

Hermitage Parish Council Update

- Belated happy new year greeting to all readers. The council has managed to hold face to face meetings since the powers to hold virtual ones was removed and plans to continue doing so. Members of the public are welcome to attend, preferably wearing a face mask and having had all relevant vaccinations. It has been practice to spread people out as long as they can still hear proceedings. Hand sanitiser will be available.
- Very many thanks to Jamie and staff at The Fox for hosting the tree light up event in December – having put up the tree and lights beforehand. Mulled wine put singers in hearty voice and the weather was kind.
- A date has been set for the Annual Parish Assembly – Wednesday 27th April at the village hall. The key note speaker will be Professor Sir Brian Hoskins CBE FRS a leading meteorologist and climatologist who will bring us up to date with the real data on climate change and its impact. A quick look at his Wikipedia page will show that he is eminent in his field so please put the date aside to hear what he has to say. You won't be disappointed.
- As you will be well aware, this the Platinum Jubilee year for The Queen and HPC has been considering how Hermitage could celebrate the occasion. A message has been sent to village groups, organisations and the school with the suggestion that we hold a family day/half day with each group running different fun events – all to be held on Sunday 5th June.
- Now that the design for the new bus shelter opposite the school has been decided on, quotes are being requested for the installation and to move the bus stop. However this will not happen before May at the earliest as lead times for making the shelter are currently quite long.
- At its January meeting the council agreed that grants be awarded to the church for Pathfinder publication, the Horticultural Society & Gardening Club, Hermitage Preschool and the village hall for putting badminton court lines into the large hall.
- The countryside volunteers from WBCS will be at Furze Hill on Tuesday February 22nd. They will be working in the butterfly meadow, coppicing the woods in the exclusion zone, dealing with vegetation on Eling Way and possibly planting the trees donated by the Greenham Common Trust. Anyone wishing to join in any of this work should meet at the village hall car park at 10am suitably dressed for the work and the weather. All tools are provided.
- Dog owners who walk their dogs in the Furze Hill area – this message is for you. Please pick up after your dog. Why should the groundsman or the volunteers who look after the site have to deal with this mess before they can do any work? If anyone has evidence of someone not picking up after their dog the council will use it to prosecute.
- The next parish council meeting is Thursday February 17th. 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. 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.