

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

February 2024



# *Notes from the Chair*

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

Weather events resulting in flooding, a cold snap, and storms can lead to impassable roads, potholes or fallen trees. While inconvenient, annoying, and sometimes dangerous, they can easily be reported to the County Council via their website and the more people that do, the quicker they generally are resolved. The recent weather also clearly shows us that winter isn't over yet. At the same time, the flowering Witch Hazel and Aconites, and lighter evenings are pointing the way to the coming Spring.

The beginning of the year, always provides us with an opportunity to consider new resolutions or identify things we'd like to get involved in. We currently have three vacancies on the Parish Council and would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join us. If being a Councillor isn't your thing, you can still all do your bit to maintain the parish – why not become a Tree Warden or join in at our upcoming litter pick.

We are keen to measure local need for and potential usage of a Hoppa bus service running between the Hemingfords and St Ives (including the Guided Bus stop and supermarkets). On pages 7 and 8 you will find a survey, we would really appreciate it if you could complete and return it.

Finally, while the Council continues to seek ways to improve the parish and our village environment, we know we don't have all the answers or even all the questions. We would therefore love to hear from you if you have any thoughts or ideas that we can consider. Please email me or come to one of meetings.



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

# Parish Council Updates

## Grants available for local organisations – apply now!

The Parish Council has a limited amount of money remaining in this year's budget to award grants to local groups, charities, or organisations for "purposes, which may bring a direct benefit to the area or any part of it for some or all the inhabitants". An application form is available from the Parish Clerk and any received will be considered at our March meeting.

## Recent high water

In early January the Great Ouse reached its highest levels at Hemingford and St Ives gauges since December 2020. However, this time the



Environment Agency (EA) only declared a Flood Alert for our area unlike during the previous event when it caused a certain amount of panic with a Flood Warning! At its highest the river was still about half a metre from the top of our flood bank but because the river stayed high for several days, there was a fair amount of seepage

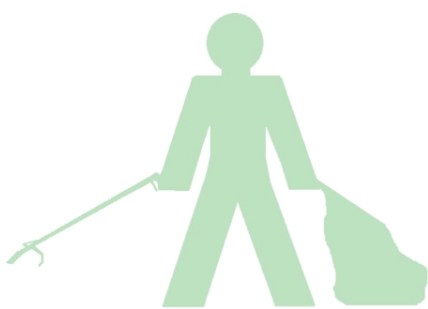
under the bank. This meant that both the main and standby EA pumps at Filberts Walk were in full use and that Manor Road was flooded around the pavilion bends. We have not heard of any houses being affected but the Apple Orchard sewer did overflow for a couple of days with the effluent finding its way to the surface water drain and thence onward to the Marsh Lane lake.

The Council are still keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in volunteering for the Parish's flood and resilience group, be that as a coordinator, member or someone who could quickly offer skills and knowledge to the community during any large-scale emergency.

If you'd like to get involved or volunteer, then please let us know.



## Community Litter Pick – Saturday 23 March 2024



Calling all volunteers! The annual Parish Council Spring Litter Pick will take place Saturday 23 March 2024, 10am – 12 noon. If you are interested in taking part, please meet at either Daintree Green or Yes Development (Play area). Litter-pick equipment including hi-vis vests, gloves, grabbers, and rubbish bags will be provided. Complementary refreshments will be available at the Grey House café for all volunteers on completion. Please visit PC website or see posters nearer the time for further details, or contact Janice Flint on 07816 438765 or [janice.flint@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:janice.flint@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Updating and improving our play areas

At its November meeting the Council allocated further funds in next year's budget to progress our desire to update and improve the play areas at Daintree Green and on the Yes Development. We've previously received requests for a basketball hoop, a table tennis table, a skate ramp, adult gym equipment and accessible playground equipment. While we may not be able to provide all of these, we're still keen to hear any other ideas or suggestions that you would like considered. Please email [richard.allen@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:richard.allen@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## It could be you!

The Parish Council currently has several vacancies for Councillors. Being a Parish Councillor gives you the opportunity to play a key role in the decisions that affect life in our village and to make a positive contribution to the many areas of work the Parish Council is involved in.



