

HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL

I hereby give notice that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 13 May 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room, High Street, Hemingford Grey

The order of business may be varied at the Chairman's discretion.

The Public, Press and County and District Councillors are invited to be present and Members of the Parish are welcome to attend and may speak under the Open Public Session item and make representation to the Council on items on the agenda during this section of the meeting

All members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted at the Meeting as set out hereunder

Ben Stoehr

Mr Ben Stoehr, Clerk 07/05/2024

AGENDA

Annual Business

1. **To elect a Chairman and to receive the declaration of acceptance of office**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **To elect a Vice-Chairman**
4. **Annual appointment of committees, working groups and representatives on any other organisation or authority and also to allocate member responsibilities which the Council deems necessary, including a review of terms of reference, current member roles and responsibilities and review of appointments of residents' responsibilities**
5. **Annual review of land in the ownership or control of the Parish Council**
Comments and observations on agenda items from members of the public and reports from the County & District Councillors
6. **To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda**
7. **To approve the minutes of the meeting on 8 April 2024**
8. **To consider any resolutions from the Annual Parish Meeting**
9. **To consider matters arising from the last or a previous meeting**
 - 9.1 (4.2) Fenstanton and Hemingford Grey LHI bid 2022-23 – to consider increased costs
 - 9.2 (5.4) SSE Business Energy – to consider renewal of contract
 - 9.3 (6.4 of 11.3.24) Dog fouling at Yes Estate playground – to consider correspondence from HDC
 - 9.4 (6.6 of 11.3.24) Transfer of Yes Estate Land to the Parish Council – to consider correspondence from HDC & Solicitors
 - 9.5 (6.7.1 of 11.3.24) Flood defences – to consider response from Environment Agency
 - 9.6 (6.7.2 of 11.3.24) Flood defences – to note responses from other parish councils
 - 9.7 (7.2 of 13.11.23) Street light 200 (corner of The Thorpe and Priors Road) – unauthorised installation of baffle
10. **Finance, procedure and risk assessment**
 - 10.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills
 - 10.2 Clerk report on any actions taken using delegated powers or because of risk or health and safety
 - 10.3 To consider any matter that is urgent because of risk or health and safety
 - 10.4 To consider the RoSPA reports
 - 10.5 To note the designation of The Cock Pub, Daintree Green and Marsh Lane Lakes as Assets of Community Value
11. **To receive reports and items from committees, working groups and members for decision**
 - 11.1 Proposal that the Parish Council considers if any action is required for a milestone on St Ives Road that is leaning ^(NI)

11.2 To note report on Great Ouse Valley Trust AGM ^(RW)

11.3 To note report on Environment Agency (Great Ouse) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee ^(RW)

11.4 To note Houghton Flood Group weekly briefing ^(RW)

12. To consider correspondence/communications received

12.1 Hemingford Pavilion – Request for grant

12.2 Burial Fees appeal

12.3 Hemingford Colts Football Club – Additional Football Pitches

13. Closure of meeting

CLERK REPORT TO HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 13 MAY 2024

Where I have info to support an agenda item this is below.

Please note that this meeting will take place at the Reading Room, High Street, commencing at 7.30 pm following the Planning Committee meeting.

Annual Business

The process and procedure is laid down in standing orders.

1. **To elect a Chairman and to receive the declaration of acceptance of office**

The Chairman will invite nominations, which need to be proposed and seconded and voted on by the elected members. The new elected Chairman to sign the declaration of acceptance of office before the meeting continues.

2. **Apologies**

3. **To elect a Vice-Chairman**

Again, please propose and second and vote on the nomination.

4. **Annual appointment of committees, working groups and representatives on any other organisation or authority and also to allocate member responsibilities which the Council deems necessary, including a review of terms of reference, current member roles and responsibilities and review of appointments of residents' responsibilities**

The Clerk advises that

- The Committees and Working Groups should be less than the Council's majority (i.e. six or less members). To have a majority impedes proper scrutiny, transparency and discussion.
- Committees have to meet in public and have agendas and formal minutes.
- Working Groups may meet or email each other between meetings but they should remember that all information in recordable format, such as emails, is available to the public on request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- Reports should not be verbatim, nor record who said what, nor include any personal information.
- Emails between members should never include all 13 Council members as this is technically the Parish Council discussing business and the Council can only discuss business at a properly convened meeting in public.
- If working groups want to co-opt additional non-Council members then the Parish Council should be informed as a matter of courtesy.
- The Finance Working Group can not contain any members who are not Cllrs.
- The Council uses Working Groups and Task and Finish groups. The first has a longer term remit and the second is tasked to a specific short term project.

The convenor of the working group appointed by the Council is responsible for convening any working group meetings and also submitting a written report and any recommendations or proposals to the Clerk seven clear days before the Council meeting so that these can be included with the agenda and meeting papers and circulated by the Clerk to the Council.

All Working Groups should keep their terms of reference under review and make recommendation to the Council on any suggested or required changes or modifications.

The Committee and Working Group terms of reference, appointments etc as agreed during the last year can be viewed on the Council's approved minutes on the website.

An extract from last year's minutes is below:

Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the membership should consist of all Councillors except for Cllr Jakes.

