

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Meeting held on Wednesday 31st May 2017 at 7:00pm at the
Hemingford Abbots Village Hall

Footpath & River Warden Report - May 2016

FOOTPATHS

All references are to footpaths as detailed and numbered on the 'Public Rights of Way in and around Hemingford Abbots' - copies of the latest reprint have been provided free to Axe & Compass, HA Village Hall, Houghton Post Office and Stores and Houghton Mill

Footpaths 5,7&8 – Across the Meadow to Houghton Lock Bridge or immediately before left along the Ouse Valley Way or right to a dead end opposite Battocks Island
The gate from Hemingford Abbots has dropped and does not fasten when closed – I will chase Cambridgeshire Highways. **Recommendations: HAPC should arrange for notices from Parish Council to support Farmers re Dog control when livestock on Meadow.**

Footpaths 2 and 3 – From the side of Beechers House to the River Bank and Quay at Hemingford Grey
In good condition but will need strimming before the Flower Festival. One gate fastening needs refixing

Footpath 4 – From the end of Common Lane to the A14 layby
This is probably never used and large sections remain unwalkable. Stiles are in poor condition and the better alternative is to walk on Common

Footpath 1 – From New Road to the A14 joining with Footpath 6 (F6) from The Thorpe in Hemingford Grey
The first section to the junction of F6 is signposted from New Road and well delineated by use. It ends 'dead' in a hedge by the A14 and there is no signpost there. The more practical route continues to be to use F6 to Gore Tree Road via The Thorpe and the section from The Thorpe to Gore Tree Road is more used than previously

Roads and Speed Limits

Roads are also footpaths and can be dangerous to walk because of poor maintenance and high vehicle speeds. The new speed signs have led to less speeding through the village itself. **The failure to block of the area of highway that used to lead to the old Shell Garage results in much flytipping** and that is also happening in the small layby where the recycling bin is located. The lack of vision at the junction of Rideaway and the A14 spur has got much worse and trees need to be lopped

Verges

I appreciate this is a contentious matter but where there are no pavements obstructions continue to represent a hazard.

RIVER

The River is in generally good condition but some further tree removal needs to be undertaken by rights owners at Battocks Island opposite the Manor House. River Flows have been poor and recent rain has led to a welcome improvement.

GENERAL

I would like to record gratitude to the farmers who look after the land surrounding our footpaths and also to those who allow wider access than the footpath itself. Lack of control of dogs by owners is poor recompense which is why I believe notices should be provided by HAPC. Houghton have just issued sprays to highlight dog fouling. HAPC should consider doing the same.

Iain Muspratt
Footpath and River Warden
Hemingford Abbots Parish Council

Hemingford Abbots Village Hall Report

Report for April 2016 – April 2017

The past year saw an increase of 5% on usage and income. 55% was local usage so in keeping with the charities aims.

The financial position is healthy with the largest outgoing being the new curtains and match colour painting of the skirting boards etc.

Ongoing issues:

Inconsiderate parking – requests sent to the Parish and County Councils for support over double yellow lines outside the hall and its entrances.

The box hedging around the roses to the left of the hall entrance will be replanted before the flower festival.

Teenager Parties - Bob reported that on 20th January 2017 a complaint was received from Councillor Alison Donaldson regarding birthday party restrictions at the HG Pavilion and the HA Village Hall. Bob has since carried out a review of the HAVH terms, which highlighted that they do not have a policy in place and their unwritten policy was ambiguous. Bob also highlighted that the Age Discrimination Law states that there can be no discrimination from the age of 18 onwards, only up to and including to age 17. After much discussion, it was agreed that they should increase their security deposit to £500 for anybody over the age of 17 wishing to book a party or a wedding. Bob will now draft a written policy on birthday parties & weddings including the higher security deposit amount of £500. It was also agreed that they should not take any future bookings for marquees and that this should be removed from the web page on the Village site and Halls for Hire site.

Christine Nicol
May 2017

Report from the Representative of the Hemingford Abbots Parish Council on the Management Committee of the Hemingford Peace Memorial Field

It has been another fairly successful year for the Sports and Social Club. I am pleased to report that the Club, with the usual ongoing maintenance works, has maintained a positive financial balance, although slightly less than in 2016.

The Conference bookings have dropped over the year but the hall hire has increased and bar sales have been maintained. There was only one major event (Classic Cars) held over the summer of 2016, although for 2017, a Summer Festival, Sports Day and a repeat Classic Car event in September, are being arranged. The disabled access from the bowls area to the bar has now been completed. This involved installing a chair lift alongside the outside staircase plus installing bi-fold doors for access to the bar area from the balcony.

The Hemingford Abbots Parish Council's contribution towards the upkeep of the Hemingford Pavilion and Playing Field was received with thanks. The grounds continue to receive considerable attention with greatly improved turf maintenance, reseeding of football goal areas, strimming of boundary hedges and removal of overhanging tree branches. This work has resulted in improved turf and much better playing surfaces for the cricket and football clubs. It is much appreciated by the players.

The various sports clubs had mixed levels of success over the year. The Football season went well and the First team, who are in the Cambs Premier League for the third year, ended up 3 from bottom. The Reserves were 7th in their league and the A Team 9th.

The Squash Club again held the three-day British Under 23's Squash Championship in early May, 2017 and this proved to be another great success. The Club also hosted the Cambridgeshire semi and final matches at the same time. The various squash teams all did well although there were no championships won. The Sports Academy has now become a Community Interest Company which enables it to have more access to grants. The Gym membership is doing well with mainly local people. A small extension to the gym has been agreed.

The Cricket Club had another reasonable year although it struggles to find sufficient adult players. However, the junior section continues to go from strength to strength.

The Tennis Club had a mixed season with two of the eight teams being demoted and one promoted. The junior section had a great season with an average of 40 juniors attending Saturday morning coaching. For 2017, there are some 50-55 juniors expected to attend coaching sessions.

The Bowls Club had a very good season and considerable hard work was put into improving the ditches around the green and providing a display of colour. The Men's A, B and C teams all finished in mid table in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd divisions. The Ladies A team came top of Division 1 with the B team in the middle of Division 1. Seven club members also became county champions.

The Cinema Club on Fridays continues to show excellent films and is well supported.

Ted Burleigh
22 May 2017.

Hemingford Abbots Neighbourhood Watch

The village has been without a central Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator since Pat Hurley stood down. Several appeals have been placed in the parish magazine in the last couple of years for a replacement. One resident expressed an initial interest but decided not to pursue this.

In the absence of a central coordinator the Parish Council agreed to invite residents to share their email address with the Council so they could receive ecops alerts and information. 73 residents are currently on the email distribution list. Whilst this list may be useful to those on it, as it does not reach all residents it isn't totally effective.

I have recently met with Eddie Cloke, NHW area administrator, who provided a list of local coordinators within the village as per his current records. This list is being checked for accuracy and when verified NHW coverage for the whole village will be mapped. Several potential volunteers for the central role have now come forward and I would hope to be able to hand over the master list in the near future.

Sadly the village continues to suffer from criminal activity and villagers are encouraged to remain vigilant at all times. NHW is a valuable community scheme which helps to raise awareness of local criminal activity and as such the village would benefit from a revitalisation of our scheme with a new central coordinator at the helm.

Erika Brown
Hemingford Abbots Parish Council