

Hermitage Parish Council Update

- As this is the first issue of the year it's the first opportunity to wish you all a happy new year. And with vaccinations for Covid-19 on the way let's hope this year will be better than last as far as the pandemic is concerned. HPC is using Facebook to circulate any information it has regarding these vaccinations but if you are concerned please contact the Downland practice on (01635) 248251.
- The council is delighted to congratulate the Hermitage Support Group for winning Highly Commended in the recent WBC Championship awards. Their amazing work is still going on. Congratulations also to Sara Disson and Andy Murray for winning individual awards. HPC is happy to continue supporting this vital work.
- A new booklet updating rules and guidance for the burial ground has been produced. A copy can be obtained from the parish clerk.

It should be noted that artificial/plastic flowers have not been permitted in the burial ground for many years, except for Remembrance Day poppies and Christmas wreaths which should be removed within two months. **Please remove all plastic/artificial flowers before the end of February.**

- The council is sorry that it's been forced to close the MUGA and the outdoor gym equipment on the recreation ground. Sadly, this is the law so there is no choice and there are financial penalties if it's used. But the recreation ground is still open for exercise. Children's playgrounds can remain open but it is advised to use hand sanitiser whenever equipment is used and to wash hands thoroughly at home.
- This is the time of year to cut back hedges – before birds start to nest. So if you have any greenery that overhangs pathways in any way, please take the opportunity that the odd sunny day offers to get this cut back making pavements wide enough to allow pedestrians with children and disability scooters to pass safely. All the trimmings should be put into your green bin and not into the woods, either public or private property, as they could kill wild flowers and upset the ecosystem.
- Most of Hermitage has pavements on the roadside which pedestrians should be able to use safely at all times. Please don't park on the pavement at all, not even with just two wheels, and please stop any contractors at your house from doing the same. Traffic still has to stop behind these parked vehicles to allow oncoming cars to get through as our roads are not wide enough to pass even a car parked half and half. (HPC appreciates that this is not always possible on Forest Edge roads.)
- Work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan continues with the next stage being a Housing Needs Survey. This will be carried out by an independent company, called arc4, to enable accurate data of what type of Housing Hermitage needs in the future. It's important that every household completes this survey form for the data to be sufficiently representative of all residents. It should drop through your letter box in February. (For more information read the letter from Andy Bunyan in this magazine.)
- The next parish council meeting, held through zoom, is Thursday February 18th and then Thursday March 18th beginning at 7.30pm. To attend, please contact the parish clerk. Agendas, minutes and

information about the council are posted on notice boards throughout the village and www.hermitage.org.uk.

- Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce by emailing hermitagepc@outlook.com.