RESOLVED that Cllr Waters be elected Planning Committee Chairman. (Prop RA, 2nd TJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Meredith be elected Planning Committee Vice-Chairman. (Prop RA, 2nd TJ, unanimous)

Environment Working Group

RESOLVED that the membership should consist of: Cllrs Meredith (Convenor), Jakes, Irish and Flint. (Prop RA, 2nd JF, unanimous)

Finance and Policy Working Group

RESOLVED that the membership should consist of: The Chairman (Convenor), Vice-Chairman, and Cllrs Wright and Elliott. (Prop RA, 2nd JF, unanimous)

Cemetery Working Group

RESOLVED that the membership should consist of: Cllrs Allen (Convenor), Flint, Jakes and Elliott. (Prop RA, 2nd SJ, unanimous)

Community Resilience Working Group

RESOLVED that the membership should consist of: Cllrs Jackson (Convenor), Waters, Irish and Elliott. (Prop RA, 2nd JF, unanimous)

Last year's Member and Officer responsibilities (updated with subsequent changes):

RESOLVED that the following Member and Officer responsibilities be agreed: (Prop RA, 2nd SJ, unanimous)

Tree Wardens – Martin Collings and Alice Mitchell

Meadow Reeves – Cllrs Allen and Jakes

Footpaths – Cllrs Irish and Elliott, and Doug Dew if willing, plus Gary Baker. Any member that sees anything amiss when out walking the public rights of way may report it to the County Council using its online reporting system.

Newsletter Editor – Cllr Allen

Website – Kim Loader assisted by Cllr Flint.

Employment – The Chair and Vice-Chair.

Reading Room representative – Cllr Flint

Langley Trust – Riva Elliott (March 2021) and Annie Waters (Jan 2020).

St Ives Road Safety Committee – Cllr Waters.

Peace Memorial Fields and Pavilion – Cllr Allen

Great Ouse Valley Trust – Cllrs Elliott & Waters

Defibrillator checks – Cllr Irish

Hemingford Hopper – Cllr Wright

5. Annual review of land in the ownership or control of the Parish Council

Land presently in the ownership or control of the Council -

- Daintree Green (including Allotments and Millennium Orchard) – subject to a 30 year lease from 1/1/2004 from HDC
- Yes Development open space at Dunnock Way subject to a 5 year lease from 6th January 2020 from HDC.
- the Parish Cemetery - unregistered at Land Registry
- Vicarage Fields (including the 'island' around the oak tree) – registered with Land Registry
- the Pinders Green play area also known as the Mitchell Close Play area (corner of Pound Road and Mitchell Close) and surrounding grass - registered with Land Registry CB23513
- Maintained by the Parish Council - the grass along the riverside from the High Street to the Hemingford Abbots boundary (adjacent to FP HG11) and the wide 'verge' along the northern section of Love Lane (FP HG5). Also the verge outside No 2-8

High Street. The Parish Council appears not to have any formal or legal 'ownership' of these other than by it having maintained them for many years.

- The various 'estate paths' which are generally not shown as registered to anyone and which usually appear on the Land Registry index map as if they are part of the highway. The Council has generally carried out the minimal maintenance with its handyman.

The estate paths are:

- a. Turberville Court to Gore Tree Road
- b. Priors Close to the Thorpe
- c. Weir Road to The Apple Orchard
- d. Path from south end of Dendys back to Sadlers Way
- e. Path from Limes Court to London Road behind Esso filling station
- f. The Joint

HDC has offered transfer of Phase 1 & Phase 2 of the Yes Development open space to the Parish Council. A Solicitor has been appointed to handle the transfer.

7. To approve the minutes of the last meeting – attached.

8. To consider any resolutions from the Annual Parish Meeting

9. **Matters Arising from the last or a previous meeting**

9.1 (4.2) Fenstanton and Hemingford Grey LHI bid 2022-23 – to consider increased costs

Following the last meeting, CCC responded as follows:

“Thank you for confirming the Parish’s satisfaction with descoping of the Dragons teeth. The parish is expected to make a 35% contribution to the overall cost of the scheme. Based on the estimate received from the contractor, this should be a contribution of £5188.70. Please note that this figure is based on the contractors estimate and there is a likelihood of it increasing, however it should not exceed the parishes £10,000 budget.”

However, they have subsequently written:

“I'd like to provide an update regarding my email sent on Tuesday, April 4th, concerning the Parishes' contribution to the scheme. There was a slight error in my previous email: the Parish is expected to contribute 40% rather than 35%. The total cost of the scheme is projected to be £17,863.61. With this percentage in mind, both parishes are expected a combined contribution of £7,145.44. Could both Fenstanton and Hemingford Parishes please confirm their satisfaction with this cost? Once confirmed, I'll proceed with ordering the works with our contractor.”

9.2 (5.4) SSE Business Energy – to consider renewal of contract

Deferred at the last meeting.

9.3 (6.4 of 11.3.24) Dog fouling at Yes Estate playground – to consider correspondence from HDC

HDC have replied:

“Although Huntingdonshire District Council do not employ a Dog Warden, our Enforcement Officers hold the statutory responsibility for stray dogs and dog-related anti-social behaviour. We have a Public Spaces Protection Order which includes conditions related to dog control (including dog fouling). We have lamppost signage that can be put in place.”

