



October 2019

Special points of interest:

- Village Hall Extension
- Skate Park

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Village Hall Extension

Almost three years since we started looking at the possibility of extending the village hall, work is finally about to start and will be completed in the Spring of 2020. Coincidentally, this year we made the final payment on a twenty-five year loan that we took out to build the current village hall. The extension will be financed from Parish Council reserves and there will be no need to increase Council Tax to pay for it.

The extension will provide users with a larger and better equipped kitchen, a large first floor meeting room and additional storage which has always been an issue for users. The Parish Council believes that the extension will provide a facility that will meet the needs of the village for the next twenty-five years.

For the duration of the building work the area at the front of the building and part of the car park will be taken over by the building contractor and the front door will be blocked off, but a temporary access will be created from the car park to a door at the rear of the building. The contractor will work with users to ensure that, as far as possible, all activities can continue in the hall, but if there are any short periods where this is not possible, users will be given adequate advanced notice.

If you have any questions about the progress of the project, please contact one of your Parish Councillors.

Skate Park:

We are hopeful that the Skate Park will be open again shortly but we've reached the end of the road. In the last two years, we have spent over £3000 on short term repairs and have agreed that this is not viable going forward.

Consequently all efforts will now be directed at investigating a new skate park and how it will be funded. Several Parish Councillors will sit on a newly formed committee to take this forward and all volunteers are welcome to join. The Parish Council are committed to securing a facility that is appropriate for this age group at the right cost.

If you would like to help, please contact Ben Mavely (ben.mavely@haslingfieldparish.co.uk).

Environmental Group

Jay Cole became the village's Voluntary Environmental Group co-ordinator in December 2016 and has arranged monthly meets most months since then. Some of the areas tackled include the planting of and caring for the fruit trees in Wellhouse Meadow, clearing off the ivy on the wall in the meadow, tidying up the green space at the end of Lilac Close and planting daffodils at the entrances to the village. The latest venture is clearing the stream and surrounding areas of the pond in Wisby's Yard. The Sheltered Estates Officer is organising contractors to clear around the pond shortly, which will make it a lovely place to sit awhile and enjoy.

Details of future meet ups will be placed on the website and in the Church and Village Magazine.

If there is anything that is bothering you about the environment in the village or you have any suggestions regarding possible improvements in Haslingfield, please get in touch with either Jay jaythevamper@btinternet.com or Jenny Jullien on chairman@haslingfieldparish.co.uk.

Tree Survey

Diana Offord and I have just completed the Parish Council's tree count, something we are required to do every three years. We own something in the order of 170 trees in seven different locations; Badcock Road, Barton Road, High Street, Recreation Ground, The Elms, Wellhouse Meadow, both the picnic area and the main area where dogs are allowed.

We have contacted four companies and requested a quotation by the end of September /early October with completion of the survey by the end of November 2019. We have asked all of them not just to comment of the health of the tree but also the appropriateness of their sighting and their ideas where we can plant further trees on the Parish's land. We plan to replace any trees that need to be felled. Any work that is deemed necessary will be completed by January 2020, before the start of the birds nesting season.

Buchans

We are now in the second year of a three-year contract with Buchans Landscapes. Stuart Buchan and the Clerk have worked together to refine the contract in order to get and keep the village in better order. We did have some teething problems, mainly of our making by not having a tighter contract. This has now been resolved. One area that still remains problematic is Wellhouse Meadow, we have gone from a cut once a month to twice a year. Neither is perfect. With the best will in the world we will never convert the area to a wild flower meadow, the soil is just too rich. Also if the grass is left to grow too long, the contractor cannot bring the necessary equipment into the meadow.

You will find an agreed landscaping schedule on the back of this newsletter for your information.

If you spot anything that you think is amiss can you please contact Jacqui Cressey, the Parish Clerk at either clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk or telephone

Hedges & Trees

Thank you to all of you that have responded to last years' Newsletter and cut back your hedges and trees.

However, some work still needs to be done on hedges and trees that overhang highways property.

If you are in doubt of how far you need to cut back then the following are a couple of useful tips:

- Any street furniture placed by the Highways Division; Cambridgeshire County Council, such as a lamppost, street sign or street lighting will always be on Council land and you need to cut back to behind these.
- All pavements are Cambridgeshire County Council's property so again you need to cut back to the edge of this. You may need to remove vegetation to check how far it goes back!

Hedges and trees should not impede anyone, and the height needs to take into account a tall person carrying an umbrella and the width required by a person pushing a two-child buggy, a wheelchair or someone walking with a guide dog.

Any work that needs to be undertaken should be carried out between October and early next year as some birds will begin to nest from February.

If you think we can help in anyway or need further clarification then please contact me at chairman@haslingfieldparish.co.uk or on 07450910015.

Transport - update from Cllr Helen Brown:

Haslingfield Parish Council has joined up with the parish councils of Barrington, Fowlmere, Foxton, Harston, Hauxton, Melbourne, Meldreth, Newton, Orwell and Shepreth to collaborate on transport issues that affect all our villages. This group aims to influence and lobby policy-makers in the interests of our parishioners.

Initial focus has been on the Greater Cambridge Partnership's proposals for a Foxton Travel Hub. This would entail providing parking for 750 cars with access to the station across the A10. The intention is to encourage road users to leave their cars at Foxton and travel by train. We encourage Haslingfielders to review these proposals and respond to the consultation which is open until 21 October 2019. Information can be found at consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk.

There are many other transport initiatives currently under discussion as well. East West Rail is one of the most important among these, not least as some of the proposed route corridors could come through the parish of Haslingfield. The consultation on that closed some months ago and we are still waiting to hear the outcome and which of the 5 route corridors has been selected for more detailed evaluation.

Picnic Area at Wellhouse Meadow

Please also remember that there is a beautiful (dog-free) area on the right hand side of Wellhouse Meadow to be enjoyed by you all. You can hold a children’s party there, bring a picnic or just relax—no booking required. It’s a lovely area that is under-used at present.

Annual Landscaping Schedule

Task	Area	Frequency	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Grass	The Elms	15			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Weed	The Elms	2				█				█				
Shrubs	The Elms	2						█				█		
Trees	The Elms	1										█		
Grass	Trinity Close	7			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Weed	Trinity Close	2				█				█				
Trees	Trinity Close	1										█		
Grass	Lilac Close	15			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Weed	Lilac Close	0												
Trees	Lilac Close	1										█		
Grass	Barton Road	7			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Weed	Barton Road	2				█				█				
Trees	Barton Road	1										█		
Grass	High Street	15			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Weed	High Street	2				█				█				
Trees	High Street	1										█		
Grass	Rec Ground - Small Areas	15			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Grass	Rec Ground - Field	28			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Weed	Rec Ground - Field weedkill	2				█				█				
Trees	Rec Ground	2												
Grass	Manor Wall	7			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Grass	Wellhouse Meadow (Dog Free)	15			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Weed	Wellhouse Meadow (Dog Free)	2				█				█				
Trees	Wellhouse Meadow (Dog Free)	1						█				█		
Grass	Wellhouse Meadow (main)	3		█								█	█	
Grass	Wellhouse Meadow (main - pathways)	15			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Weed	Wellhouse Meadow (main)	2				█				█				
Trees	Wellhouse Meadow (main)	1										█		
Hedges	All Other Areas	1										█		
Weed	Footpaths	2				█				█				
Ditch	Clear River Lane ditch	2						█				█		

Parish Councillors

Jenny Jullien (Chair), Tony Adcock (Vice-Chair), Lucian Hatfield, Ron van der Hoorn, Clive Blower, Diana Offord, Helen Brown, Ben Mavelly, Andrew Gillies, David Revell & Si Duke.

Haslingfield Parish Clerk: Jacqui Cressey, clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk / 01223 870629