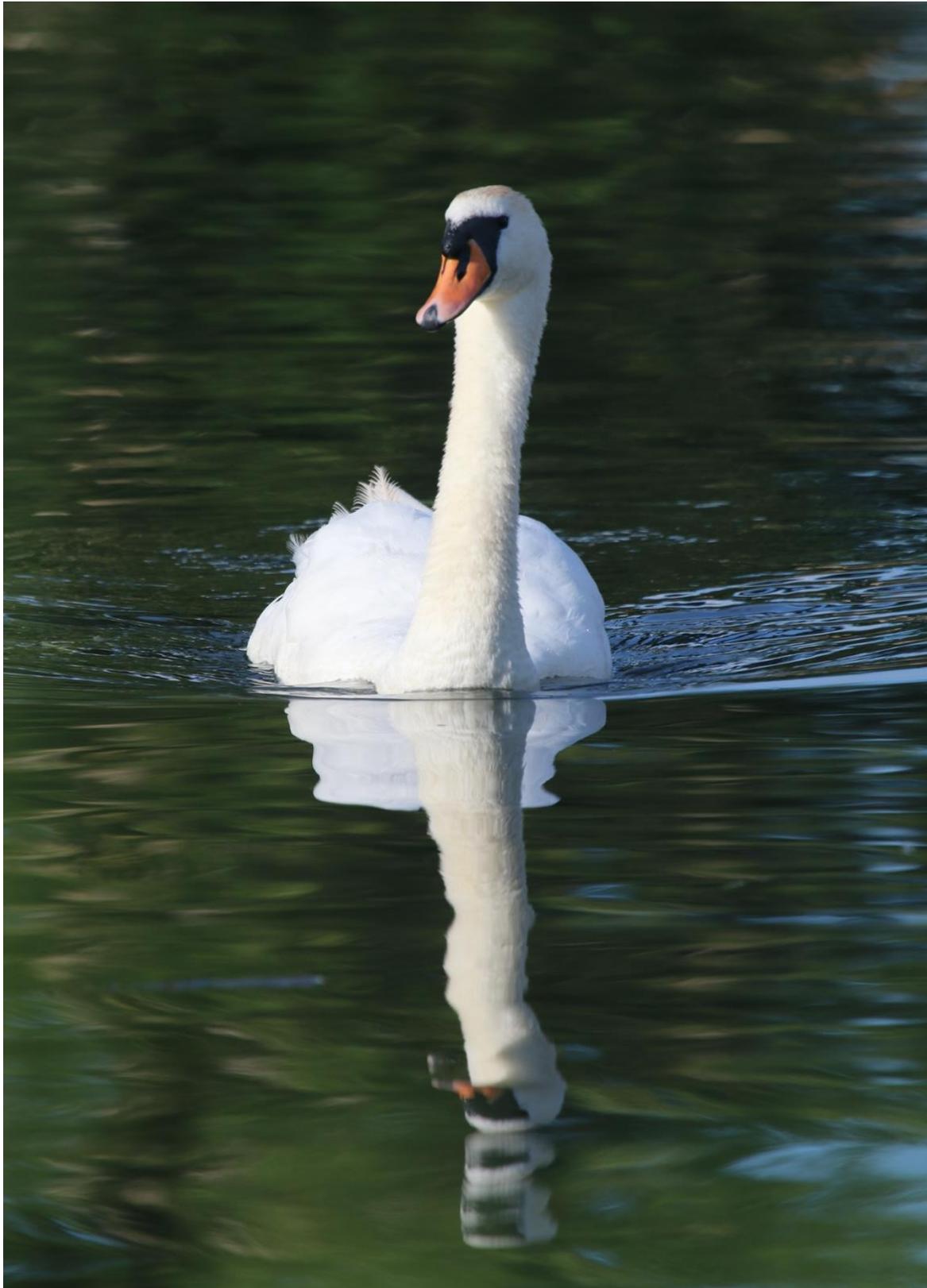


Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

July 2020



Notes from the Chair

There's no denying the last four months or so have not been easy and unfortunately there are still likely to be difficult periods ahead. However, as we carefully and gradually come out of lockdown, it's right that we start looking towards the future.

The pandemic has shown us that, people suddenly confined to their homes and locality discovered a world and community literally on their doorsteps that they'd either forgotten about or had been too busy to engage with. I believe that hope can be found in this, and particularly in the resurgence of community spirit. The numbers who volunteered for the HemingfordHub or just helped out a neighbour demonstrate that when the going gets really tough, we come together to support each other. And, when individuals from across the local community join forces, these actions become all the more powerful. So perhaps the one "silver-lining" of the coronavirus outbreak and the enforced lockdown, could be a lasting and positive effect on community engagement.

