

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

June 2021



# *Notes from the Chair*

The vaccine programme continues at pace, and we should be thankful that it has been so well organised and that so many professionals and volunteers have made this happen so effectively and efficiently. Yet with increasing number of variants, this is no time to become complacent and undo all those great efforts. I therefore hope that this latest edition of the newsletter finds you and your families safe and well.

In the first week of May, as they always do, the Swifts arrived back in our skies. For me, the arrival of these elegant acrobats always heralds the beginning of summer, but their stay with us is all too short (bit like the summer itself!). In this newsletter, we have a fascinating article about the amazing work a small team have undertaken to develop nesting boxes for them in the tower of the village church. Something we will all be able to monitor the success of on our walks around the village. So, keep your eyes peeled and pointed to the sky.

In a similar vein, the local scouts recently undertook a walk around the cemetery and Vicarage Fields to check on the bird boxes that they and Cubs helped to make as part of last year's Parish Council nest box project. I'm pleased to report that a number of them appear to be have been identified as desirable residences to bring up a family by Blue Tits in and one box has been adopted by white-tailed bumblebees. In all about a third of the bird boxes that were put up appear to have residents.

Both of these initiatives are great additions to our village environment, and we have detailed within the Newsletter a number of other initiatives that the Parish Council plan to take with your help and support to make our village even greener.

For over a year, the COVID pandemic has disrupted the lives of most of us, and it is in all our interests, for both our physical and mental wellbeing, that activities return to some kind of normal as soon as it is safe to do so. By the time our next newsletter is published in August, I hope we will have returned to that normality. Stay safe!

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

# Parish Council Updates

## Going Green in Hemingford Grey

We are all increasingly aware of the importance of the natural environment whether in our gardens, open spaces, or verges. Our decision not to mow Vicarage Fields during May was a small step towards making Hemingford Grey greener.



The maintenance contract for the grassed areas managed by the Parish Council - Daintree Green, part of the YES estate, the Village Sign area, Vicarage Fields, Mitchell Close play area, the Cemetery, and the riverside - is due for renewal. Therefore, the Parish Council intend to take this

opportunity, with your involvement, to review our mowing and maintenance regime.

We hope to balance the needs of all users of these areas but also try to enhance biodiversity through a revised mowing regime and the planting of wildflowers which help bees but still look attractive. We will be asking residents for their views on how we should in the future maintain these open spaces. While Covid restrictions prevent us announcing firm dates at this time, please check the parish website, notice boards and social media for details of when and where we will be asking residents to meet up with us to discuss ideas.

If you'd like to get involved in this project, please contact Nick Irish, Sarah Jakes, or Anne Meredith (see back page for contact details).

## Cowslips in Hemingford Grey

On Glebe Road opposite Vicarage Fields the verge is home to a small colony of Cowslips which we are keen to protect. The council has applied for the verge to become a protected verge and will work with local residents and other councils so that in time this colony will spread and provide a cheerful and welcoming sight every spring.



## Community Litter Pick - *Calling all volunteers*

Can you spare a little time Saturday 12 June, between 10am – 12 noon to join our annual Parish Council Litter Pick. If you are interested in taking



part, please join us at either Daintree Green or the Yes Estate (play area). We have litter pickers, bags, gloves, and Hi-Viz vests for you to use. Covid-19 restrictions will be in place.

Afterwards, join us for refreshments at The Grey House café, 36b Marsh Lane. For further details or to volunteer contact Janice Flint:

[janice.flint@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:janice.flint@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## 20mph Speed Limit for Village Centre



The Neighbourhood Plan residents survey highlighted concern about speeding traffic in the village centre. Lockdown greatly increased the number of people walking and cycling through this area where lack of pavements and narrow roads meant that something had to be done.

So last year the Parish Council applied to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) for funding through the Local Highways Initiative for a 20mph zone from the primary school to the Pavilion via the High Street. Our proposal has met the criteria and we look forward to hearing that we have been successful and to working with CCC to implement the speed limit.



## Parking in Marsh Lane

Residents will be aware of increased parking in Marsh Lane due to the reduced size of the London Anglers car park and the closure of the track around the far side of the lake. The Parish Council are engaging with all parties concerned and ask that residents using the walk around the lake to please take care when parking (if they really need to) in Marsh Lane and Sadlers Way. There are also several ongoing building projects for properties in Marsh Lane which will inevitably add to short term pressure.

