

## Mobile library

The mobile library visits the village on the first Thursday of the month at the following places/times:

- The Meadows 10.45-11.30am
- Methodist Church 11.40-12.30pm

You can get free NHS hearing aid batteries from the mobile library, and they can replace your walking stick ferrule. They also have a fantastic range of books for adults and children. You can join the library, and you can return books from any other Cambridgeshire library.



## In need of a Wheelchair?

Need a wheelchair for a short time or have someone visiting who is mobile but not quite enough for exploring the village? There are 2 wheelchairs for residents to borrow for short term occasional use which are stored in the **Methodist Church**.

For more details please contact Christine Kipping on **01223 870227**.



## Tree works at Village Hall

Work is going to be carried out to reduce the vegetation on the High Street side of the Village Hall. This area has become overgrown over the years and has made the front of the Village Hall a hidden, shady and slippery area. This obscures the way to the Entrance, and could hide unwanted behaviour and misdemeanour.

This was due to take place in January but because of the position of power lines and the involvement of UK Power it has had to be delayed until February.



The key goals are to improve security and make a lighter and more obvious pedestrian entrance from the High Street.

The span of this work will be between the 2 utility poles on either side of the entrance and will involve cutting down vegetation, with the exception of the key trees, to waist height to enable the re-establishment of a hedge.

Also, new signage will be going up on the corner of New Road and the High Street outside the carpark barrier so visitors driving into the village can more easily locate the Village Hall. In addition there will be an entrance sign and arrow at the end of the hall wall, to clarify the way in from the car park. All of this aims at making a clearer and more welcoming entrance for visitors!

### Your Current Parish Councillors are:

Diana Offord - Chairman, Clive Blower – Vice Chairman, Andrew Gillies, Ruth Hatfield, Liz Hales, Ben Mavely, Zoe Ratnasothy and David Revell

**Haslingfield Parish Council welcomes communication from all its residents.**

If you have any comments/questions on this Newsletter or any other local issue, please contact Haslingfield Parish Clerk (Lise Jackson) in the first instance by emailing [clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk) or calling **01223 870269**

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## February 2023

### Special points of interest:

- Neighbourhood Plan
- Planning Applications
- Climate Emergency

### Dates of Interest:

- New Dates for PC meetings – 17 April and 15 May
- Annual Parish Meeting – 22 May



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## What is a Parish Council? Who are Parish Councillors?

Have you ever wondered what the Parish Council is and what it does? The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and a statutory body. It makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish and has an overall responsibility for the well-being of its local community. It is the level government closest to the community, with the district authority (South Cambs District Council) above it in the hierarchy.

Parish Councillors are elected officials, although there has not been a need to carry out a poll (where voters go to a polling booth and choose their candidates) for some time, as a poll only needs to be held if there are more candidates than positions. The Parish Councillors are unpaid and give up their time to make the village a better place. There are currently 8 Parish Councillors, and you can find their names at back of this newsletter.

The Parish Council collects tax through your council tax and puts it to the use of the village by, for example, providing amenities such as the playground and recreation ground; looking after PC owned grass, hedges and trees; and providing bus shelters, seats and noticeboards. Accounts are kept and audited and made available every year to the public. You can find the accounts on the Parish Council website ([www.haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)) and see how the money has been spent.



Haslingfield Parish Council holds monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month, usually at Haslingfield Village Hall. An agenda is published the week before the meeting and can be found on the website, Facebook and village noticeboards.



## What is the Parish Council newsletter?

The public is welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. Every month after the Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council publishes minutes of meeting. The PC is aware that not everyone can attend the meetings or reads the minutes and therefore has produced this newsletter to keep the parishioners up to date about local matters.

If you have any suggestions about how to improve the newsletter, please contact Lise Jackson, Parish Clerk at [clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk) or telephone on **870269**.

## Changes to PC meeting dates

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month, but due to the bank holidays in April and May, the dates of the meetings in these months will be 17 April and 15 May.