To that end, in this edition of the newsletter, we update you on some of the initiatives that Parish Council are already taking forward and ask you to join us. That could be as simple as watering one of our recently planted trees, getting involved in one of our forthcoming events, such as the rescheduled litter pick, joining one of our working groups, or becoming a Parish Councillor. But whatever it is, you decide to do, or how much time you can offer – let's take something positive out of the last few months.

By the time our next issue is published we will be heading into the Autumn, so whether you decide to stay at home, enjoy a staycation, or venture further afield, I hope you all have a fantastic summer.

Stay safe!

Cllr Richard Allen – Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Your Parish needs YOU! *by Janice Flint*

We are now slowly and steadily moving out of lockdown and a new normal is taking its place. However, for a few weeks, the lockdown provided most of us with a unique chance to reconnect with our immediate surroundings in a way we could never have imagined. The incredible weather, working from home, the lack of traffic, noise and pollution gave most of us the chance to see with fresh eyes the place where we and our families live. Many discovered areas of the parish they never knew existed, while it enabled others, for the first time perhaps, to really appreciate living in the village of Hemingford Grey.

So, what better time than now to become involved and join one of the many community working groups helping to plan the future character of the village. These groups cover the Environment, Communications, Climate Change and the Neighbourhood Plan. With current initiatives including a proposed 20mph zone within the village, safer cycling as alternative to public transport, a review of the maintenance of grass verges in the parish, and establishment of a conservation area next to the allotments.

Young and old are very welcome. Join the discussions, contribute your ideas, with the good news that you do not have to be a member of Parish Council to participate!

It is likely that future funding at the District and County level will be very tight. Therefore, as a Parish Council we will have to find more and more innovative ways of fulfilling our plans and rely on the community spirit which is the heart of Hemingford Grey.

If you would like to become involved in any of the working groups, please contact the following councillors in the first instance:

Working Group	Contact details
Environment:	robin.waters@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Communications:	janice.flint@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cemetery:	richard.allen@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Climate Change:	sarah.jakes@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Neighbourhood Plan:	anne.meredith@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Updates

Parish Council vacancies

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference, be involved in shaping the future of our village, or ensuring that our community gets the right services? If so, we currently have vacancies for four parish councillors.

Being a parish councillor does not need to be hugely time consuming. There is a limited minimum time commitment required and we meet on the second Monday of most months for about two hours, in the evening. But how much time you spend on your duties as a councillor is largely up to you and will depend on the particular commitments you take on. As with most things in life, what you get back will depend on how much you put in.

Please speak to one of our existing councillors to find out more or apply to the Parish Clerk - parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Plan *by Anne Meredith and Robin Waters*

In March every household received a survey asking for their views on the parish - what they liked, disliked and thoughts and ideas for the future. We'd like to thank all those who spent time completing the survey, especially the children at the primary school who filled it in for us.

Unfortunately, as the closing date for the survey coincided with the lockdown the overall the response rate was low – which is not entirely surprising as many residents will have had other things on their minds. The steering group are considering how best to further canvas views, as physical meetings and drop in sessions are still not yet possible.

In the meantime, work is being undertaken on background research, that can either be done at our desks or out in the fresh air. So, you may see us walking around the parish taking photographs of various roads and green spaces as we need to visually record the character of the parish both buildings and green spaces. This work will link in with projects that the parish council is undertaking; verges and an environmental plan for the parish.

If you would like to find out more, please contact one of us.

Can you help our newly planted young trees?

We are pleased to see that the young trees planted during the 2019 Autumn Litter Pick are growing well.

The Tree Wardens, with the help of volunteers, planted a range of young trees including Mountain Ash, Silver Birch and Walnut at Daintree Green, Margetts, Green Close, Vicarage Fields, Mitchell Close and Pound Road.



However, with the recent spell of extremely dry weather and the likelihood of more to come over the summer, the Tree Wardens would be extremely grateful if residents who live near to a tree displaying one of these tags could water it, in order to keep it hydrated.

Without proper aftercare our newly planted trees will not make it into maturity.

We are planning another tree planting event on Saturday 28 November to coincide with National Tree Planting week. Watch out for further details on posters and the parish website later in the year.

Your help with this ongoing project is very much appreciated.