The dog fouling condition of the Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control is active for the whole of the Huntingdonshire District, no specific definition or requirements are needed for land. The main limitation for enforcing the condition is having people report offenders to us. A more effective way to prevent dog fouling in a children’s play park is banning dogs from entering the land. This is typically the case in most children’s play parks in Huntingdonshire.

Looking at the location I would be satisfied that the location could meet the definition as a dog exclusion zone as defined in the PSPO, but it would need to have signposts on each of the entrances to the park. I have got metal signs, but there isn’t anything to affix them to on your entrances.

I would recommend the Parish Council puts in place some free standing posts by each of the park entrances (this needs to be especially clear at the back end of the park), which states the park is subject to dog exclusion – this can simply be a sign with a clear image:



Or, something with more text. I can then supplement these signs with our PSPO information stickers.

I'm assuming the extent of the play park is the area I have marked in red:



I think it is worth the Parish Council gauging what local opinion would be on additional dog restrictions being placed on the area. I am aware that space to exercise dogs in the immediate vicinity is limited, so restrictions may be unpopular with some, so having majority public support would be a good idea.

I am happy to meet with a representative of the Parish Council in person to discuss in more details, if that would be useful.”

Ash Dolling
Community Protection & Enforcement Team Leader

- 9.4 (6.6 of 11.3.24) Transfer of second part of Yes Estate to the Parish Council – to consider correspondence from HDC
The Council's solicitors have written:
"Please find attached a report on the CPSE.7 enquiry replies for your information. I am in the process of negotiating the proposed transfer with the District Council's solicitors. Please let me know if you have any questions."
Report and subsequent emails from and between solicitors are confidential at present (attached for councillors)
- 9.5 (6.7.1 of 11.3.24) Flood defences – to consider response from Environment Agency
Attached.
- 9.6 (6.7.2 of 11.3.24) Flood defences – to note responses from other parish councils
Swavesey Parish Council has written:
"Thank you for your email and the attached letters and information. This is a subject which Swavesey Parish Council and our IDB are both very concerned about. We have seen prolonged flooding of the fens around Swavesey this winter and in January had 12 recorded locations along the bank of the River Gt Ouse in the parish overtopping and adding to the water contained in the flood fens. We are very concerned over the lack of maintenance of existing flood defence structures.
In February the Parish Council wrote to the Secretary of State for the Environment at DEFRA, the Shadow Secretary of State, our MP and the EA and I attach a copy of our letter for your information. I haven't yet received a reply and will be chasing this up with all of them.
We would welcome working with you with regards to highlighting these concerns."
Letter sent by Swavesey Parish Council to Secretary of State attached.
Response from Holywell-cum-Needlingworth Parish Council attached.
- 9.7 (7.2 of 13.11.23) Street light 200 (corner of The Thorpe and Priors Road) – fitting of shade
A baffle has been fitted to the street light but not by the Parish Council.
- 10. Finance, procedure and risk assessment**
- 10.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills
Attached.
- 10.2 Clerk report on any actions taken using delegated powers or because of risk or health and safety
None at the time of writing.
- 10.3 To consider any matter that is urgent because of risk or health and safety
None at the time of writing.
- 10.4 To consider the RoSPA reports
Three reports attached separately due to file size.
- 10.5 Designation of the Cock Pub, Daintree Green and Marsh Lane Lakes as Assets of Community Value
HDC have advised that the above renewals have been successful – Attached separately due to file sizes.
- 11. To receive reports and items from committees, working groups and members for decision**
- 11.1 Proposal that the Parish Council considers a milestone that is leaning
Cllr Irish to report.
- 11.2 To note report on Great Ouse Valley Trust AGM
Cllr Waters writes:
"Two reports and a weekly Houghton 'briefing' to be 'noted' at our next meeting. I'm not sure that the 'proposal' is strictly necessary - we are already committed to engaging with the

RFCC and the forthcoming meeting is by way of a specific briefing/discussion under the RFCC heading.

1. Great Ouse Valley Trust (GOVT) AGM and speaker. I will also be taking this to the EWG on Wednesday because of the 'Nature Friendly Farming Network' which ought to be relevant.

2. EA Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee quarterly meeting - several items of interest.

I am proposing that we take part in a meeting to be set for June(?) when EA flood risk manager has promised to explain current issues to the local parishes.

3. The Houghton Flood Group weekly briefing applies (with the exception of the individual river level gauge) to the Hemingfords and St Ives. We could link to it from our web site." Attached.

11.3 To note report on Environment Agency (Great Ouse) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

Attached.

11.4 To note Houghton Flood Group weekly briefing

Attached.

12. To consider correspondence/communications receive

12.1 Hemingford Pavilion – request for grant

Attached.

12.2 Burial Fees appeal

The attachment is confidential at the request of the applicant.

12.3 Hemingford Colts Football Club – Additional Football Pitches

"I have been asked to update you on a couple of matters regarding Hemingford Colts that you could perhaps relay to the Parish Council.

We will have at least 11 football teams in the under 18 age groups amounting to over 120 players. Although we have some players from outside the village to make up numbers, the majority of teams are mainly made up of children and young adults from Hemingford.