If you're interested in becoming a parish Councillor, the first step would be to attend one or more of our meetings as an observer, or to get in touch with one of our existing Councillors or Clerk who can explain what's involved. Being a Parish Councillor is a part-time commitment that many of our Councillors manage around full or part-time jobs, family, and other commitments. If you think you fit the bill and you have some time to spare, then please do get in touch.

## Environment Working Group (EWG) – All welcome

If you care about where you live and want to become more involved in improving your parish environment, please join us at the forthcoming Environmental Working Group (EWG) meetings on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February between 7.30 and 8.30pm in the Reading Room, High Street.

## New Tree Warden appointed

The Council are delighted to welcome Alice Mitchell as our new Tree Warden. Alice was formally appointed at the Council's January meeting.

The Tree Wardens report to the Planning Committee but have delegated responsibility to respond on Tree Works applications for the Parish Council and the village as a whole. Tree Wardens will, where necessary, carry out a site visits to view the proposals to assist with preparing a response. Tree Wardens also provide advice on trees and hedges to the Environment Working Group to assist it in preparing recommendations for formal approval by Council.

If you'd also be interested in becoming a Tree Warden, please contact Anne Meredith, [anne.meredith@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:anne.meredith@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk) Terms of reference are available from the Clerk for those who would like to learn more about this voluntary role.

## Reporting potholes and other highways faults



Potholes continue to be an ongoing issue for all motorists and the recent flooding and cold snap have further damaged our local roads. Please report highways faults (even if it's been previously reported) using the County Council's Highways Reporting Tool ([highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)).

Faults reported in this way will be assessed by a Local Highways Officer within 10 working days.

To report a highways emergency that poses an **immediate danger to the public**, please call Cambridgeshire Highways on 0345 045 5212.

## 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 HDC's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications.

Residents are urged to make their own comments on the HDC website.

Councillors will usually call on the applicant and relevant neighbours to explain how the council considers applications and how residents can make their views known to the parish council and to HDC. The next Planning Committee meeting will be at 7pm on Monday February 12th in the Reading Room, High Street.

### Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC/CCC ref.	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
18/02726/FUL	Murketts garage London Rd – 49 dwellings	Comments	Approved*
20/00285/FUL	Vindis showroom, Low Rd – 94 dwellings. New Details of landscaping.	Refusal.	Approved*
CCC/23/093/FUL	Envar. St Ives Rd, Somersham – new waste transfer station application, etc.	Refusal	Pending consideration
CCC/21/088/FUL	APP/E0535/W/23/3331431 Envar appeal against refusal of original application that included a clinical waste incinerator	HGPC not active in appeal	In progress
23/00435/HHFUL	18 The Brambles – Erection of block wall	Refusal	Refused
23/01194/FUL	Mere Way, - farm building conversion	Refusal	Approved
23/01480/HHFUL	12, Gore Tree Rd – front & rear extensions	Approval	Approved
23/01190/HHFUL	8, Church St – new garage & convert old	Approval	In progress
23/01818/LBC	67 High Street – Instal mezzanine and other internal alterations	No recommendation	Approved
23/01823/FUL	Czardas, Pound Road – Subdivision of existing plot and erection of new single storey semi-detached dwelling	Approval with conditions	Refused
23/02041/HHFUL	28 Weir Road – Side and front extensions	Approval	Pending decision
23/02348/HHFUL	24 Church St – Partially retrospective for change of roofing material and extension to rear of approved garage (in 22/02436)	Part approval / refusal + conditions	In progress
23/02433/HHFUL 23/02434/LBC	52 High St – Retiling rear roof, renovation dormer windows, erection new kitchen	Approval	In progress
23/02444/HHFUL	White Rock, Long Lane – first floor ext'n	Approval	In progress
23/02466/HHFUL	36 Marsh Lane – extensions, first floor extension, car-port	Approval with conds	In progress
23/02468/HHFUL	19A The Thorpe – Single storey extensions	Approval	In progress

\*Neighbouring councils but HGPC monitoring for surface water and traffic issues.

# Hemingfords' Hoppa Bus Survey

The Hemingfords' once had a robust public transport service. The Parish Councils, Church and HemingfordHub are exploring potential solutions to what may or may not be a problem for villagers. We therefore need your input to measure local need for, and potential usage of, a Hoppa bus service running between the Hemingfords and St Ives (including the Guided Bus stop and supermarkets). Do you think we need one?

