	Refusal	Approved
21/01556/HHFUL	1 Victoria Terrace - single storey garage	Refusal	Approved
CCC/21/088/FUL	ENVAR, St Ives Rd, Somersham - demolition of buildings and erection of waste transfer station, healthcare waste energy recovery and other facilities	Refusal	Pending consideration
21/02271/HHFUL	17A Pound Rd - two storey side extension and single extension at rear	Approval	Approved
21/02477/EXTDET	7 St Ives Road - a single storey rear extension	Approval	withdrawn
21/01768/FUL	Hemingford Park, Hemingford Abbots - change of use to mixed use	Refusal	In progress
21/02589/HHFUL	5 Glebe Rd - proposed extension to front	Approval	In progress
21/02647/PCAPA	The Grey House Marsh Lane - change of use for one room to D2 Assembly and leisure	Approval	In progress

# Community Matters

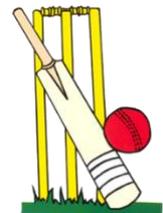


We have begun a new Spring term with fresh challenges and new opportunities for 2022.

During tree planting week at the end of 2021 a local company kindly donated 6 trees which were planted by a group of children and our volunteer gardeners in our new grass amphitheatre area. All the children will help to look after them with our group of volunteer gardeners from the Hemingford Grey community.

This term, we are looking forward to empowering the children and families to set up an Eco-Committee and start a journey to become an Eco-School. This will enable us to support environmental actions in school and in the local community

## Hemingford Park Cricket Club



Under a new committee and with a focus on much greater engagement with the village, HPCC is relishing the prospect of a new season. The club offers opportunities for anyone and everyone to be involved: our vibrant junior section will now extend through to Under 15s and there are senior sides which play friendly 20/20 matches on a Friday evening and league matches on Saturdays.

Further details available from Mike at [heminfordparkcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:heminfordparkcricketclub@gmail.com)  
Come and play and join in the fun! We warmly welcome players of every age and standard ... and look forward to more success than England!

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

Our Christmas Quiz was keenly contested, with Pat Douglas and Sarah Power emerging the winners. Congratulations to them. Many thanks to all participants, and especially to Dave and Liz Clammer for setting the questions, to Stuart Harrison for hosting the event, and to Bridget Flanagan for use of her Zoom facility. Our members have expressed a preference for staying on Zoom for the time being, so if you're not a member and you'd like to hear about Bourn Mill on 17 February from the comfort of your own home (and who wouldn't?), please get in touch with Stuart on 01480 466094.



## **New Year HubClub meets fortnightly on Wednesdays from 3-5pm in the Pavilion.**

There's always free tea and homemade cake. All age groups are welcome.  
9<sup>th</sup> February: A film screening or cards games meeting (to be confirmed)

## **Cambridgeshire award for the Hub.**

Tish Peek, our Chair, wins an award for exceptional service in guiding us through the pandemic from Jonathan Djanogly, MP for Huntingdon. Congratulations from all concerned.

## **Pub quizzers donate to Hub funds.**

Thank you to The Axe and Compass and The Cock. We've received donations from St Ives Rotary Club's Axe quiz, and The Cock's entire quiz entry fee.

If you need help or advice with anything, you can reach us on:

T: 07308 035416 E: [hemingfordhub@icloud.com](mailto:hemingfordhub@icloud.com), [www.hemingfordhub.co.uk](http://www.hemingfordhub.co.uk)

## **Hemingford Pavilion ([www.hemingfordpavilion.co.uk](http://www.hemingfordpavilion.co.uk))**

The Pavilion is operating as normal 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 used by many groups and are available for hire ([bookings@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk)). Exercise classes include Yoga ([lucyhocknell@icloud.com](mailto:lucyhocknell@icloud.com)), Pilates ([nicolaguitart@gmail.com](mailto:nicolaguitart@gmail.com)), Outdoor exercise ([sabrinasily@icloud.com](mailto:sabrinasily@icloud.com)), Ballroom dancing ([lesleycollier@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleycollier@hotmail.com)), and Tai Chi ([malcolmsavannah233@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmsavannah233@gmail.com)).

Please refer to the website for updates on upcoming events including a Music night on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Also please note that Pavilion Pictures is looking to hold its next showing in March.

The Pavilion Bar opening hours are Monday to Friday 5.30 - 9.00pm; Saturday 2.00 - 7.30 and Sunday 4.00 - 7.30pm.

## Village Lunch and Tea Dance

The Village Lunch is on Friday 11th March, while the Village Tea Dance is on Sunday 27th March. Both events will be held at the Pavilion. Contact Mike Gledhill on 07881 922287 for details.

## Hemingfords' Badminton Club change of venue

Hemingfords Badminton Club is now playing at One Leisure St Ives. Every Monday from 7-9pm. All welcome. Contact Sue Crafer on 07738 549598 for further information



**We look forward to welcoming you at St James' Church soon.**

### Church Services

- Sunday at 10.00am (Holy Communion on 2nd & 4th Sundays)
- Wednesday Holy Communion on 2nd & 4th of the month at 10.30am

### Dates for your diary

- Mothering Sunday on 27th March
- Palm Sunday on 10th April
- Easter Sunday on 17th April

### Children & Youth

- Crèche available in church for pre-school children
- Junior Church at the Parish Centre on 2nd & 4th Sundays during the service
- Youth meet 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays in the Reading Rooms (both term time only)

### Other Activities

- First Steps – a group for babies, pre-school toddlers and their parents/carers, 9.30- 11.30am at the Parish Centre. Please register in advance at [churchbytheriver.org.uk/first-steps/](http://churchbytheriver.org.uk/first-steps/) £1 donation per child.
- Dads' Breakfast – 3rd Saturday of the month, 8-10am. A time to play and interact with your child in the company of other dads.
- Parish Centre Coffee & Cake – Wednesday & Thursday, 10-12.30 am. All welcome

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

**'Astro Turf Site'**: HAPC have received a statement from Environment Agency confirming that no risk assessment has ever been carried out. A formal complaint is in preparation. The Land Registry have recorded a recent transaction, but no further details are yet available. MGL continue to maintain they have purchased the site

Having received no response to our November letter we have written again to Steve Cox, CCC Executive Director Place and Economy regarding continued breaches of Planning Permission

## **Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) launch #ActiveHunts campaign**



A campaign is under way in Huntingdonshire supporting residents to improve their health, mental health and wellbeing. The campaign – unveiled as part of the council's Recovery Strategy – intends to raise awareness of the benefits of increasing activity to improve the physical, mental health and wellbeing of individuals by making small changes to everyday life. This includes a twenty-question wellbeing survey hosted by The Training Shed which is based around nutrition, mobility and health habits. Residents can pledge to improve their wellbeing score and can also share it on social media using the hashtag '#ActiveHunts.' Scan the QR code above or visit [www.trainingshed.com/journeys/one-leisure/](http://www.trainingshed.com/journeys/one-leisure/) to fill in the wellbeing survey.

## **HDC encourages residents to Think Local this year**

HDC's campaign, funded by the UK Government Welcome Back Fund, calls on residents to support the many unique, local businesses found on our high streets, and explore the district's interesting and historic sites. Follow the campaign on Facebook - @Huntingdonshire.

Plus, visit the <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-democracy/reopening-our-towns/what-will-you-find-in-huntingdonshire/> for more information on what the district's towns have to offer.



# Hemingford Grey Parish Council

*Proud to serve the people of Hemingford Grey*



The Parish Council meets 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](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 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***

**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 April 2022***