

HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2015

Traffic Calming Measures

The speed limit signs have been in for some time. They have not been as effective as was hoped. In the absence of police enforcement we need to consider whether we should restart the Speedwatch scheme we had some time ago now. Will anyone interested in getting involved in this again please contact the Clerk or me.

By the time this is published we would have hoped to have completed further consultations with Barton Road residents to get the chicane scheme up and running.

Bob Branch

Footpath Maintenance

The Parish Council has received several complaints from residents about the poor state of footpaths. The Highway Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council) is responsible for maintaining a clear footway, bridleway or by-way on an authorised route but it has no responsibility for the associated verges, boundary structures or any vegetation on them on either side. The boundary structures and vegetation are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner so HPC request residents to take note and to take action accordingly at their own expense. The Parish Council is now spending resources on cutting back path verges and vegetation that is overgrowing paths, where austerity cuts are affecting the county's activities in this regard.

Call for Volunteers for Environmental Work within the Village

There are areas within the village where some environmental maintenance needs to be done. Some of the heavier work will require Contractors and their equipment to be involved but there are a number of items of work where volunteer working parties carrying out some tasks by hand would be appropriate. We had a good response from volunteers at the Annual Meeting in May. However, if there is anyone

else out there willing to volunteer to help with this then please contact the Clerk or speak to Sue Watson or Lucian Hatfield about what might be involved.

Bob Branch

Parish Emergency Plan

Our Village Emergency Plan is now well developed under our Emergency Plan Co-ordinator Tony Adcock and his volunteer team. An exercise to check the team's preparedness was carried out in July. This exercise resulted in issues to be raised in a meeting with the District Council officer for emergency planning.

Haslingfield Village Hall Committee

At July's Haslingfield Village Hall & Pavilion Committee meeting the following items were discussed:

The Grounds

The dog sign, near the Tennis Court, which has been pulled out and will now need to be replaced.

Work on the surfacing of the new tennis court which will start towards the end of August.

The Hall

We have recently experienced problems with the electricity supply. An electrician will be brought in to rectify the problem.

It is planned to paint the walls, below dado rail, shortly.

Loop System - It was agreed between the Little Theatre and the Village Hall Committee that the hearing audio loop system be owned and maintained in future by the Committee, who will update the system equipment to meet the standards required by the multiple users.

An order will shortly be placed for 16 new tables to replace the old white ones. When these are received 15 white ones will be available to

Haslingfield residents for purchase, together some of the grey plastic chairs. The tables will be available at £10 each and £5 each for the chairs. Please let Jenny Jullien know if you are interested. If we get more orders for tables and chairs than we have we will arrange a draw.

Jenny Jullien landline 872845 mobile 07450910015 email jenny.jullien@icloud.com

Cycle Path

Following on from the discussion at the Annual Meeting, we have spoken to Grantchester Parish Council. Unfortunately there remains opposition to the routes over the M11 footbridge and into the middle of Grantchester. Thus HPC is having another look at two possible routes from Cantelupe Road to link to the Barton to Grantchester bridleway east of Roman Hill.

Parish Councils – a reality check on Powers

One of the frustrating things for all our parish councillors is the impression that many residents appear to have that the Parish Council has considerable powers. Its powers are actually very limited and much of the time the council officers function for many complaints only as a post box to pass them on to the District and County Councils, who are the organisations with real power.

In planning, the parish council is consulted by the District Council on planning applications within the parish area but it can only comment on applications, not decide them. Decisions are taken either by the District Council's officers, under delegation, or by the District Council's Planning Committee (as with CEMEX in June). The parish council say is no more powerful than that of the local electricity, water and gas companies.

In regards to the current traffic calming measures, the parish council is allowed to fund the engineering design and construction for these items but the execution of the works, including the processing of road traffic orders, is governed by the county council and its contractors.

The county council highways department is responsible for the maintenance of footpaths. In the past they have generally kept paths and their immediate surroundings tidy. With the present financial constraints they have limited themselves to keeping a footway open and have ignored vegetation growth at the sites of the paths. This means that we have to step into the breach and take on vegetation maintenance work on the village paths to try to keep the paths pleasant.

A short list of what the council can and does do is given in the table below, with examples in italics.

Function	Powers & Duties	Statutory Provisions
Allotments	Powers to provide Allotments <i>Allotments near Charity Farm (all occupied at present)</i>	Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908. s 23
Borrowing Money	A Council can borrow money for their statutory functions and for prudent management. <i>Public Works Board loan for Village Hall construction.</i>	Local Government Act 2003 sch. 1 para 2
Bylaws	As to make bylaws for places of public recreation and elsewhere. <i>Dog bins and No Dog signs.</i>	Various Acts
Community centres	Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives <i>See Village Hall report.</i>	LG (Misc. Provisions) Act 1976 s19
Highways	Power to plant trees and shrubs and to maintain roadside verges <i>Various locations</i>	Highways Act 1980 various
Newsletters	To provide information relating to matters affecting local government. <i>This item.</i>	Local government Act 1972 s142
Recreation	Power to provide a wide range of recreational facilities	LG (Misc. Provisions) Act 1976 s87

	<i>Facilities on and near the Recreation Ground</i>	
--	---	--