Please answer these questions for yourself and those in your household. We do not need your name or any personal details. All answers provided will be kept strictly confidential.

**1. Do you currently make trips into St. Ives via (tick as many as apply)**

- |                               |                          |            |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Your own car                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Walk       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lifts from family and friends | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cycle      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hunts Volunteer car scheme    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dews Bus   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Licensed Taxi                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**2. Would you, or someone in your household ever use a Hemingfords to St Ives Hoppa Bus service? (tick as many as apply)**

- I would  Others in my household would

**3. How often would you, and/or those in your household, use it?**

- |                   |                          |                      |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Every day         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Several times a week | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1-3 times a month | <input type="checkbox"/> | Infrequently         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never             | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |                          |

**4. Where would you (or others you know of) like to be able to pick up a Hoppa bus?**

- At home
- Within 100 metres (yards) of my front door
- No more than a quarter of a mile from my home
- At specific locations, please specify:

**5. What destinations would you (or others you know of) like to be able to reach? Please specify:**

In Hemingford Grey:

In Hemingford Abbots:

In St Ives:

**6. Please indicate your age:**

Under 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 19-25	<input type="checkbox"/>
25-40	<input type="checkbox"/>	41-60	<input type="checkbox"/>
61-75	<input type="checkbox"/>	75+	<input type="checkbox"/>

**7. How many people live in your household?**

One  Two  3-5  6+

**8. Where do you live?**

Hemingford Grey  Hemingford Abbots

**9. Are you in favour of charging a small fare for using the bus?**

Yes  No  Don't Know

If yes, how much would you consider a reasonable charge? £

**10. At what times do you think a bus should run?**

From: 6am  7am  8am  Later (please write in time):

To: 6pm  7pm  8pm  Later (please write in time):

Monday to Friday?

Every day of the week?

Other (please write in):

**11. Any other comments:**

**PLEASE LEAVE YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES AT BUDGENS,  
HIGH ST, HEMINGFORD GREY, BY 29 FEBRUARY 2024**



# Community Matters

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

Christmas already seems like a long time ago, but we had an excellent party in the Abbots village hall with a wonderful meal prepared by Dickie Brooks' Mountain Catering and an entertaining quiz compiled and compered by Bruce Garner, who was also responsible for the generous prize table. Thanks to all the committee members, and Dickie and Bruce especially, for helping to make the event such a success. Our 2023/24 season has already resumed with a talk from the Norris Museum, and over the coming months we can look forward to hearing about Ramsey Abbey, the Cold War, Huntingdonshire airfields, and Lucy Boston. The third Thursday of the month, 7.30pm at the Pavilion. See you there.

## **Hemingfords Badminton Club**

Monday Evening at 7pm - Court 3, One Leisure, St Ives.  
Contact Sue Crafer on 07738 549598 or [sue@crafer.co.uk](mailto:sue@crafer.co.uk)

**Hemingford Ladies Choir** is a friendly, traditional four-part Ladies Choir. We rehearse every Wednesday morning from 10a.m. to 11.30a.m. in St Ives Free Church under the direction of Elaine Gunn and we sing everything from Bach to Beatles. If you love to sing and are looking for fun and friendship or would like more information, please contact Viv Oxley on 01480 417925 or [vivienneoxley64@gmail.com](mailto:vivienneoxley64@gmail.com)

## **Hemingford Grey Garden Society** *by Mike Henderson*

There's not a lot to talk about on gardening matters at this time of year, except to say that we have continued with an excellent series of speakers. We had Joe Sharman in December on Herbaceous Perennials who always gives a good talk, and David Coop of Elsoms Seeds, who gave a really interesting talk on seeds and plant breeding just last Thursday (11th). We are having our annual social on 20th January in the village hall in Hemingford Abbots when we hope to see as many members as possible, entertained by the local group, Acoustics Anonymous, who always perform brilliantly.

## **Hemingford Colts**

It has been a great start to the year, with most fixtures going ahead despite the weather! The Blue Sox Under 10s romped to victory in the quarter final of the Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League Knockout cup, securing a 3-1 win and a well-earned place in the semi-final. The Under 12s were victorious in the third round of the Huntingdonshire Youth League County Cup, battling a closely fought game to secure a 2-1 win.

