

Welcome

It's been a long time since the Parish Council produced a 'paper' newsletter and historically it was used to report the minutes from its meetings. However, as full minutes are now posted on the noticeboards and the PC website, we'd like to use each newsletter to summarise just the key items from meetings and give more space to updates and other news from the village and surrounding area. This first issue covers several months so it's very much an overview of all that has been happening, but we aim to produce a more frequent newsletter – if your comments and feedback suggest you want us to! You can read the full minutes on the website via: <https://hemswell.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

Have you met SID? - our Speed Indicator Device

In March 2022, the Parish Council installed a mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) which has been recording the speed of vehicles from three locations around the village. At the September 2022 meeting, Council shared the first results from the SIDs showing that 20-30% of detected traffic exceeded the speed limit, with the worst location for speeding being Maypole Street. We know that speeding through the village continues to be a problem and we'll share more data in our next issues of the newsletter. In the meantime, remember, it's 30 MPH for a reason!



The Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan is 'Made'

After nearly five years of research, writing and scrutiny, the finished Neighbourhood Plan was presented for approval and adoption by the WLDC council on Monday 6th March 2023. This followed the results from the referendum which showed overwhelming support (86%) for the plan by the electors of Hemswell and Harpswell on 2nd March 2023.

The documents were presented by Cllr. Bryan Mander on behalf of the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. WLDC were extremely positive about the Plan and commended all those involved for the time and effort they had devoted to developing an excellent-quality document. If you're wondering why the 'Plan' matters, it's because it's now a legal planning policy document - intended to protect and enhance our rural communities – one that the WLDC planning team *must* refer to when considering planning applications in the neighbourhood area. You can read the plan and its 10 Community Objectives on our website or on the WLDC website.



County and Parish Elections

There have been lots of notices about the local elections due **Thursday 4th May 2023**. In Hemswell Parish, four candidates submitted nominations to become a Parish Councillor and because this number is less than the available seven seats, the result is described as an 'uncontested' election – meaning all four candidates will be duly elected. You can find out who they are on the village notice boards! This means there are three unfilled seats and if you missed the chance to submit your nomination, all is not lost as you can apply for 'co-option' onto the Parish Council after the 9th of May. Look out for the notices and social media messages if you want to help make a change and fill one of those vacancies.



Don't forget, you can vote to elect a District Councillor on **Thursday 4th May 2023**, via a postal vote (if registered) or in-person at the Hemswell and Harpswell Village Hall from 7:00 am - 10:00 pm (with appropriate identification). A new law comes into effect on election day that requires all electors voting in person to show photo identification, otherwise, you will not be allowed to vote. If you aren't sure what counts as proof of ID, call WLDC (01427 676676) or visit their website page (<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/>).

Digital Preservation of the Hemswell and Harpswell 'Memory Books'

Many residents have browsed the collection of folders started in 1965 by the late Mrs Dorothy Steadman that record the life and times of village folk and events in and around Hemswell. The collection amounts to 15 volumes and holds over 600 pages of cuttings, pamphlets, and brochures. But the contents are showing signs of wear and tear, so the Village Hall Committee (as the custodians of the collection) approached the Parish Council to ask if they could look at ways to preserve these precious historical records for the benefit of the community. The Parish Council agreed to fund the work to digitally copy and preserve every single piece of information in the collection.



Digital scanning was completed in April 2023 and the files have been saved in different formats for future archiving and cataloguing – and this is where you might be able to help! Although the ‘Memory Books’ are securely preserved in digital format, electronic files on a computer don’t make them openly accessible. It would be wonderful to browse the collection just like the records at Lincolnshire Archives or Gainsborough Heritage Centre, and if you have experience in archiving or collating records, making good notes on the collection of cuttings and photos or if you’d like to help set up a Village History Group to take this work to the next stage, then please get in touch with the Village Hall Committee or the Parish Council.



Hemswell Civil Cemetery- Updates to Regulations, Interment Fees and Safety Testing

You may have seen the notices around the village about the programme of memorial safety checks planned for Hemswell Civil Cemetery. The Council has been granted a ‘Faculty’ from the Diocese of Lincoln to undertake the work and the clerk is trained to carry out memorial inspections and testing. Work will begin with a visual check of each memorial, looking for signs of damage or movement and any other hazards that could be a risk to your safety. Records and photographs will be taken of everything that is tested. If a memorial is considered an immediate danger to the public (e.g., it could topple over), it will fail the test and the Parish Council must take steps to make the memorial safe.

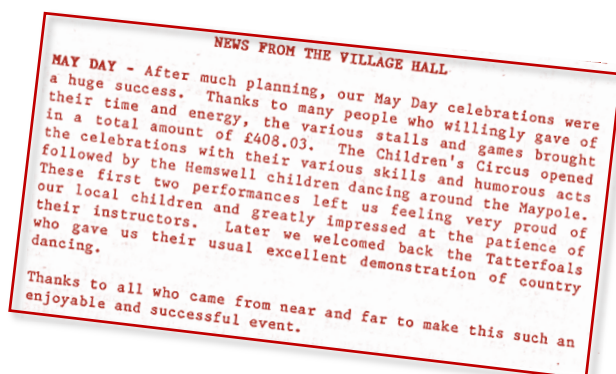
We know that signs and notices appearing on memorials can be upsetting and the Parish Council will work with the family of the deceased or the Grant holder and with local memorial masons to provide a proportionate, sensible, and sensitive solution for memorials that pose a safety concern. It is the responsibility of the grave owner to keep the memorial in a safe condition and the owner will be asked to arrange and pay for refixing to current safety standards by a suitably qualified or registered memorial mason. The Parish Council must approve any repairs that have been made, but please, do NOT move or attempt to make repairs to a memorial yourself. If you are concerned about any of the memorials in the cemetery or want to know more about the safety testing programme, please contact the clerk or see the details on our website which include our updated regulations and fees.

Looking Ahead

Part of the work of a Parish Council is to set a budget to control what it spends on carrying out its duties and powers, e.g., publishing minutes and accounts, providing grass cutting services, etc. But a Parish Council can also budget for projects it would *like* to undertake that might benefit the community or enhance the neighbourhood and environment. One such project on the Parish Council’s ‘wish-list’ is to rejuvenate the Pinfold on Brook Street and we want your thoughts and ideas on how best to rejuvenate this historical and special area of the village for the benefit of all - so look out for notices on the boards and social media.

Finally.....

Don’t forget it’s the **May Day Celebrations** from 1:00 pm onwards this Bank Holiday Monday. Here’s how the Hemswell Newsletter of July 1991 described the occasion, and no doubt this year’s event will be even more as enjoyable and successful!



***Looking ahead
– Rejuvenating
the Pinfold***

***Tell us what
you think.....***

We know this first issue has covered a lot of months in very little space, but we aim to produce a regular newsletter to be able give more details about topics where needed. Please let us know if this is something you’d like the Parish Council to do. We could also arrange to send the newsletter as an email attachment if you’d prefer, so please get in touch and let us know. Contact details below.

Write to Us

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Message Us

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