

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

February 2025



Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the February edition of the Parish Council newsletter. As this is our first newsletter of the year, I'd like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year.

The evenings are getting lighter, and with birds getting territorial, aconites flowering and bulbs beginning to push through, spring is in sight. However, the recent storms and cold snap have also reminded us that there is still some time to go before the end of winter. The latter did, however, result in crowds being drawn to the frozen flood meadows to slip, slide and even partake in a bit of traditional fen skating.

The beginning of the year always provides an opportunity for us all to consider new things we'd like to get involved in. There are several opportunities detailed in this newsletter.

The Parish Council still has three vacancies. Being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary commitment that many of our existing Councillors manage around full or part-time jobs, family, and other commitments. It will also enable you to contribute to decisions that affect life in our village.

Alternatively, if you want to get more active and are interested in taking on an allotment, please contact the Parish Clerk, as we currently have a small number of plots available. You will also be able to join the newly formed allotment association

Finally, just a quick reminder that the Parish Council has a limited amount of money remaining in this year's budget 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". Application forms are available from the Parish Clerk and will be considered at the Council's March meeting.



Cllr Richard Allen
Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Parish Council Updates

Local Plan / Call for sites update

Since our last newsletter, our task and finish group have been working on supporting documentation for the Council's two submissions for the 'open spaces and biodiversity' sites next to and opposite the school. This documentation, which the Council intends to submit to HDC following its February meeting, will provide HDC with some illustrative proposals. In addition, the Parish Clerk has also written to the Agents / Landowners of both sites inviting them to discuss our proposals. Once submitted, we're unlikely to hear anything for a while, as the next public engagement by HDC isn't expected until the full draft local plan is released in the summer. However, if there's a local planner or someone with cemetery expertise living in the parish who'd be interested in assisting us, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Environment Working Group (EWG) update

Our EWG meetings will be held on 26th February and 2nd April between 7.30 and 8.30pm in the Parish Centre. All residents welcome to attend.



The EWG have purchased Aconites and snowdrops in the green which we intend to plant in the Cemetery and in several the HDC designated Alternate Land Management (ALM) verges. Please look out for posters with information about community bulb planting events.

Local gardeners are helping the group to develop an introductory fact sheet on Small Trees for Gardens. A small tree can add interest to your garden through its flowers, fruits and autumn colour as well as helping insects and birds. If you'd like to receive the fact sheet when its finalised, please contact: anne.meredith@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Yes estate green space transferred to the Parish Council

The Parish Council are delighted to confirm that at the end of December the entire green space at the Yes estate was transferred to it from HDC. We look forward to working with residents on its maintenance and improvement. Most importantly, this will now enable us to advance our plans to update the play area.

Alternative Land Management (ALM) proposal rejected

Following a consultation before Christmas, the Council agreed at its January meeting to inform HDC that residents were against a proposal for the large verge at the top end of Sadlers Way to be managed under HDC's ALM scheme. If you live near a HDC verge that you'd like to be considered for ALM please email Councillor Anne Meredith anne.meredith@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Can you help stop speeding drivers?



While the data recently downloaded from our speed sign confirms that overall vehicle speeds are still lower than before the 20mph was implemented, there are still a significant number of drivers who are speeding through the village.

Community Speedwatch are looking for new members to help them to monitor vehicle speeds in the area and log the details of those caught speeding. Can you help?

The scheme involves speed checks in local neighbourhoods, with motorists caught speeding given an advisory letter from Cambridgeshire Constabulary explaining the dangers of their actions.

Volunteers will receive full training, equipment, and insurance, as well as flexibility – as checks can be carried out at their convenience. To find out more about volunteering or to enquire about setting up a scheme in the area, please email speedwatch@cambspolice.uk

Research into 20mph schemes – your opinion matters

My name is Jacob Longbottom (longbottoj@coventry.ac.uk) and I am undertaking a survey as part of my Civil Engineering BEng dissertation to uncover public perception of the 20mph speed limits across rural Cambridgeshire. This will also go towards evidencing the effectiveness of 20mph schemes for the future.



Please scan the QR code to fill out a quick 2-minute survey on the 20mph scheme, or enter this URL into your browser: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mqSYS2U3vkqsfA4NOYr9T3sdviaB6xt0mCVQy54Nri9UN0RLTdPMVRHRE1OWEZMRlc4UUhUNVUwSy4u>

All answers will be anonymous. Personal information is not required.

Community Matters

Hemingford Grey Primary School



We have a vacancy for a governor on our Governing Body. Could you join us? Some areas of expertise or interest we'd welcome are sustainability and the climate, leadership, and mental health and wellbeing. If that is you, or you have other skills or experience to offer, and have some time available we'd love to hear from you. If you'd prefer to give time in a different way, we warmly welcome volunteers into school, such as supporting children with their reading or helping to look after the school grounds. Please contact us by email to let us know how you can support our school office@hemingfordgrey.cambs.sch.uk

1st Hemingfords Scout Group *by Tony Rogers*

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas Post event. Over 350 cards were collected and distributed by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (and their parents) over the weekend of 14th/15th December.



