
Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council has held two meetings since the last newsletter and is grateful to the residents who regularly come along and raise questions or concerns during the public forum session. The September meeting included lively discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan, The Beck and village planning applications. If you want to know what happens during a PC meeting, you can read the minutes on the notice board or PC website, or better still, come to the next meeting. The PC can't function without its members who volunteer their time to work as councillors, and there are still vacancies to fill, so if you want to get involved and help us achieve more for the village, please get in touch with the clerk, message via Facebook or visit <https://hemswell.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

Marking Remembrance Day

Hemswell PC & villagers support the Royal British Legion & Royal British Legion Industries

The PC was pleased to support the RBL and RBLI charities by purchasing poppies and 'Tommy' posters - now proudly displayed around the village. We were grateful to residents who joined with our order, saving them the postage cost and reducing carbon emissions from multiple deliveries. The PC and residents have contributed just over £200.00 to these two worthy charities and hope this becomes an annual event to mark Remembrance Day in the village.



The Pinfold gets a 'makeover'

The Pinfold



Many residents have commented on the tidy Pinfold – made possible by a successful bid for support from the LCC Highway Service *Social Value Volunteering Days*. An early start on 23rd October saw volunteers from WSP, LCC & Balfour Beatty weeding, pruning and clearing the ground to reveal the full extent of the Pinfold, followed by laying of weed suppressant fabric and gravel ready for over-wintering.

Records suggest a Pinfold has been in Hemswell since the 1600s, and it's believed a 'time capsule' was buried there in 1977 - if anyone knows its exact whereabouts, please let us know!

Thanks to all involved, including Joanne & Mick Price for accommodating the skip, John Palmer for donating paving slabs, Janet Burton, Bryan Mander, Richard Brown of Aisby and the Village Hall Committee for allowing access to the hall facilities for our hard-working visitors.

The PC funded the cost of skip hire and materials and will seek grants for further work during 2024, but we'd love to hear your ideas for the 'rejuvenation' of the Pinfold and how best to mark it as an important historical asset of the village – maybe even appoint a volunteer 'pinder' to look after it!

Creating a 'Friends of the Beck' Group

Fingers crossed for a successful bid to the WLDC Community Development Fund

Regarding grants, the PC has submitted a bid to WLDC for just under £2000.00 to commission a specialist tree survey and an ecology and biodiversity assessment of 'The Beck' and civil Cemetery – two areas identified as 'Local Green Spaces' in our neighbourhood plan. The assessments will identify the best ways to enhance and manage the areas, providing suitable access for walking and enjoyment and protecting and improving the spaces for nature and the environment.



If the bid is successful, the PC will share the report findings and aim to set up 'volunteer groups' to plan and implement the actions! We all know about the benefits to our health and well-being from volunteering and outdoor work; plus, we'll get to enhance and enjoy the natural habitat and wildlife of the Beck and the quiet and peaceful setting of the cemetery. We'll let you know as soon as we hear back from WLDC.

Take it slow...

SID is on the move

Following requests from residents, the Speed indicator Device (SID) is now monitoring traffic along Dawnhill Lane. It's been watching Church Street and counted 6105 vehicles between 5th September and 28th October 2023. Results show a seven-day average daily movement of 112 vehicles, peaking at 11:00 - 12:00 am and again at 4:00- 5:00 pm, travelling at an *average* of 23.6 mph. Figures also reveal that 91% of monitored vehicles travelled at 30 mph or less in the 30 mph area. Thankfully, most vehicles adhere to the limit, but it doesn't mean that 30 mph is a 'safe' speed for the village, especially given its small roads, blind corners and concealed driveways. So, although the speed limit is 30 mph, there's evidence to suggest that in villages like Hemswell and on many rural roads..... *twenty's plenty!*



Setting the Precept

Balancing the budget



It's the time of year when the PC must agree its budget and **precept** for the next financial year. A precept is effectively a charge added by WLDC to your council tax bill to cover the cost of providing services within the community. The PC doesn't receive direct funding from central government, so it relies on the precept, plus any other sources of income, to meet its spending costs, including insurance, grass cutting, cemetery costs, maintaining 'SID' and street furniture, and staff costs. But the PC also wants to be able to fund donations and grants, undertake projects, support local groups and cover contingencies, which is why it has sound financial management to spend money appropriately and carefully.

Over the last few years, the PC has used its 'reserve money' to avoid big increases in the precept despite its rising costs. Residents can be assured that councillors will thoroughly look at costs and budgets to ensure the PC continues to provide a good level of service but can still plan and fund future projects and activities that will enhance our parish and benefit our community.

Local Schools

The PC would like to thank Tina Ramsay for bringing to its attention comments referring to local school capacity at the September PC meeting (in the context of planning applications). Willoughton Primary School Business Manager has confirmed that each school can accommodate 10-11 children per year and that neither school is at capacity and welcomes local developments to support the Willoughton and Hemswell Cliff schools. The PC hopes that local schools will benefit from the planned increase of dwellings in Hemswell Cliff (an increase from 180 to 341) but will resist planning applications for sites not allocated in the neighbourhood plan or that do not have the community's support.

In remembrance

Anyone who has ever browsed the Hemswell & Harpswell 'Memory Books' will know that the Tatam family feature across the whole collection, and councillors were sad to learn of the passing of Mr Mark Tatam. The PC is grateful for Mr Tatam's significant contributions to Hemswell and Harpswell over the years, and councillors send their condolences to the family.

Finally... Stay Safe on The Roads The end of October is a challenging times of year to be driving when the clocks go back causing a spike in the number of vulnerable road users killed or seriously injured. You can find good advice for driving in the dark on the RAC website - <https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/driving-advice/driving-in-the-dark-tips/> Please be safe when walking or driving this season.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 20th Nov 2023. Village Hall 7.00 pm start.

Find more details of events, meetings and local issues on the noticeboard, PC Facebook page and website.

Write to Us

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Message Us

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