Cycling in the village

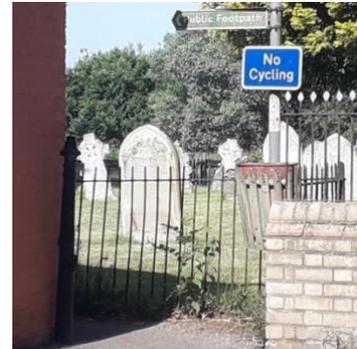
Cycling in Hemingford Grey has become noticeably more popular during the last few months and it's encouraging to see lots of families riding together. However, at the same time we request that cyclists in the village be courteous, respect walkers using local footpaths and bridleways, and dismount where appropriate or required to.



For cyclists who may want to get out of the village, why not try one of the routes we've suggested in this or our previous newsletter. If you're feeling a little more adventurous, did you know that the National Cycle Network route 51 runs through the parish? Route 51 is a long-distance route that connects major cities in the south of England. It begins in Oxford and passes Milton Keynes, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich before reaching the coast at Felixstowe.

Route 51 enters village via the bends in Manor Road and then following Braggs Lane, the High St, St Ives Rd (past the school) and then Hemingford Rd before using London Rd to the St Ives Bridge. Apart from the dual foot/cycle path opposite Victoria Terrace, this route runs entirely on the road.

None of the villages other footpaths are dual use and the Highway Code makes it quite clear that we should not cycle on ordinary footpaths. This also includes the riverside paths from the Manor to the Church; Love Lane from Church St to Mill Lane and Filberts Walk from Hemingford Road to London Road where it goes on to the New Bridges. These are all clearly signed posted



Improving road safety

The Parish Council is currently working on a bid to establish a 20mph zone in the centre of the village (a similar scheme was recently approved for Hemingford Abbots) and we're also continuing to use the speed sign to determine the number and speeds of motor vehicles through the village which we hope will lead to more considerate driving.

Community Litter Pick is back!

The parish council is pleased to announce that the Litter Pick, postponed earlier this year, has now been re-scheduled for Saturday 19 September between 10 am -12 pm. If you'd like to get involved or register your interest in doing so, please contact Janice Flint (janice.flint@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk / Tel: 07816 438765)

We're also planning a community bulb planting event on Saturday 17 October – please save the date.

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, but the Parish Council normally sends councillors to look at the property concerned and call on neighbours to ensure they are aware. 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
18/00824/PMBPA	Long Lane Farm – Change of use from agric. building to C3 dwelling house etc	Request full PA	Unknown
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	Unknown
19/01234/S106	YES Estate, London Rd – variation to S106 agreement-mortgage	Commented	In progress
19/02280/FUL	Land north of The How – redevelopment including new houses	Refusal	In progress
19/02559/FUL	8 Madeley Court, Sycamore House – replacement of dwelling	Refusal	In progress
FMW/072/19	New Farm, Rideaway, H. Abbots – changes to conditions for waste mgmt.	Refusal	In progress
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 first floor accommodation etc.	Supported	In progress
20/00216/HHFUL*	26 Weir Rd – extensions ground floor and first floor	Objected	In progress
20/00569/S73	Ag buildings, Long Lane – variations to conditions 2 and 3.	Approval	In progress
20/00535/HHFUL	24 Weir Rd – proposed side and rear extension etc	Approval	In progress
20/00675/FUL	29 High Street (St Francis House) – change of use to form 3 dwellings	Approval	In progress
20/00546/HHFUL	24 Norman Court – single storey flat roof extension	Approval	In progress
20/80126/COND	Ag buildings, Long Lane (19/01917FUL) – Info re conditions C4 and C6	Approval	In progress
19/02559/FUL*	AMENDED 8 Madeley Court (Sycamore House) – demolition and new dwelling	Supported	In progress
19/02280/FUL	AMENDED Land north of The How – redevelopment including new houses	Refusal	In progress

Due to the Lockdown some applications weren't considered at a planning committee meeting (identified by *) and official site visits were not made to the applicant or neighbours. Instead councillors independently emailed their opinions to the Clerk who submitted a response on the council's behalf - hence the change in wording.

Community Matters

Hemingford Garden Room

Our village coffee shop plans to re-open its doors for take away coffee, cakes and smoothies on Wednesday 22nd July at 10am. We will of course be closely following the Government COVID-19 safety guidance. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Hemlocs *by Simon Clemmow*

The regular Hemlocs programme was suspended after the February meeting. However, Bridget Flanagan has produced a series of articles on different, and unusual aspects of the history of the Hemingfords and these have served both to inform members and to maintain interest. Such has been the success of this project that it is planned to produce the articles in book form later in the year. Meanwhile, they can be found on the Society's website, www.hemlocs.co.uk.