We are recognised by the FA as one of the most successful football clubs in the region. Not just in terms of winning games, leagues and cups, but also for our fairness, inclusivity, governance and development of children and adults.

We have been consulting with the FA over recent months and they have recommended that we look to merge with the adult club - Hemingfords United FC. We are working with their chairman, John Hughes to achieve this.

I recall last April, I wrote a 'needs statement' to assist the Parish Council in applying for the land adjacent to the school to be acquired and used potentially as a leisure facility to include football pitches. Do you have any updates on this?

The reason I am asking is because discussions were also held with the FA regarding our lack of access to reasonable facilities. Although we appreciate we are a grassroots club, it is becoming increasingly difficult to host matches as our grounds (with the exception of the pavilion) are not completely suitable, not just in playing surface quality, but also with the absence of toilet facilities. We are entering more advanced leagues, including Cambridge Leagues and Peterborough Junior Alliance leagues and they are making special allowances to permit the pavilion toilets to be classed as toilet facilities for both the school and Daintree Green such that we can enter the leagues. This is fine on paper but not practical when there is a real need. It may also get to the stage where we are prohibited from entering leagues.

The other reason is because Liquid Skillz have agreed to allow us to have access to their land. This will give us some three pitches of varying size and will offer toilets, parking and refreshments.

We have to make a decision on where we target our time, effort and money.

Liquid Skillz will require planning applications for change of use and also change in operating hours of the site. We have a parent in the club who will arrange all the surveys and prepare and submit all planning applications pro bono, however, there is a circa £8k cost of the work from external consultants in order to form a good application to HDC. Although there is a very high chance of approval, it is not 100%, obviously. Once permission is granted there is then the additional cost of ground work and equipment (goals etc.).

We will get some assistance on the cost of equipment from the Premier League but not everything. Liquid Skillz are offering, as it stands, a three year lease. If it was a ten year lease, the Premier League would gift us considerable funds to develop a good facility.

Through talks with the FA, we also understand that with right, long-term access to land, and with a club contribution of £100k, the Premier League will fund the remaining cost of installing a 3G facility as has been seen with nearby clubs.

We are also in talks with Hilton and Fenstanton with regard to access to their pitches as they do have toilet facilities. Hilton would need groundwork.

We need to do something as we are providing a football club for many Hemingford Children. It is just that we do not know which is the best direction to take, what other support we can get from the Parish Council and whether it is worth waiting for better opportunities, such as the land next to the school.

We are keen to work with the Parish Council such that we make the right decisions and take action that is beneficial to the wider community.”

13. Closure of meeting



000743 SES6788A Z 13599
Hemingford Grey Parish Council
30 West Drive
Highfields Caldecote
Cambridge
CB23 7NY



Customer ID 21490443
Tender ID 2507507
Contact Number 0800 3894466
Email Address SMEDirectSales@sse.com
Date 18 March 2024

Dear Customer

Your SSE Business Energy contract is ending – Your options

We understand that powering your business can be one of the most significant costs you have to pay. It's essential you pick a deal that supports you and your business with all your energy needs.

Your current SSE Business Energy electricity contract for the supply at the address above is due to expire on 31 May 2024, so we are writing to you to let you know how to renew your contract.

The offer we have enclosed on page 3 is for SSE Protect, our fully fixed price tariff, that guarantees all existing charges*, including current non-commodity costs (excluding VAT and Climate Change Levy), for the duration of your contract. So, if these costs rise during the life of the contract, the amount you pay won't – we'll simply cover any increase.†

Here are just some of the benefits you'll enjoy on signing up to SSE Protect:

- *Certainty*: Provides price certainty for the duration of your contract
- *Price continuity*: Removes the need to manage mid-contract price increases
- *Price stability*: Protects you from the price fluctuation of current non-commodity costs

The contract enclosed is for a period of 12 months.

If you would like to hear about the other energy tariffs we have available, we would be happy to discuss these with you – just use the details overleaf.

Our renewal offer is subject to our standard terms and conditions (you can view the terms and conditions by visiting this page on our website sseenergysolutions.co.uk/useful-documents).

We also have other contract lengths and product options available and would be happy to discuss these with you directly.

sseenergysolutions.co.uk



Your offer:

Please note the following prices exclude Climate Change Levy and VAT

Customer: Hemingford Grey Parish Council

| Quote ID | MPAN Prefix | MPAN | Annual Consumption | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 35984972 | 08502150 | 1050001849191 | 845 kWh | | | |
| | | | | Description | Current Rates | Renewal Rates |
| | | | | Monthly Charge | £5.42 | £5.42 |
| | | | | FiTs Recovery Charge | 0.883 p/kWh | 0.877 p/kWh |
| | | | | All Units | 32.87 p/kWh | 22.666 p/kWh |

Site Address: Hemingford Grey Parish Council - Unmetered Supply, Hemingford Grey Parish Council, Street Lighting, Ums, Cambridge CB23 7NY

As standard, your prices include the provision of 100% renewable electricity generated by wind and/or hydro assets wholly or partially owned by SSE Group.

| Quote ID | MPAN Prefix | MPAN | Annual Consumption | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 35984973 | 01504152 | 1050001849207 | 8371 kWh | | | |
| | | | | Description | Current Rates | Renewal Rates |
| | | | | Monthly Charge | £5.42 | £5.42 |
| | | | | FiTs Recovery Charge | 0.883 p/kWh | 0.876 p/kWh |
| | | | | All Units | 33.019 p/kWh | 22.745 p/kWh |

Site Address: Hemingford Grey Parish Council - Unmetered Supply, Hemingford Grey Parish Council, Street Lighting, Ums, Cambridge CB23 7NY

As standard, your prices include the provision of 100% renewable electricity generated by wind and/or hydro assets wholly or partially owned by SSE Group.

