
**Hemswell Parish
Council**

'Thank You' and 'Welcome'

At the end of March, the PC was extremely saddened to receive resignations from two valued councillors – Bryan Mander and Michelle Sheppard, following the outcome of the WLDC Planning Committee regarding Appln. 147233. Bryan Mander represented the PC at the planning meeting and was not only the PC Chair but also the acting clerk, Responsible Financial Officer and Burial Clerk for several years – which is no mean feat! Members of the PC and residents recognise the significant time and effort Bryan gave to compiling and promoting the Neighbourhood Plan and the many 'unseen' acts he undertook, over and above the role of councillor that supported the character and heritage of Hemswell Village. His contribution and guidance in all aspects of the PC's work cannot be underestimated, and his resignation is a great loss - a sentiment echoed by residents, members and the clerk at the EO meeting on the 22nd of April 2024. The PC hopes that Bryan can now enjoy a 'less stressful' life and thank him for his continued support as a parishioner of Hemswell.

The PC would also like to thank Michelle Sheppard, who, although a councillor for a relatively short time, actively contributed to the PC and the wider community. Her bright and cheerful disposition will be missed at future meetings.

Welcome

'What happens to the PC now?' was a question asked by several residents after the resignation of our two councillors. In simple terms, Hemswell PC needs a minimum of three members to carry out its legal duties and if there are less than this number, WLDC will appoint temporary councillors from the district to administer the PC – at least in the short term. Therefore, thanks go to Cllr. James Roberts, Cllr. Margaret Foster and Cllr. Pam Sutherland for 'holding the fort' over the last few weeks while arrangements were made to 'co-opt' new members. At the Extraordinary meeting held 22nd April 2024, Cllr. Roberts was elected as Chair and Cllr. Foster as Vice-Chair, and the PC was extremely pleased to welcome Rosemary James and Geoff Jago as new councillors. Both Cllr. James and Cllr. Jago bring a wealth of local knowledge and between them have professional backgrounds in rural affairs, management, grant applications, finance and accounting – all of which will support the work of the PC. With new members and renewed enthusiasm, the PC hopes the community will continue to support its efforts to implement the small changes that can make a big difference to local residents.

The PC still has two vacancies to fill, and applications are invited for co-option at the next PC meeting on Monday 20th May 2024. Please contact the clerk if you'd like more details. Email: hemswellparishcouncil@gmail.com or visit <https://hemswell.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

Please get involved

Ecology Assessment Report – WLDC Community Development Grant

On a rainy Tuesday in March (12/03/2024), Bryan Mander and the clerk met with a keen young ecologist to walk the Civil Cemetery and Beck Lane. The visit was to identify the sites' habitats and recommend enhancements to protect existing wildlife and increase biodiversity to benefit the area and the local community. The report lists the type of grassland, hedgerows and trees and identifies opportunities for 'enhancements' including; grass-cutting regimes, installing bat boxes, hedgehog houses and hedgehog 'highways', border and flower bed planting in the Cemetery, and creating log piles/bug hotels and monitoring of existing bat boxes along the Beck.



A tree survey along the Beck was also commissioned as part of the WLDC Grant, which is due in the second week of May 2024. The PC is fortunate to have members with the knowledge and expertise to review both reports when they are available. The clerk will arrange a public meeting to share the results and discuss opportunities for implementing the enhancements. If you would like to get involved with this work, please get in touch look out for further details on the PC website/Facebook page. The PC is grateful to WLDC for funding this work.

**Speed
Indicator
Device (SID)**

Speed Indicator Device (SID) - Data from Maypole Street

The SID monitored traffic along Maypole Street between 20th Jan - 22nd April 2024. and recorded 4933 traffic counts in that period, an average daily movement of 55 vehicles. Average speed along Maypole Street was just 17.3 mph, the maximum recorded speed was 33 mph (7th March @11:10 am), and the 85th percentile speed was 21.9 mph. The SID was moved to Maypole Street in January after reports from residents of a car believed to be travelling at speed along the road each morning. However, data from the SID showed only one speed violation - a vehicle travelling at 33 mph mid-morning, which does not correlate with reports relayed to the PC. Nevertheless, it is a positive outcome that the average speed along Maypole is well below the 30 mph limit and the PC thanks drivers for observing the limit along this busy street.



Temporary Road Closure & Road Works

Don't forget that Maypole Street will be closed between Church St. and Brook St. on Monday 6th May between 10 am and 6 pm to allow residents and visitors to enjoy the Mayday Celebrations. If you travel into Gainsborough along the A631, you can expect delays from early May to late July due to carriageway resurfacing. The PC website and Facebook page will provide more details closer to the time.

**50 mph
Speed Limit
Proposed**



Proposed 50 mph speed limit along the B1398 Middle Street, Hemswell

Councillors and residents were pleased to learn about a proposed speed reduction to 50 mph along the B1398 extending between 'Windy Ridge' to 'Millfield' properties. The PC supported the scheme and asked LCC to consider relocating the 30/50mph gateway signs on Bunkers Hill closer to the 'T' junction of the B1398 to slow the traffic coming into the village. LCC has explained this is not possible at this time due to the amount of existing 'driver information' and signage in place. The Speed Indicator Device will monitor vehicle speed on the downhill section of Bunkers Hill, and if persistent speed violations are recorded, the PC may revisit this request. Subject to no objections to the proposal, LCC have indicated the speed reduction will likely come into effect around Autumn – a welcome conclusion to a long campaign by residents, supported by the PC, for safer entry and exit to the village via the B1398.

**Dates for
your diary**

6th May 2024 – Hemswell May Day Celebrations. The Village Hall Committee would be delighted to receive donations for stalls, raffle prizes, tombola, cakes, etc. and offers of help to set up on the morning of Saturday 4th or Sunday 5th May (weather dependent). Let's hope for good weather and a happy day of dancing and merriment to raise funds for the Hemswell & Harpswell Village Hall Trust.



11-12 May 2024 & 18-19 May – West Lindsey Churches Festival Lots of wonderful churches to visit – see <https://lovelincolnshirewolds.com/events/view/3111/west-lindsey-churches-festival>

Monday 20th May 2024 - Annual Parish Meeting: Village Hall 6.00 pm, followed by the **Annual Parish Council Meeting:** Village Hall 7.00 pm.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is open to all to speak on any matter of local interest. The PC Chair will report on last year's events, and District/County Councillors and community groups are invited to speak. More importantly, it's the opportunity to share your views on what you feel is important to you, the village, and the parishioners of Hemswell.

The **Annual Parish Council Meeting** follows straight on. The PC will review its policies and procedures and examine and approve its Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – together with other business and updates. Everyone is welcome to attend both meetings!

D-DAY80

D-Day 80 The 6th June, 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings with major commemorations and events across the UK and in France. There are local events around our region, including the lighting of beacons and ringing of church bells. Visit the WLDC website for details of local events. The PC will be marking the occasion by displaying poppies around the village and encourages residents to do the same.

Further details on social media, village noticeboard and the PC website.