Thanks to a Premier League grant, and in conjunction with the Parish Council, plans are now underway to install a defibrillator near Daintree Green; a welcomed life-saving device for our village football club and local community.

Hemingford Colts would like to wish all our players, volunteers, and supporters a happy new year!

Helen Hollebon ([welfare.officer@hemingfordcolts.co.uk](mailto:welfare.officer@hemingfordcolts.co.uk))

## **Hemingford Park Cricket Club**

Hemingford Park CC just wrapped up another awesome season on our upgraded grounds – now with a cool artificial wicket. Our youth teams rocked it, and the senior Saturday league snagged a sweet 3rd place. We've got this growing cricket family, thanks to some talented folks from around the village. That's brought even more life to our pavilion BBQs and band nights. We're all about welcoming new players and supporters, so hit up Ross at [hemingfordparkcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:hemingfordparkcricketclub@gmail.com). Let's keep the good vibes going into the new year!

## **Hemingford Bowls Club**

Hemingford Bowls Club will welcome members old and new at the start their 2024 season, at the beginning of April.

The club have a number of activities planned for the new season, including an increased number of coaching sessions for new members, who if they have never played before will enjoy free membership for 2024; so come along and enjoy this exciting and skillful game in the fresh air in a friendly and highly social atmosphere. It's more interesting than you might think!

Further details from club secretary [johnebatter@icloud.com](mailto:johnebatter@icloud.com)

We need your help and support to fund the rebuilding of our Playpark at the Pavilion which for many years has been a much loved and well used asset of our community.

# PAVILION PLAYPARK

Fund Raising  
target  
£100,000

Raised so far  
£10,000

If you would like to make a donation,  
please contact:  
Nigel, Sarah-Jane, Richard & Gill at  
[hemingfordppp@gmail.com](mailto:hemingfordppp@gmail.com)



## Caring comes local

Care Micro Enterprises (CME) provide care and support services in the local community. The support covers not just carers but handy people, cleaners, gardeners, etc. All people are vetted by the local authority and come with the reassurance that they are part of the wider community. It's a very efficient way to get help at a reasonable cost.

## Our Facebook page is broken

Our 500-member private Facebook group page was disabled last September, and we've been unable to find out why. If anyone has any ideas... we would be so very grateful. Meanwhile we will be posting notices and upcoming events on the Hemingford Community page.

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

- Feb 14 Fun and Games, cards, jigsaws etc
- Feb 28 Have a Go Art session for inner expression
- Mar 13 Visit to Parish Centre for Fun and Games
- Mar 27 Film show and ice creams
- Seated exercises - Feb 7 & 21, Mar 6 & 20

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

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council

*Proud to serve the people of Hemingford Grey*



The Parish Council now meets in the **Reading Rooms** on the **second Monday of each month** (except August and December) at 7.00pm for the planning meeting and 7.30pm for the main parish council meeting.

All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and the first ten minutes or so are open to residents to ask questions or make comments and observations on matters or on items on the agenda (please note that after this time, further comments or questions are not permitted when the meeting is in progress).

Agendas are posted on our website and on the village notice boards. Information is also available on our social media pages:

**Website:** [www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc](http://www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/hemgreypc](http://www.twitter.com/hemgreypc)

## Parish councillors:



**Richard Allen**  
(Chair)

**Maristowe, London Road**  
494783



**Robin Waters**  
(V/C)

**18 Hemingford Road**  
07833 901680



**Maria Di Gaetano**

**17 Dunnock Way**  
07444 330921



**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 Road**  
466813



**Anne Meredith**

**18 De Vere Close**  
465774



**Stephen Wright**

**20 Weir Road**  
07429 956982

All our councillors can be emailed using the following format:  
***firstname.lastname@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk***

**Parish Clerk:** Ben Stoehr, 30 West Drive, Highfields, Caldecote, CB23 7NY  
Tel: 01954 210241, Email: [parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

***The next edition of the newsletter will be out in April 2024***

Published by Hemingford Grey Parish Council. Editor: Cllr Richard Allen