2/3
802897092
000743 002221 SES6788A

Report on Great Ouse Valley Trust AGM

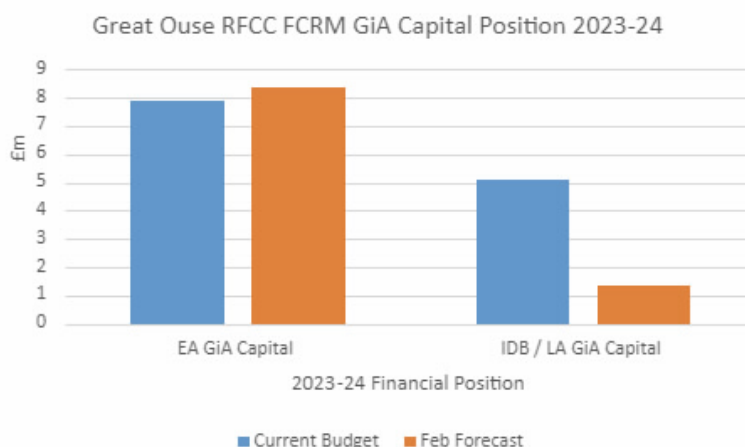
RSW attended the GOVT AGM in Offord Village Hall on Sat 20th April 2024. The affairs of GOVT seem to be in order and officers were re-elected. The current main aim of the organisation is to achieve National Landscape (previously AONB - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) status for the valley from St Neots to Earith as well as the Ouse Washes to Denver. HGPC have endorsed this aim.

After the AGM there was a very passionate and useful talk from Martin Lines (a farmer from South Cambs) who is also the Chief Executive of the Nature Friendly Farming Network, <https://www.nffn.org.uk/>. This is a national organisation of farmers with a future vision '*where farmers are empowered to put nature at the heart of farming, supported by policies that enable and drive this transition*'. They seem to have a philosophy somewhere between the 'traditional' NFU (largely commercial) and the totally organic farming groups. He is an inspiring speaker and seemingly promoting a quite balanced and pragmatic approach to technology, customers and governments. He answered many questions and was quite forthright on the consequences of Brexit and the implementation of the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) that is gradually replacing the CAP.

Report on the EA's Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee quarterly meeting.

RSW attended this meeting as an observer at Alconbury Weald on 25th April 2024 with our flooding adviser, John Hesp. This follows our letter to the EA after the high river levels in January and February and the revelations about the state of our local flood risk management assets such as the St Ives and Brownhill staunches. As observer we were not permitted to speak publicly but were able to talk during breaks to the Chair and some of the members. There were many more observers than usual including from St Ives, Houghton, Needingworth, Bluntisham, Hemingford Abbots, Fenstanton and Swavesey.

We were assured that a reply to our concerns would be provided soon but were NOT reassured that it would contain any significant improvement in the management of the assets! Despite several members of the committee agreeing that our concerns were justified, it was clear that 'bids' by their teams for repairs and maintenance were literally decimated at final budget stage. The St Ives area team claims to have bid for £70k but only been allocated £7k in the last year. It is quite clear that asset maintenance is not properly funded despite the capital budget having been underspent by £3M!! See below.



Grant in Aid (GiA) is central government funding

Internal Drainage Board (IDB) / Local Authority (LA) is local funding

Our flood gate between the High St and the Church was featured as an example of maintenance work carried out over the winter. (See pictures below)

Floodgate Seal Replacements at Church Lane (Hemingford Grey)

Following recent routine visual asset inspections and operational checks undertaken by the Field Team, it was identified that seals on the Quiet Waters Caravan Park and Church Lane floodgates were defective. Despite delays due to the significant rainfall this winter, the works were completed by our external contractors. The works also included patch repairs to paint work and greasing of the gate's hinges.



Photographs above: (left) before works, (right) after.

The RFCC has agreed to set up a meeting for local parishes and other interested parties to explain the St Ives area issues and decisions – this will likely be in June. HGPC should certainly participate. One contentious issue is the number of dwellings estimated to be saved from flooding at any particular river level based on computer modelling. It was admitted that this is currently based on out of date input data (inc. climate, topography, census) and better data should be incorporated later this year.

Nigel Swabey from the Houghton Flood Group is now a member of the RFCC and also confirmed that his weekly weather summaries can be used for other parishes. Chris Bowden (lay member of our EWG) is also on the committee as the EA's Conservation Appointee.

RSW 27 April 2024

Houghton Flood Group Briefing 17/2024 – Saturday 27 April 2024 (copied with permission!)

Current flood warning status <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/find-location>

There are no Flood Alerts or Warnings on the Great Ouse.