Our summer visit to Buckden Towers is still in the diary for Wednesday 19 August but is clearly dependent on whatever guidelines on gatherings and social distancing are in force at that time. Should this visit take place, numbers will be limited to 20. We hope to kick off our 2020-21 series of talks in the Pavilion on Thursday 17 September but again the Committee will need to assess whether this meeting can take place in accordance with the rules in place at the time. Members will be kept informed by email and telephone and notices will be posted around the village in advance of these events.

Pavilion emerges from lockdown.

The Pavilion took its first tentative steps towards reopening in June with the Tennis and Bowls club opening on a limited basis. Since then we have been working hard towards the next stage of reopening and are pleased to confirm that the Pavilion Bar reopened on Saturday the 4th July. Operating on a limited timetable and observing strict physical distancing rules, including remote ordering, outdoor seating (weather permitting) we started the journey back to normal and look forward to seeing you. Please keep an eye on social media and the Pavilion [website](#) for updates.

Hemingford Grey Garden Society *by Mike Henderson*

Little has changed in the Garden Society since our last article. We have continued to aid communication between members to help them with queries and problems, and to ensure they were informed of all things pertinent to both help them in their gardening, but also in their general well-being.

Recently, under the new guidance, some owners have offered to open their gardens this month on specific days for pre-organised timed visits under controlled conditions. We were hoping that this venture would help members emerge from full lockdown in a controlled way and give those that had been virtually trapped in their own homes some respite from those conditions.

Emerging from Lockdown, with the support of HemingfordHub



Many of those that were self-isolated, especially the over 70s, are starting to shop for themselves. However, there are still some residents that are shielded, in the vulnerable category, who will remain isolated until August 1st. And there are those that are feeling anxious about leaving the safety of their own home. So, for these residents, HemingfordHub volunteers continue to lend a hand. This includes shopping, prescription and newspaper delivery, friendly phone chats, providing face masks, loaning jigsaw puzzles, and facilitating video chats between the elderly and their families.



We have also been providing hot nutritious meals to the door, and more recently we started “Bubble” tea parties. Held in the gardens of different HemingfordHub volunteers, we have invited up to 6 of our elderly, isolated residents to a socially distanced afternoon tea. An excellent opportunity for them to catch up with friends and neighbours, in a safe environment. If any of our volunteers would like to do something similar, please get in touch with HemingfordHub and we can provide financial support.

If you are concerned about something, or someone, call HemingfordHub on 07308 035416, or email hemingfordhub@icloud.com

Out and about

Children's play areas reopen

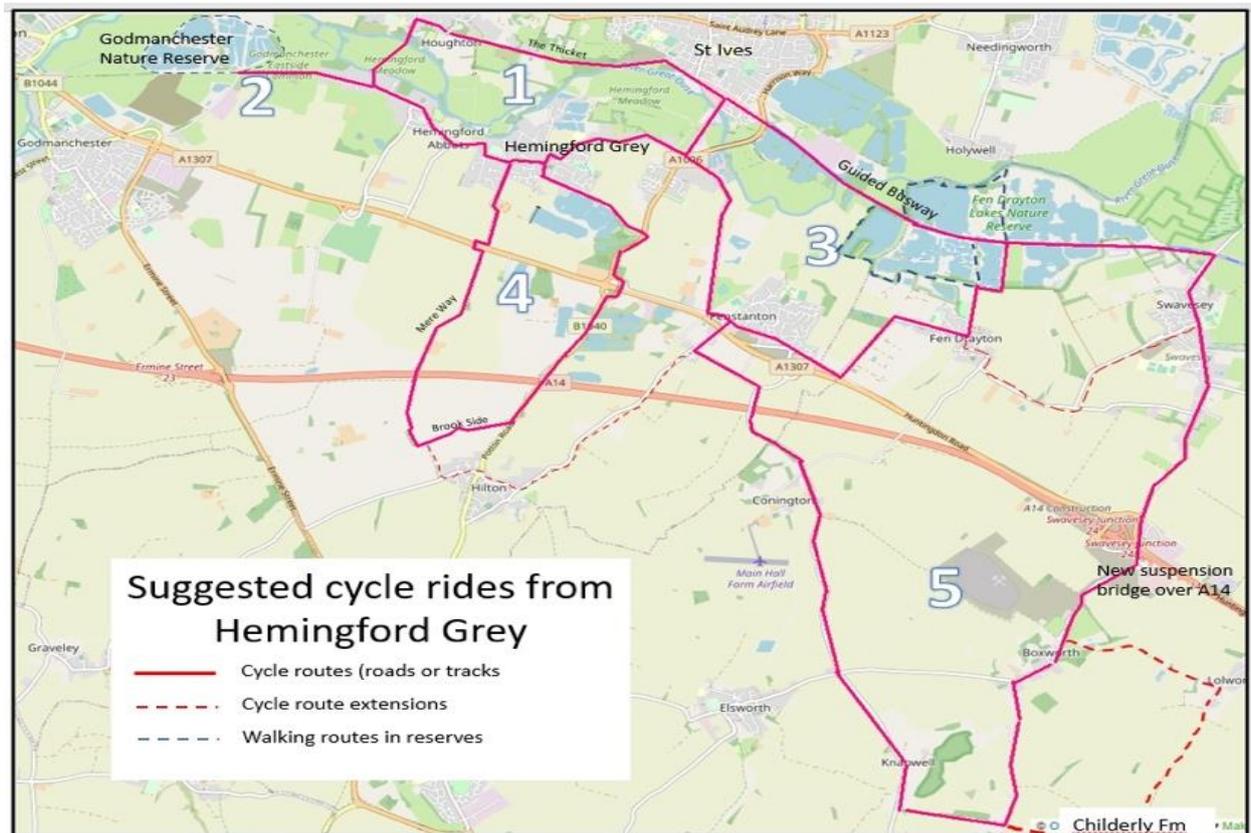
The Parishes play areas at Daintree Green, Dunnock Way and Mitchell Close reopened at the beginning of July. Site specific rules have been displayed at each playground and to help reduce the risk of infection from coronavirus it is asked that users consider others when using the play equipment and observe the current government guidelines at all times including social distancing and hand washing.

