



Dunham on the Hill & Hapsford Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2020

Message from the Parish Council Chair

Dear Resident

Oh my! It seems an eternity since we produced the last newsletter and because of Coronavirus, life as we know it has completely changed. At the start of this year I doubt any of us would ever have imagined something like this happening. We hope that you and your families are safe and well and to those who have been unwell, lost loved ones or friends, our hearts go out to you. As we approach Christmas and the news of the vaccine upon us, we hope 2021 will be a lot better.

We know that Christmas will be very different to previous years and for many it may be a difficult one. I'm sure that many of you will take more than a moment or two to reflect on the difficulties faced this year, however we do hope you are able to celebrate Christmas as best you can within the Government's guidance.

It's great to see so many Parishioners with their Christmas trees/decorations up. The Hapsford community have switched on their Christmas tree lights and a big thank you goes out to them all for organising this. I would also like to say a big thank you to the Village Hall and the Boshaw Centre for their beautiful festive displays which have brought a smile to us all and really brighten up the village.

The Parish Council would like to have a tree in the centre of the village of Dunham on the Hill, however, our budget prohibits us due to the cost of installing an appropriate power supply. We appeal to anyone who knows of a company/firm who would like to sponsor this and if so, please do get in touch for more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families health, peace and happiness for the New Year.

Finally, this will be my last message as Chair as I am standing down. However, I will continue to be on the Parish Council Committee.

David Cowap

Chair

Parish Council Meetings

Due to the current pandemic restrictions Parish Council meetings continue to be held remotely until further notice, you can access any of the remote meetings by contacting the clerk via clerk.dunhamhillpc@gmail.com. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5th January 2021 at 7.00pm



Clean Up After Your Dog

This continues to be a problem. It has come to our attention that people are just bagging up their dog's mess and then 'chucking' it into the hedge, trees, long grass or just ignoring it. Please clean up after your dog and put it in the next bin you find, or preferably take it home to dispose of. It is becoming very unsightly, unhygienic and unnecessary. There is no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy!!

Fly Tipping in the Parish



Lockdown has seen the worst of people dumping their rubbish around the Parish. The latest can be seen in the photo. If we can catch these people, we will report them and hope they will be prosecuted. There is no need to break the law in this way. As we know litter does not clean itself away, it can take years to degrade; it causes harm to wildlife and their habitat.

Keep your village and Britain tidy. Thank you!

Face Coverings

Remember that it is the law that you must wear a face covering when going into all shops, supermarkets, bars, restaurants and travelling in England, on a bus or coach or train. Places of worship also require face coverings. If you do not wear a face covering you will be breaking the law and could be fined. Face covering is any type which covers your nose and mouth. Face coverings are not a substitute for maintaining social distancing. