

# HEMINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024 in The Hut, Hemingstone 7pm

**Present:** Hemingstone Parish Councillors- Mohammed Touman (Chair) (MT), Sam Bower (SB), Wendy Wythe (WW), Edmund Christian (EC) (part), David Westrup (DW), Bliss Marshall (Parish Council Clerk) (BM), District Councillors Dave Penny (DP) (part) and John Whitehead (JW) and seven members of the public.

160524/01 Councillor MT, as Chair of Hemingstone Parish Council, welcomed all to the meeting.

160524/02 **Apologies:** The Dominoes Club, Tree Warden and Footpath Officer gave their apologies prior to the meeting.

160524/03 **Minutes of the last meeting:** The Councillors confirmed receipt of the minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, prior to the meeting. These were confirmed as a true reflection of the records and signed in agreement by Hemingstone Parish Council Chair MT.

### **To receive reports from local groups/organisations:**

160524/04 **The History Recorder:** The history recorder representative was present at the meeting. Full report appended to these minutes; summarising what the village historian does for the village; including recording activity changes and events for history archives and storing all reports from the village, including the Parish Council minutes. She commented that she would love to arrange a history day as a future event in the village and would like this to be considered. She also stated that a church yard plan was completed within this year, and church and resident history is available to view throughout the years within the church, an Archive day is being held on 14<sup>th</sup> September and is open for all to attend. She finished her report, reminding the Parish that the archive is a valuable village resource and should be more widely acknowledged and used.

160524/05 **The Hut Committee:** no report

160524/06 **St Gregory's Church:** the church warden attended the meeting; he made note of the importance of the Church and his feelings that the Parish wouldn't be the

same without it. It is the only free communal area in the village, being a good hub for the community.

- 160524/07 **The Caveman Club:** no report
- 160524/08 **The WI:** A representative was present, on behalf of the WI, at the meeting; the full report is appended to these minutes. This included information that the WI meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month and is currently made up of a group of 13 individuals; details of meetings and events are published in the 10 Village News. They have a varied program of speakers at meetings and they hold fund raising events to help boost resources.
- 160524/09 **Ladies Club:** no report
- 160524/10 **Neighborhood Watch:** no report
- 160524/11 **HEI report:** The two representatives gave apologies in advance, but a report is appended in full to these minutes, summarising: : The HEI is an inclusive and non-hierarchical initiative designed to identify and undertake practical tasks and improvements which have a positive impact on the local environment, it operates under the remit of the Parish Council and has secured support from Suffolk Wildlife Trust whose detailed local report and helpful advice continues to inform initiative priorities. Start-up funding was secured from the Parish Council and £2000 was secured from Suffolk County locality funding. To date, £1,005.44 of this is still available for future projects. Activity has included, seed and bulb planting, wildlife survey and a noticeboard located by the church. HEI activities are regularly reported in the 10 Village Newsletter and through WhatsApp – both the neighbourhood one and the separate HEI WhatsApp, which is open to anyone who would like to join.
- 160524/12 **Dominoes Club:** Although apologies were given prior to the meeting, a report was presented and is appended in full to these minutes. Summarising, that the club is still doing well, varying from 8-14 players monthly. Currently it has no members that are Hemingstone residents and new members are always welcome.
- 160524/13 **Tree Warden:** Tree Warden gave his apologies prior to the meeting, but a report is appended, summarising: He has recently joined the Suffolk Tree Wardens Network and is currently reviewing the role and assessing areas where a

meaningful contribution might usefully be made. The outcome of this review will be captured in a concise operational plan that will be completed during the summer. The tree warden confirmed its continued endorsement of the Tree Warden role as part of the Parish Council offer.

- 1060524/14 **Footpath Officer:** Apologies were given in advance from the footpath officer. No report received.
- 160524/15 **To receive the Parish Council Chairman's report:** MT thanked everyone for coming and introduced the new councillors and clerk to the public. He also thanked the Councillors, past and present, for their contribution to the success of the Parish Council over the last year, including the previous Clerk Tina and previous Councillors Jamie, Stella, Claire and Dave Penny for all their help. He gave details on the help Tina has given to set up full policies and regulations etc for the Parish and the council are very thankful for this, in what was a difficult year with PC vacancies. He continued by stating gratitude to the new clerk for going the extra mile to take on full role in a quick timescale for the Parish Council's sake. He noting the Council are fully compliant with regulations and ended the year in a strong position; MT remains confident the Parish Council will continue to support the electorates well.
- 160524/16 **To receive comments from members of the public:**  
One member of the public aired his concerns regarding the previous meeting, and how it is publicised, as he wasn't aware a meeting was happening. The member of the public was made aware that the agenda goes onto the website atleast 3 full days before the meeting and is put onto the noticeboard for viewing.
- 160524/17 **Date of the next meeting:** Noting the Annual Parish Meeting must be held between 1sts March and 1st June, it was agreed to schedule the next Annual Parish meeting for 15th May 2025.
- 160524/18 The meeting was closed at 7.32pm.