Rainfall – reported weekly by the EA – latest data issued is for 17-23 April 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/weekly-rainfall-and-river-flow-reports-for-england>

| (LTA = Long term average) | Central England (Upstream) | East England (This area) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Week (17-23 Apr) | 8mm | 10mm |
| Month to date (April) | 66mm (123% of LTA) | 45mm (96% of LTA) |
| Last month (Mar) | 96mm (166% of LTA) | 47mm (100% of LTA) |
| Last 3 months (Jan - Mar) | 271mm (155% of LTA) | 203mm (150% of LTA) |
| Last 6 months (Oct - Mar) | 635mm (170% of LTA) | 493mm (165% of LTA) |
| Last 12 months (April - Mar) | 1003mm (139% of LTA) | 809mm (135% of LTA) |

Weather warnings <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings>

There are no Met Office weather warnings for the week ahead for the UK.

River Levels <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels?river-id=river-great-ouse>

Houghton Lock at 07:00 today - 'Steady' and 'Normal' at 0.28 metres (Normal range is 0.26 - 0.45m)

Almost all recording stations upstream are trending 'Steady' (based on the last 5 readings) and the levels are 'Normal'.

Short-term forecast <http://meteoblue.com>

| | Sat 20 | Sun 21 | Mon 22 | Tue 23 | Wed 24 | Thurs 25 | Fri 26 |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Precipitation | 5-5 mm | 10-20 mm | 0 mm | 0 mm | 5-10 mm | 5-10 mm | 2-5 mm |
| Max temp | 10° | 11° | 15° | 19° | 20° | 18° | 17° |
| Min temp | 4° | 6° | 5° | 7° | 9° | 10° | 9° |
| Sunshine | 1 hr | 1 hr | 8 hrs | 8 hrs | 0 hrs | 1 hr | 6 hrs |
| Wind speed and direction | NE 11 mph | N 13 mph | S 16 mph | SE 16 mph | S 5 mph | NW 7 mph | N 10 mph |
| Confidence (max 4*) | **** | ** | *** | *** | ** | * | * |

Long range weather forecast - <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/long-range-forecast>

Thursday 2 May - Saturday 11 May

In the first part of this period, many areas of the UK are expected to see periods of rain or showers. Some of these showers will be heavy and thundery, with the greatest chance of thunderstorms in the southeast. Along with this will be a fair amount of low cloud in the east at times, with spells of coastal fog, but also temperatures generally above average for the time of year. Overall, northwestern parts of the UK are likely to be driest and sunniest. Through the second week, temperatures will return closer to normal, perhaps dipping back below average, but it will also tend to turn gradually drier and more settled, with changeable conditions most likely to hang on longest in the south and southeast.

Sunday 12 May - Sunday 26 May

In this period, the chances of unsettled weather are slightly less than usual in the north and about the same as usual further south. Therefore, some spells of wet weather are likely for all, but perhaps especially across southern areas while the driest conditions relative to normal are probably further north. The chance of below or above average temperatures is fairly balanced overall, but it is worth noting that average temperatures themselves rise by around 1°C per week at this time of year.

Water situation (East Anglia) – local area monthly reports - March 2023 (updated 15 April)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-situation-local-area-reports>

1. Summary

Following an extremely wet February, rainfall during March was normal across much of East Anglia with no areas experiencing exceptionally high rainfall as all did last month. Regional soil moisture deficit (SMD) has transitioned from exceptionally low to below normal since February, but soils remain close to field capacity. Monthly river flows were subsequently exceptionally high at several sites due to good responsiveness to the rainfall received. Furthermore, high base flow is likely contributing due to the exceptionally high groundwater levels across the majority of the region, which are still recharging at a number of locations. All reservoirs are at or above their normal levels, with most above their normal operating curves.

2. Rainfall

March 2024 rainfall was normal for most hydrological areas, with only the Lower Bedford Ouse, South Essex and Cam receiving above normal rainfall and the Upper Bedford Ouse receiving notably high rainfall. The 3, 6 and 12-month totals for the region are almost entirely dominated by exceptionally high rainfall, with no areas for any total classified as normal or below.

3. Soil moisture deficit and recharge

The East Anglia SMD for the end of March in all areas was below 10mm with a regional average of 6mm, which is below normal for the time of year. This has increased both in value and relative to the long-term average (LTA) since February for the end of which the SMD was notably low at 2mm. Recharge has stopped at most monitoring boreholes for which we have data, but continues at 7 boreholes which have shown an increase in groundwater levels since February.

4. River flows

Monthly average river flows for March have remained exceptionally high for a number of sites in the North and West of the region, with many more being notably high. The only exceptions are the Bure, Yare, Waveney and Gipping in the East, which have above normal flows. Though rainfall this past month was reduced significantly, the high groundwater levels and soil moisture are maintaining these high flows through base flow and high amounts of runoff from the reduced rainfall.

5. Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels have stopped rising at all but 7 of the monitoring sites for which we have sufficient data. Despite the reduced rainfall this month, the exceptionally wet past few months have led to significant amounts of recharge which is still seeing a lagged response at these locations. Levels remain exceptionally high at all monitoring sites except for Rook Hall at above normal levels and Therfield Rectory at notably high levels. There is a fair likelihood that that these regional levels will remain above normal at many locations late into the year.

