

## Hermitage Parish Council Update

- ❖ The council welcomes a new member. Emma Chan will be joining from the December meeting. Emma has lived in Hermitage for many years and has experience from chairing both the Parent Teacher Association and the governors of Hermitage Primary School.
- ❖ It's time for the annual grant round to begin and applications are invited from any eligible village organisation. Forms and all information are available from the parish clerk. Submissions must be returned to the clerk by Friday January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ WB Countryside Society has again been to Hermitage and this time worked on coppicing in the woods in the exclusion zone and yet more bramble bashing in the butterfly meadow. The blackberries have taken advantage of the session missed in February due to COVID.
- ❖ The council is in the process of taking ownership of two plots of land in Hermitage. These are Hermitage Green, owned by WBC, and land at the bottom of Pinewood Crescent, owned by Taylor Wimpey. The reason for doing this is to enable the council to take better care of the land, monitoring necessary upkeep and ensuring the green spaces in Hermitage are pleasant areas for residents. These projects have been ongoing for some considerable time – some wheels turn very slowly – but it is hoped they will be finalised soon.

The plan for Pinewood Crescent is to remove the tall fir trees and replace them with British native varieties to create a more pleasant, wildlife friendly green area which the council will manage.

- ❖ Plenty of road works seem to be taking place around us for road repair or utility access. HPC sent a strong note to Thames Water following its highly disruptive works leaving a trench open across Hampstead Norreys Road. This has been acknowledged and apologies received. WBC is also recording these misdemeanours. Up to date information on road works taking place can be found on the Find out about roadworks section on the front page of the WBC website.
- ❖ The playgrounds which the council has responsibility for have had their annual inspection, carried out by Wicksteed. Very little was found to need attention thanks to the councillors who inspect monthly and the volunteers who repair anything that is pointed out. The dip in front of the pedestrian gate into the recreation ground is a recurring problem which the council is contacting builders about to see what solutions can be found.
- ❖ The council sincerely thanks Karen Dawes, the current editor of Pathfinder, for all the work she has put in to the magazine enabling parish news to be circulated to anyone interested. Hopefully a replacement can be found to keep this valuable village asset going.
- ❖ The parish council wishes everyone a joyful Christmas time and a very happy 2022.
- ❖ The next parish council meeting is on Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup> and then Thursday January 20<sup>th</sup>. All meetings begin at 7.30pm with agendas, minutes and information about the council being posted on notice boards throughout the village and [www.hermitage.org.uk](http://www.hermitage.org.uk). All members of the public are welcome but the council would appreciate the parish clerk being notified in advance.

❖ Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce, by emailing [hermitagepc@outlook.com](mailto:hermitagepc@outlook.com).