## **Food Bank Collection Sunday 11th July**

In 2020 the Parish Council co-ordinated a collection of non-perishable foods for the Godmanchester Food Bank. Residents were very generous with their time and donations. Sadly, the need is still there so another collection is being organised for Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>.



The collection was most effective when a volunteer 'adopted' a road and then advertised the collection and organised the collection of the donations. So, if you would like to 'adopt' a road or be involved in some other way please contact Anne Meredith (contact details on the back page)

Further information on the collection will be available on the Parish Council website and on the Noticeboards from early July. Donations on the day can be dropped off at the Reading Room between 11 and noon.

## **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. Currently planning applications are considered as part of the main council meeting. It is the hope that from June visits will be resumed for 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.

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) - as the application had already been called in. At its March meeting the Parish Council considered a separate application for Liquid Skillz, to which it also recommended refusal, and this has also been referred to the DMC at HDC. It is understood that the two applications will be considered at the same meeting.

At the meeting in May 2021 the council considered revised plans for the former car showroom on London Rd. The Parish Council recommended refusal on the grounds that the existing sewage system would not be able to cope with the additional dwellings.

### Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC ref.	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
20/00285/FUL	Vindis site, Low Rd – demolition of structures, erection of 106 dwellings	Refusal	In progress
19/02280/FUL	AMENDED Land north of the How – redevelopment including new houses	Refusal	In progress
FMW/072/19	AMENDED New Farm Rideaway-changes to conditions for waste management	Refusal	In progress
19/02087/FUL	Waters Edge, Meadow Lane- Variation of condition 2; to amend plans	Approval	In progress
20/01193/CLPD	The Maltings Studio House, Church St- removal of section of wall for car access	Refusal	In progress
20/01621/FUL	Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore- 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
20/01784/LBC	31 Limes Park- remedial damp work	Noted	Approved
21/00044/FUL	Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore-construction of 2 <sup>nd</sup> wakeboard line and associated buildings	Refusal	In progress
21/00102/HHFUL	14 Church Street- single storey rear extension	Approval	Approved
21/00147/LBC	Limes Park- retrospective replacement roof finish	Approval	Approved
21/00194/HHFUL	1 Lea Rd- erection of brick wall to replace fence	Approval	In progress
21/00234/HHFUL	6 Apple Orchard- proposed garden room extension	Approval	In progress
20/00164/OUT	Land west of Wychwood Hilton- Outline application for rural exception housing	Not suitable	In progress
20/01546/FUL	The Willows Guest House, 45 High Street- change of use to 2 dwellings	Approval	In progress
21/80058/COND	8 Madeley Ct – conditional information for conditions 3&4	Approval	Cond reply
21/00310/HHFUL	16 Marsh Lane- proposed one and a half storey extension at rear, loft conversion	Approval	Approved
18/02726/FUL	Former car showroom, London Rd, St Ives – development 62 dwellings. Amended plans for 47 dwellings (by letter 15.04.21)	Refusal	In progress
21/00454/HHFUL	4 High Street-replacement of garage with single storey extension	Approval	In progress
21/00326/HHFUL	5 The Brambles-proposed patio and increase height of fence	Refusal	In progress
21/00277/HHFUL	38 Marsh Lane-various extensions	Refusal	In progress
20/02165/HHFUL	The Cock, High Street- installation of two pods in the garden	Approval	In progress
21/00263/HHFUL	28 Manor Road-erection of rear extension and new front porch	Approval	Approved
21/00139/HHFUL	22 Manor Road- single storey rear extension	Approval	In progress
21/00681/HHFUL	19 Marsh Lane-rear single storey extension and new garage in front of property.	Part refusal	In progress
21/00542/HHFUL	45 Marsh Lane-various extensions and new entrance door.	Approval	In progress

# Community Matters

## Swifts in the belfry *by Susan Cooke*

Early in 2019 I read an article about Swifts and how their numbers have declined by 57% in recent years. This is thought to be partly due to a lack of nesting sites. I learnt that church towers are suitable places to fit swift nest boxes. As a member of our village church, I decided to investigate the possibilities of making and installing nest boxes in St. James's church tower.