6. Reservoir stocks

Reservoir stocks remain at good levels, Grafham at a normal 85% capacity and all others above normal or higher at 90 to 98% of their capacity. Grafham and Ardleigh are slightly below their normal operating curves for the time of year.

7. Forward look

The river flow projections indicate a very high likelihood of normal and above normal flows for June 2024, with a fair likelihood of notably high and exceptionally high flows. The likelihood of notably high and exceptionally high flows is projected to increase for September.

The following report has not changed since the last briefing

Three-month weather outlook for April to June (published on 1 April)

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index>

This outlook provides an indication of possible temperature, rainfall and wind speed conditions over the next 3 months. It is produced for contingency planners working within Government, local authorities and businesses who make risk-based decisions for longer timescales.

Temperature - there is a slightly increased chance of a warm 3-month period compared to normal

Precipitation - there is a moderately increased likelihood of a wet period compared to normal

Wind - the chances of a windy period are moderately higher than normal.

Hemingford Grey Parish Council
30 West Drive
Highfields Caldecote
Cambridge
CB23 7NY

Our ref: AMC/2024/21738

Your ref AMC/2024/21738

Date: 19 April 2024

Dear Hemingford Grey Parish Council,

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2024 regarding the flood defences around Hemingford Grey.

As confirmed at the January RFCC meeting, four out of the seven gates at St Ives Staunch Sluice are in poor condition and therefore have been isolated in the closed position. Furthermore, Brownhill Staunch Sluice located downstream is in poor condition and two of the three gates have been isolated in the closed position. This action is to manage the risk of the gates becoming stuck open, which would leave us unable to maintain statutory water levels for navigation upstream, which is a legal obligation of the Environment Agency.

Both structures are Environment Agency owned assets that provide little to no flood risk benefit and are primarily operated to maintain water level for navigation. Consequently, the structures have not attracted sufficient Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant-in-Aid (FCRM GIA) funding to carry out repairs. We are continuing to seek alternative funding arrangements.

The area endured a particularly wet winter with multiple named storms causing prolonged high river levels. February 2024 stands out as being the wettest since records begin in 1891. We recognise the impact the recent flooding has had on the local community, with a small number of properties experiencing internal flooding, and the local concern about the perceived impact the condition of both St Ives and Brownhill Staunch Sluices might have had.

When applying for FCRM GIA funding we need to evidence the FCRM benefits of the structure. To help demonstrate the FCRM benefits of the structure we use hydraulic modelling. We modelled several operating scenarios to determine the impact of flood risk upstream of St Ives Staunch Sluice including:

- Scenario 1: All Seven gates operational.
- Scenario 2: Four gates operational, three gates closed.
- Scenario 3: 7 gates closed.

The model output for scenario 2 demonstrates no additional properties are at risk and for scenario 3, 1 additional property is at risk at the 20% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) and 2 additional properties are at risk at the 1% AEP. Furthermore, the river level difference upstream of the sluice drops to none, approximately 0.3km for scenario 2 and approximately 1km for scenario 3. Therefore, demonstrating that the current condition of St Ives Staunch Sluice does not have a significant effect on the risk of properties flooding.

In the case of Brownhill, if the same principle is applied, we expect very limited increased flood risk. We are however, reviewing the existing modelling for Brownhill, to fully understand the likely effects should all three gates be closed.

We're actively working across the Environment Agency to identify a long-term approach for the two structures considering their primary function and current funding challenges. We expect this to take some time, so in the meantime we are continuing our inspection regime, where funded, at both structures to ensure they remain safe and to monitor their condition. This includes operational checks, visual asset inspections, MEICA (mechanical, electrical, instrumentation, control, and automation) maintenance on operational elements, PSRA (public safety risk assessment) inspections and ongoing reviews of our contingency plans.

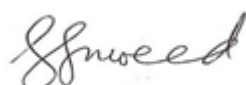
The flood defences in the wider area around St Ives and Hemingford are inspected visually on an annual basis and are as you describe, in "Fair" condition. Our visual inspections assess elements of each asset and rate their condition. It may therefore be the case that each element appears in good or fair order, however at times of high levels some seepage occurs, but this is not evident at the time of inspection. When there is evidence of a potential or confirmed mode of failure we would look to reassess and look to re-rate the condition and then consider appropriate remedial action.

The St Ives and Hemingford defences structures are constructed on permeable material below surface level. Permeable materials allow water to pass through them hence seepage may occur. A scheme to prevent seepage in this area was unviable and therefore what has been constructed was considered acceptable. Seepage through failed construction joints, for example, can be rectified however, we do not expect this to be evident as you have stated around Manor Road, which is likely due to the highly saturated ground following the recent storms. We would recommend you contact the lead local flood authority to raise your concerns regarding surface water drainage.

Regarding seepage along flood banks, including in the Victoria Terrace and Manor Road areas, if there is any video or photographic evidence available or the locations of seepage marked on a map we would welcome this information for further investigation. As part of the follow up to Storm Henk and other recent high storms, we have undertaken further inspections. and have further assessments planned to investigate areas of seepage or failure of the asset by other means.