### Neighbourhood Plan

Are you interested in the planning and development of the village and want to keep Haslingfield a pleasant place to live? Then perhaps you could help develop a Neighbourhood Plan which guides the way forward.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan? (I hear you ask)

In very simple terms, a neighbourhood plan is:

- a document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area – planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications;
- written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority; and
- a powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place

The whole point of a neighbourhood plan is that it is community led.

A neighbourhood planning group will need to be formed to gather information from residents, businesses, community groups and schools by talking and surveys in order to find out what’s important to them about where they live, what they’d like to improve and what their vision is for the local area.

Using feedback and evidence, the next job is to write the planning policies that will make our village’s vision a reality. We already have some volunteers to start gathering information but we will need more people to step forward for this to become a reality. If you feel you can help with this in anyway please contact the Parish Clerk ([clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk) or **01223 870269**).



### Planning Applications

Planning applications are handled by Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP). When they receive an application, it is put on their online planning register (<https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/>) where anyone can view the application or submit a comment. Depending on the type of application, they may also put up a site notice, notify neighbours by letter or publish a public notice in a local newspaper.

<b>If you choose to submit a comment,</b>	<b>GCSP can only take into account comments on certain matters. These include:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• it will be made available for public view with your address but not any personal information, such as name, telephone number and email address;</li><li>• all comments will be viewed and considered by the Case Officer;</li><li>• if the application is reported to Planning Committee you will be invited to speak;</li><li>• you will be informed when a decision is made; and</li><li>• in the event of an appeal you will be notified and your comment will be passed to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• design, appearance, and materials;</li><li>• loss of light or overshadowing;</li><li>• parking, highway safety, traffic and public rights of way;</li><li>• noise, fumes and smell;</li><li>• effect on listed building and conservation area; and</li><li>• nature conservation</li></ul>

Parish Council, who are invited to comment on the application. The PC can comment on planning, but GCSP has the sole responsibility for decision-making on applications.

If you would like more information on the planning process, please look at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning’s website, <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org>.

### UPDATE ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

### Vacancies for Councillors at Haslingfield Parish Council

**Do you love Haslingfield and want to shape its future?** **Do you enjoy being part of a team?**  
**Do you have 2-3 hours per week to spare?**

Then you should consider becoming a Parish Councillor!

Positions are open to those age 18+ who live, work or own land in the village or within 3 miles of the parish boundary and are British subjects or EU nationals.

### New seating in Wellhouse Meadow picnic area

The new tables and bench in the picnic area of Wellhouse Meadow have been installed, thanks to donations, a grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Parish Council.



### Climate Emergency – Next Steps

As of 2021, according to the National Association of Local Councils, at least 37% of local councils in the UK have declared a climate emergency. Following on from the Parish Council’s declaration of a climate and ecological emergency in September 2021, the council recently accepted a plan of further action to add to the steps it had already taken.

Previously, the council had agreed to manage green spaces for nature where possible and to consider the environment in all its relevant decision-making processes.

The next steps the Council has agreed to take are looking at reducing waste, encouraging greener transport choices and starting the ball rolling on developing a Neighbourhood Plan. For starters this year, the PC hopes to work with the District Council on a waste reduction programme and to support the introduction of a lift-sharing project.

The Parish Council would also like to hear your views. What are your ideas on steps the PC can take to help reduce our area’s carbon footprint and protect nature? Attend a Parish Council meeting and give your view in the Public Forum, or write to [clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk) with your thoughts or questions.



### Parish Council consultations

The Parish Council is working on several projects that will need the input of villagers over the coming year in the form of consultations. These will be advertised on the village noticeboards, website and Facebook pages and, where appropriate, questionnaires will be delivered to homes. The projects include:

- making the junction of New Road and Barton Road safer for pedestrians
  - whether to make the village a 20mph zone
  - designing the new skatepark
- Please keep your eye out for the consultations.