We had several problems to overcome, the main one being that the church tower is quite small with narrow, steep stairs up to the belfry and there isn't a proper floor. It's quite a dangerous place to work. Another problem was the wire mesh that's fitted across the tower windows on the outside. Only one window was really suitable, the East Window.

Measurements were taken and with help from "Action for Swifts" we had a design ready and by October 2019 church members had made two cabinets, each with 10 nesting compartments. However, with the coming of winter and then the first lockdown all work stopped for over a year.

In February this year work started again. Church members fitted the two cabinets into the louvres of the East window, part of the louvres had to be removed but they will be put back in the future. Holes have been cut in the wire mesh to let swifts into the nest compartments. A swift call box has also been fitted on the cabinets and this is playing a recording of the bird's call to attract swifts to the nests.

Swifts are beautiful and wonderful birds. They only stay here for 12 weeks each year, nesting and raising chicks before migrating back to central Africa. They spend their lives almost entirely on the wing feeding on insects. It will be amazing if we can get swifts nesting in St. James's church tower.



## Village Lunch and Tea Dance to resume in June

Great news we are able to start our monthly Village Lunch again on 25th June 2021. It will be at the usual time and place and time namely at the Pavilion in the Chris Page Room at 12.30pm for 1.00. and our Tea Dance on 27th June 2021 from 2.00 - 4.30pm in the main hall downstairs also at the Pavilion. It will be wonderful to see everyone again!

## Hemingford Ladies Choir

It is a well-known fact that singing is good for your health and well-being. Hemingford Ladies Choir is a traditional four-part Ladies Choir that has survived lockdown and is rehearsing every Wednesday morning using Zoom. We sing



everything from Bach to Bernstein and have even managed to put on Zoom Concerts which have been great fun. If you would like to join us on Zoom please contact our MD Elaine Gunn on [mseleinegunn@aol.com](mailto:mseleinegunn@aol.com)

We will start live rehearsals again in September so if you would like more information on this please contact Viv Oxley on 01480 417925 or [vivienneoxley64@gmail.com](mailto:vivienneoxley64@gmail.com)

## Cambridge Open Studios in Hemingford Grey

July is Cambridge Open Studios month. This year four artists in will be exhibiting and selling their work. Free entry to The Lodge (Church St) and 41 High St, 11am-6pm, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, where you will be welcomed to chat to and see the work of Chrissie Wilson, Fran Williams (acrylics, watercolours, mixed media and print) Carole Pollack (fused glass art) and Clare Trowell (linocut fine-art printmaking) with greetings cards, small gifts and refreshments also available.

Further information can be obtained from the Cambridge Open Studios app or please phone Fran on 07901571967.

## **Hemingfords' Regatta – possibly 7<sup>th</sup> August**

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold the Regatta on its usual weekend this year, as there will still be too many restrictions in place at that time to run practise evenings. However, the Regatta committee will be making a final decision in the last week of June to determine if we will be able to hold it on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August instead. The decision will be dependent on ongoing social distancing restrictions, requirements to sanitise oars, etc. If it is possible the usual four weeks of practice evenings will begin on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July. The decision will be announced on both the Regatta and the Hemingford Community Facebook pages.

If we do proceed, it is likely to be a smaller event than usual, as so much of the time the boats will be out will have to be during the school holidays, and it's also unlikely we'll run the usual evening party. We will however need additional volunteers to help out at practise evenings, as well as to set up for the day itself. So, if you are keen to support this truly unique event – please email [anniesunderland@hotmail.com](mailto:anniesunderland@hotmail.com)

Here's hoping life will be feeling more normal and we can all enjoy this fantastic village event safely together.

## **Answers to questions about walking and cycling**

As more of us are walking and cycling in the Parish, a couple of queries have come up.

### ***1. Which side of the road should we walk on if there is no pavement?***

The Highway code is clear and states that if there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file close to the side of the road, especially on narrow roads or in poor light. It may also be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend. (Please note, the advice is different for larger groups).