The Scout Group is always on the lookout for new adult volunteers to help run the sections. If your New Year's Resolution is to get more involved in the community and have some fun, please get in touch - lead.volunteer@1st-Hemingfords-scouts.org.uk. Full support and training will be given.

Hemingford Grey WI



The topic for our first talk of 2025 is Westminster Abbey at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 25th February in the Reading Room. Everyone is welcome. The WI nationally is the largest women's organisation and its national campaigns tackle issues that matter to women in their communities. For more information telephone Phyl on 380240.

Hemingford Bowls Club *by Sue Peel, Chair*



If you are thinking of playing lawn bowls this coming season, please contact secretary@hemingfordbowls.co.uk or fsmpeel8159@gmail.com for information. We plan to open the greens for the new season on Sunday 13 April. We are delighted that we have been chosen to host a prestigious Bowls England event on Saturday 31 May and Sunday 1 June. The Amy Rose Bowl is an inter-county double rink competition for female players aged 31 or under and finalists compete at the Nationals held annually at Leamington Spa.



This year's Regatta will be held on Saturday 12th July, with practice nights starting for novices on Monday 16th June and running weeknights until Thursday 10th July. Our Patrons newsletter will be published in May. If you'd be interested in helping out or supporting in any way, to join our "Friends of the Regatta" WhatsApp group please email hello@hemingfordsregatta.com

Need a warm space?



The Parish Centre is a registered warm space, and will be offering a warm space with a light lunch on Monday's from 11am - 2pm on the following dates 3rd Feb, 10th Feb, 17th Feb and 24th Feb. March dates are to be confirmed.

The drop in cafe and warm space is open on a Wednesday and a Thursday at the Parish Centre, from 10am - 12.30pm

Hemlocs *by Simon Clemmow, Chair*

Our 2025 talks started strongly with speaker David Duker, whose heroes are those who fought in the Second World War, particularly the Battle of Britain. His biography of Squadron Leader Victor Ekins, born in St Neots in 1914, is meticulously researched from the pilot's wartime diaries and David's interviews with many survivors. It allows him to share unique insights into the mind and experiences of one of Churchill's 'Few'. Our next talk will be very different, but doubtless no less enthralling – it's on 'Mammoths and Man' in our region. Don't miss it – 7.30 pm at the Pavilion on Thursday 20 February. See you there.

The Annual Hemingford Carols went ahead, but not around the outdoor tree due to weather conditions. The Huntingdonshire Concert Band played Carols and Seasonal favourites, and mulled wine, hot chocolate, and mince pies on offer. A big thank you to Hemingford Grey Parish Council for sponsoring the band.

The Pavilion bar's extra opening times during the Festive Season were a great opportunity for many families and friends to meet up and will be repeated in the future.

To encourage greater use of the Hayward Hall on Sundays, we've reduced the hire charge to £20 per hour. This includes use of the kitchen and potentially a private bar. If you're planning an event, get in touch.

Fancy something new? Three private groups currently play Table Tennis every week in the Chris Page Room (with some enjoying a drink in the bar afterwards). If you are interested in starting up a regular session, during the day or evening, email: bookings@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk

 **HemingfordHub** *by Riva Elliott*



Hoppa Bus team meets the Mayor

We recently presented our Hoppa pilot proposal to the Combined Authority's Mayor, Dr Nik Johnson, and HDC CEO, Michelle Sacks. We hope to gain some funding, which together with our own fund-raising, will enable us to demonstrate the viability of an hourly St Ives service.

Donations from the village shop and The Cock

Thank you to The Cock and the village shop who have donated the proceeds from their quiz nights and Christmas raffle respectively.

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

- Feb 12 Robin Bletsoe talk on Hamilton Gardens, New Zealand
- Feb 26 Age UK visit
- Mar 12 Games

Plus, seated exercises on 5th and 19th February, and 5th and 19th March.

Contact details: T: 07308 035416 E: hemingfordhub@icloud.com,
www.hemingfordhub.co.uk, Registered Charity No: 1194706

Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Proud to serve the people of Hemingford Grey



The Parish Council meets in the **Reading Rooms at 7.00pm** on the **second Monday of each month** (except August and December).

Parish Council meetings are open to everyone. Residents can ask questions or make comments and observations on matters or items on the agenda at the start of the meeting. Please note that after this 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

Your Parish Councillors:



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All our councillors can be emailed using the following format:
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The next edition of the newsletter will be out in April 2025

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