

Hermitage Parish Council Update

- Currently headlines are all about Coronavirus and the impact it's having on everyone. The Parish Council is not immune to this, particularly as many councillors should consider themselves within the 'at risk' age group. However, as long as a quorum of councillors can be gathered, meetings will continue as usual. Details of the next meetings are at the bottom of this page.
- To assist those that are ill or self-isolating, a volunteer group has been formed and you will probably have received a contact card from your local volunteer. The Hermitage Support Group can be contacted at HermitageSpGp@gmail.com. HPC is grateful to the volunteers, Councillor Carolyn Purchase and all who have worked to get this group up and running.
- The Downlands Medical Practice is developing a list of people from each parish who could collect medication from the surgery and distribute if necessary.
- As this is written, no guidance has been offered about holding the Annual Parish Assembly which is a statutory requirement. The council's current thinking is to hold a small meeting which the public could attend if they wished, but to hold a more social occasion later in the year. As the position comes clear information will be put onto the web site, Facebook and council notice boards around the village.
- Sadly, West Berkshire Countryside Volunteers have decided not to meet together for three months. At least there will be plenty for them to do after the Spring growing season.
- Another meeting which has been postponed is to do with planning which the council was going to hold in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Development Plan team. It was to gather residents' views of local sites put forward for house building from 2026 to 2036. Information about this can be found on the WBC web site by searching for HELAA.
- The planned opening of the Eling Way for riders of cycles and horses as well as walkers has been postponed until September but the council is delighted that it is already proving very popular.
- On a brighter note, HPC is delighted to welcome Michelle Yam as a new councillor. This leaves the council just one person short so please contact the clerk if you are thinking of joining its ranks.
- But Easter hasn't been cancelled or postponed and HPC wishes everyone a bright, sunny and happy Easter time.
- Future meeting dates will be posted on the notice boards and the village web site. All meetings are held in the Adelaide Room at the rear of the church and begin at 7.30pm. Agendas, minutes and information about the council are posted on notice boards throughout the village and on www.hermitage.org.uk
- Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce, by emailing hermitagepc@outlook.com.