
Hemswell Parish Council

Since the last newsletter, there have been three meetings: the Annual *Parish* Meeting and Annual *Parish Council* Meeting on 20th May 2024 (although similar in sound, these are distinctly separate meetings), followed by a PC meeting in July. The PC hosts the Annual Parish Meeting, which includes an update on the PC's work over the last year, but its primary purpose is for residents to have their say on parish matters without the formal constraints of a PC meeting. Disappointingly, only three residents attended, but questions were welcomed over plenty of tea and biscuits! The annual PC meeting followed the Parish meeting, during which members reviewed PC policies and procedures, insurance cover, subscriptions, etc., for the financial year ahead, together with approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2023/2024.

The July PC meeting discussed the ongoing water issues along Dawnhill Lane and Brook Street, with residents and members expressing frustration at the lack of response from LCC and the County Cllr. to the regular reports and complaints raised by the community and the PC. The PC continues to pursue LCC and other external agencies on this matter. The meeting discussed the work and costs for full height cleaning of the Maypole, planned for early 2025. The PC was extremely grateful for the generous offer from District Cllr. Paul Howitt-Cowan to help fund the cost through his councillor's personal allowance. The July meeting also included an illustrated summary of recommendations from the survey/reports and tree work needed along the Beck to keep it safe and accessible, together with suggestions for 'tidy-up' days planned for August 2024. The minutes from all PC meetings are available on the website, <https://hemswell.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>



The PC still has two vacancies and welcomes applications to become a parish councillor. Please get in touch with the clerk if you'd like more details. Email: hemswellparishcouncil@gmail.com

'Tidy-Up Days' along The Beck – A designated Local Green Space (LGS)

On Saturday 17th August, a small band of volunteers met at the 'Beck' with a collection of gardening tools, trugs, a green bin and very large bags. In just two hours, the hedges and shrubs at the entrance to the Beck had been trimmed by Preston Everatt, and a long stretch of the bank cleared of brambles and thick undergrowth, revealing the lovely running brook. Small dead trees and low-hanging branches were removed, and overgrown bushes trimmed. Three dedicated residents even stayed on to remove debris from the brook to get it flowing again – perhaps for a future 'duck race'? Cold drinks and snacks kept the workers going, together with fresh produce from the garden of Cllr. James and the freshly baked scones provided by Sally-Ann Everatt were particularly welcome.



So many bags of undergrowth and branches were collected that they couldn't be taken away on the day, despite the use of Cllr. James' horsebox to gather up tree cuttings. Hearing the positive comments from residents walking the Beck that day was heartening. After all the hard work, everyone hoped the path and verges would be kept free from dog waste, which presents a serious hazard to human health and wildlife. New signs are planned for the entrance to the Beck with information about the trees and flora along the route.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered or came along: Cllrs. Rosemary James and Pam Sutherland, Preston Everatt, Tina Ramsay, Marlene Jackson, Ingrid Langton, Lee Wright, Sue Nelson, Richard Brown and Cllr. Margaret Foster. A tree surgeon will be appointed to remove the dead trees and various overhead branches - planned for late September/October.

This newsletter went to print before the second tidy-up day on Saturday 31st August, so look out for Facebook posts with photos and details of how the day went.

Many thanks to all those who helped at our two tidy-up days

*Please support
this community
event*



CPR Awareness Event A cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any time. When it does, every second matters – which is why Hemswell Village is fortunate to have a defibrillator (AED). Please join us for this one-hour session run by the East Midlands Ambulance Community Team on **Thursday 12th Sept 2024 @ 6.45 pm**. Residents are invited to learn about CPR and AEDs, which can help you act quickly and confidently when it really counts. Please contact the clerk if you plan to attend.

*Can you solve
this mystery?*

Do you know the story behind this bench plaque?

During the Beck tidy-up, a dilapidated bench was uncovered with a plaque that reads “Donated by the CARDIAC REHABILITATION INTEREST GROUP Reg Charity No. 1087797”. Do you know when and why this plaque was attached to the bench? It would be nice to reattach the plaque to a suitable alternative bench – so please get in touch with the clerk if you know the answer to this mystery.



*Speed Indicator
Device (SID)*



Speed Indicator Device (SID) - Data from Church Street

The SID monitored incoming traffic on Church St. from 15 July - 25 August 2024, recording 5506 traffic counts with an average daily movement of 130 vehicles (7-day period). Average incoming speed was 22.77 mph and the 85th percentile speed was 28 mph. The max. recorded speed was 45 mph (19/08/2024 at 05:15 am!). Although the average speed is < 30 mph, the data reveals a pattern of speeding over 30 mph (ranging from 33-42 mph) typically between 7.00 and 9.00 pm. Some residents on Church St. have expressed concern about the speed at which cars leave Church St. towards Hemswell Lane and the SID may be used to record this data in the future.

*Dates for your
diary*

Lots happening at the Village Hall & around the village over the coming months



	Event	Where and when
Thurs 12 Sept	CPR & Defibrillator Awareness Session – a free one-hour session run by the East Midlands Ambulance Community Team. Come along & learn vital life-saving skills. <i>Everyone welcome, light refreshments.</i>	Village Hall 6:45 pm <i>Contact the clerk if you plan to attend.</i>
Mon 16 Sept	Hemswell Parish Council Meeting. <i>Everyone welcome</i>	Village Hall 7:00 pm
Sat 21 Sept	MacMillian Coffee Morning – relax over coffee & cake for a good cause	Village Hall, time TBC
Fri 4 October	Harvest Supper – join neighbours & friends for a two-course meal including welcome drink. Booking essential. <i>More details soon.</i>	Village Hall, time TBC
Thurs 31 Oct	Halloween Pumpkin Trail – join us for a spooky night. Refreshments available. <i>More details soon.</i>	TBC
Sun 8 Dec	Pop-Up Christmas Craft Market – your Christmas shopping sorted thanks to fabulous local makers & crafters!	Village Hall, time TBC
Wed 18 Dec	Christmas Wreath Making – feed your creative side & create a beautiful wreath in time for Christmas. Booking essential. £15.00 per person	Village Hall, time TBC

Marking Remembrance Day

The PC will display its poppies and ‘Tommy’ posters around the village in November to mark Remembrance. Some residents have expressed interest in creating a display of ‘hand-crafted’ poppies, so if you can knit, crochet, or craft and want to get involved, please contact the clerk for details.



Cemetery Bins

If you visit Hemswell Cemetery, please check that the lids on the green and black bins are firmly down when you enter or leave. If rainwater gets into the bins, they become heavy and unpleasant to empty. We appreciate the wind might blow them open, but a quick check that they are closed will help.

You can find more information about your PC, becoming a councillor and forthcoming events on our Facebook page, the PC website and the village noticeboard.