I trust this has answered the matters raised to your satisfaction. If I can be of further help in this, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely,



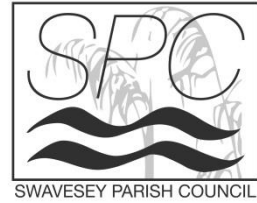
Sadia Moeed
Area Director East Anglia, West

Tel: 02030 255472

Email: areamanagercorrespondence.eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk

Swavesey Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Council
The Memorial Hall
High Street
Swavesey
Cambridge
CB24 4QU
Tel: (01954) 202982



E-mail: clerk@swavesey.org.uk
Website: www.swavesey.co.uk

6th February 2024

The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Sent via Email: stephen.barclay.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Barclay

Re: Flood Risk around Swavesey Parish, Cambridgeshire

Swavesey Parish Council wishes to draw your attention to the concerns it has around flood risk to Swavesey Parish from the River Gt Ouse, which flows along the Parish Council boundary.

The Parish Council has for many, many years now been in correspondence and discussions with The Environment Agency (EA) about the lack of maintenance and funding allocated to the riverbank through the Parish. The bank is below its design height of 5.94 m and is eroding. The riverbank through Swavesey Parish should be at 5.8m rising to 5.95m. A report from Atkins in 2003 stated that the banks are between 5.2m to 5.7m and minimal maintenance has taken place since that report.

The EA is aware of this and over the years has commissioned various modelling work and reports but funding is never allocated and the bank becomes more eroded. During January the level of rainfall and height of the river resulted in water overtopping the riverbank into our flood fens at 12 recorded locations along the bank. I attach photos to show some of these.

We are very concerned that many areas here, and elsewhere, are at risk of flooding due to poor maintenance of existing structures and lack of funding towards that maintenance by the EA.

Funding needs to be provided to maintain existing structures and provide flood defences and not just allocated to new structures.

We wish to bring this to your attention and ask that consideration be given to ensuring that existing flood defence structures and in particular main riverbanks are maintained to at least design height and sufficient funding allocated to ensure ongoing and regular maintenance.

We would be pleased to discuss this further with you and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

L A Miller

Linda Miller
Clerk

Cc: Mr Steve Reed MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Ms Phil Hulme, Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for East Anglia Area (Great Ouse catchment),
Environment Agency
Mr Anthony Browne MP, South Cambridgeshire

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Needingworth Village Hall,
Overcote Lane
Needingworth
St Ives
Cambs
PE27 4TU
Tel/Fax: 01480 468451
Email:needingworthpc@btconnect.com

Cllr R Allen (Chairman)
Hemingford Grey Parish Council
30 West Drive
Highfields Caldecote
Cambridge
CB23 7NY

17TH April 2024.

Dear Councillors,

Thank you for your letter dated 26th March 2024 concerning the flooding and the lack of maintenance by the Environment agency of the flood defences in the area.

Council considered your letter at a meeting held on 16th April 2024 and I am asked to write expressing the Councils shared concerns and support for your actions in this matter.

As you are aware Holywell has always flooded as it is part of the river Great Ouse flood plain however, this is happening more frequently with the road having been closed on 3 separate occasions this year so far. Whilst nobody can control the weather and the extremely high rainfall experienced, the brook Holywell Front has not been dredged for some time and Council feels this is contributing to the problems.

Members are also aware of the issues at Brownhill staunch.

Whilst Council is unable to send a representative to the next EA RFCC meeting, they would ask that you keep them advised of developments.

Sincerely,

JBowd

Miss J Bowd
Parish Clerk,

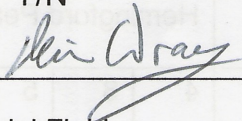
HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL

| | |
|---|--|
| Description of voluntary organisation or charitable body and its aims. <i>(please use a separate sheet if needed)</i> | Hemingford Peace Memorial Field Hemingford Pavilion |
| Description of the project or programme for which this application is being made. <i>(please use a separate sheet if needed)</i> | Playing field maintenance |
| Please describe the direct benefit to the area or any part of the area or all or some of the inhabitants of Hemingford Grey <i>(please use a separate sheet if needed)</i> | The playing field are open for and use by residents of Hemingford Grey & Abbots. This requires weekly maintenance of the fields to ensure they are suitable for use. |
| Amount of grant aid applied for | £2,700.00 |
| What is the total cost of this project? Please provide details of how this figure is built up. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary | Grass cutting £2,500.00 Hedge trimming £500.00 Fertiliser £200.00 Contract Weed killing £400.00 Total £3,600.00 |
| Have you applied for, been promised or received Grants/Donations from any other sources for this project? If so, from whom? | Applied to Hemingford Abbots Parish Council |
| Number of members in the organisation/body | 13 Trustees |
| Number of members resident in the parish of Hemingford Grey | No direct numbers but over 500 through the clubs associated with HPMF |
| Special/other considerations <i>(please use a separate sheet if needed)</i> | |

Please complete the following declaration

I declare that the information given is correct.

A summary of accounts is attached Y/N

Name: Kevin Wray Signed  Date 9/4/2024

On behalf of: Hemingford Peace Memorial Field

Position in organisation/body: Trustee & Treasurer