### ***2. How much room should drivers give to cyclists?***

This is much less clear as the Highway code just says give as much room as in overtaking a car. However, it is expected that the Code will be modified shortly giving 1.5 meters (nearly 5 ft) for vehicle speeds below 30mph and 2 meters (about 6'6") at speeds over 30mph. So, if the bike is cycling at the recommended meter away from the curb, the driver will need to use the opposite carriageway to overtake, as most already do.

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

Our season of talks has now come to an end. Many thanks to Bridget Flanagan for allowing us to use her Zoom facility, to Stuart Harrison for his expert hosting, to our excellent speakers for continuing to inform and entertain us unfazed by the technology, and to all our viewers and listeners for joining us throughout. We have regularly had thirty or forty devices joining our talks, and many of these have represented more than one person.

The Committee is already busy organising a planned visit to Buckden Towers in August and preparing to resume our regular monthly meetings at the Pavilion in September, when we will be re-establishing our membership scheme for 2021-22. Meanwhile, there is much well-researched material on our website to enjoy. We are also looking for new Committee members – please get in touch at [info@hemlocs.co.uk](mailto:info@hemlocs.co.uk) if you're interested. Have a great summer!

## **Hemingford Pavilion**

The Pavilion will hopefully be able to return to the pre pandemic conditions from the 21<sup>st</sup> June – with social distancing and other Covid restrictions remaining until then. The bar has now opened for indoor service and we'll be continuing with outdoor service, weather permitting

The summer sports clubs - cricket, tennis and bowls – have started their competitions and matches and new members are always welcome. The cricket and tennis clubs, particularly, have lots of interest from children and young people, but any other interested youngsters are encouraged to join them. For contact details, visit the Pavilion website.

Indoor activities will also soon be in full swing. There's something for everyone: art, exercise (for all ages) and dancing (for adults and children) classes plus many local societies, Hemlocs, WI, etc.

### **Exercise classes at the Pavilion in conjunction with One Leisure**

- Walking football (for adults aged 35+): 10-11am on Tuesdays
- RightStart 3 - Strength and balance exercise (for older people and those requiring additional support to exercise): 3-4pm on Fridays

Classes must be pre-booked, but these can be made online via the One Leisure website, the One Leisure app, or by calling 01480 388111.

**HubClub starting on 2 June, 3pm** - We're taking carefully planned steps to gather small groups for social events at the Pavilion. At our inaugural Club meeting, we'll be asking attendees what interests them, and serving tea and cake. Details of future events will be publicised on our website, village posters, Facebook, via our helpline and volunteers. To book a place for the inaugural meeting, please contact us by phone or email.

**HemingfordHub heads for charity status** - It's a big step for our small group. But village feedback overwhelmingly wants us to continue supporting the community. We will be fund raising for some ambitious projects (to be revealed shortly) and offering Gift Aid to donors.

**Growing green-fingered children** - Our inter-generational activities are thriving, with the school's next competition underway to see who can grow the tallest sunflower. The Hub would like to thank all those who generously donated dozens of flowerpots to the school for this activity.

If you need help or advice, please contact the Hub on T: 07308 035416  
E: [hemingfordhub@icloud.com](mailto:hemingfordhub@icloud.com) [www.hemingfordhub.co.uk](http://www.hemingfordhub.co.uk)

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

The '**Astro Turf Site**' (Application Reference FMW/072/19) remains a key focus of our attention. CCC recently received the additional information they requested from MGL some months ago. We have forwarded a copy to our consultant and await his analysis. Both Planning and Highways Senior Officers at CCC have advised they do not expect to reach a decision until end 2022. We have also established that American Golf have no knowledge of this application and are concerned.

The **New Draft Waste and Minerals Plan** has been approved by the Inspector and is awaiting adoption by CCC. This contains safeguards which are helpful.

E-mailing lists - Please provide any updated/new details to:  
[audra.green@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk](mailto:audra.green@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk)

We continue to strengthen our Board and in particular would like to hear from Property Professionals. If interested, please e-mail:  
[iain.muspratt@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk](mailto:iain.muspratt@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk)

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council



Parish Council meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month in the Reading Room. Meetings are returning to face to face rather than online and dates for our next meetings (there is no meeting in August) are as follows:

Main parish council (including planning) 7.30pm 21 June / 12 July

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](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 Road	494783
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
Robin Waters (vice-chair)	18 Hemingford Road	07833 901680

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 August 2021***