

## Hermitage Parish Council Update

- This month a great deal of council's time has been taken up with the bus shelter as reported on in the last issue of Pathfinder. For the second time the council decided to replace the broken one opposite the school, which has now been removed. A decision on a suitable replacement will be made in the next couple of months. When doing this the council will be mindful of the points objectors have raised, in particular from the nearest resident.
- The Annual Parish Assembly took place on Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup>. Residents were invited to attend via Zoom, a first for Hermitage as it is for most parish councils. A report will follow in the June issue. However you should have received a newsletter with headline information and all presentations are available on the web site at [www.hermitage.org.uk](http://www.hermitage.org.uk).
- We are fortunate to have two defibrillators in Hermitage – one at the primary school and the other at the White Horse pub. In the event of an emergency, **please phone the emergency services using the 999 number first** and then, should the need arise, the emergency services will give you the destination for the nearest defibrillator and the access code for the cabinet. These defibrillators are checked regularly by the school and the parish council.
- WBC is currently working on a Rights of Way Improvement Plan and would like input from as many people as possible. If you would like to take part please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wbrowip>.
- The groundsman who looks after the green spaces in Hermitage so well is getting fed up with having to clear dog mess before grass can be mown. Please use one of the many dog bins in the village.
- WB Countryside volunteers will be making their quarterly visit to Furze Hill on May 26<sup>th</sup>. If there is not too much wildflower growth in the butterfly meadow it should be possible to continue with the battle of the brambles. A regular May task is path widening. Permission to do further hazel coppicing in the open woods and the exclusion zone has been granted. This will need to wait until the nesting season is over. Unfortunately, a very large beech tree near the village hall has become the target of ASB. An attempt has been made to remove the graffiti which recently appeared. Success or otherwise will become obvious when the trunk is dry. The same tree has been peppered with ball bearings and the ground underneath a site for small fires.
- Tree surgeons have recently carried out health and safety work to prevent anything dropping into neighbouring gardens.
- The council expects to be able to hold real, face to face meetings from, and including, June. These will be in the Adelaide room at the rear of the church as in pre Covid days. How these meetings will be managed in the first instance will be agreed beforehand.
- WBC has opened a consultation on walking and cycling in West Berkshire. If you would like to take part go to [www.westberksatschemes.commonplace.is](http://www.westberksatschemes.commonplace.is) where the documents and full information can be found.

- The next meeting of the parish council is the Annual Meeting and will be held, virtually, on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The next monthly meeting is on Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup>. All meetings begin at 7.30pm. Agendas, minutes and information about the council are posted on notice boards throughout the village and [www.hermitage.org.uk](http://www.hermitage.org.uk). Members of the public are welcome at meeting as usual but for virtual meetings need to contact the parish clerk at least 48hours beforehand.
- Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce by emailing [hermitagepc@outlook.com](mailto:hermitagepc@outlook.com).