More great cycling routes *by Peter Quest*

Following the recommendations in the last newsletter, here are some further suggestions and a map which includes the routes previously detailed:

2. Godmanchester Nature Reserve via Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots, and 3. Fenstanton, Fen Drayton and the Guided Busway routes

1. St Ives, Thicket path, Houghton, Hemingford Abbots. About 6 miles (9kms) Cross the old bridge in St Ives, turn left into Merrylands and continue along the Broadway and The Waits, through the churchyard and along Barnes Walk to the Thicket Path. Cross the river at the Old Mill in Houghton and the backwater to Meadow Lane in Abbots.



4. Beating the bounds. South of the A1307 (old A14) you can follow the parish boundary. Take Gore Tree Road out of the village, cross the A1307 to Mere Way (H Abbots on your right) and follow this past Topfield Farm and over the new A14 towards Hilton. Turn left along Brook Side and West Brook (Hilton on your right) to the B1040 Potton Road at Five Arch Bridge. The Fenstanton parish boundary follows the road. Return to Hemingford along the Potton Road. About 7 miles (11kms).

Alternatively cross the West Brook into Hilton and return via Fenstanton under the A1307 and along the Low Rd. Extra 1.5 miles (2kms)

5. To the hills! Follow roads through Fenstanton and Conington to the far (south) end of Knapwell. Turn left into Thorofare Lane (part of the Pathfinder long distance path) and up the hill through the woods to the open skies at Battle Gate Lane. Turn left again and proceed to Boxworth and then down the road to the roundabout by Cambridge Services where you are signed over the new bridleway suspension bridge to Swavesey. Alternatively go straight over Battle Gate Lane to Childerly and turn left following on the track to Lolworth, left again into Redland Road. This becomes a path leading to Boxworth where you re-join the road. (Not suitable for road bikes but fine for hybrids or mountain bikes). Return via Fen Drayton or the guided busway.

As previously mentioned, if you want to find other routes, the best map for this area is the OS Explorer 225 Huntingdon and St. Ives.

Marsh Lane fishing lakes walking permits

For those who would rather walk than cycle, why not visit, discover and enjoy what the Marsh Lane lakes have to offer. There is an abundance of wildlife, including many species of birds and waterfowl, with the occasional fisherman and dog-walker.

You will however need a permit to walk the lakes. These are available to all Hemingford Grey Parish residents and can be easily obtained from the London Anglers Association. Either email admin@londonanglers.net or telephone 020 8520 7477 for an application form.

The annual fee is £6 per household, renewable on 16 June - please note however, there is no pro-rata rate. Permit holders can take visitors, and the paths are open from sunrise to sunset. Certain rules apply, a full list of T&C's can be found on the application form.

A walking permit does not entitle the holders or visitors to fish. Fishing permits are issued by the London Anglers Association.

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. Dates for our next meetings (there is no meeting in August) are as follows:

Main parish council (including planning) 7.30pm 14 Sept / 12 Oct

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
Riva Elliott	38 Church Street	494142
Janice Flint	30 Marsh Lane	07816 438765
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

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The next edition of the newsletter will be out in September 2020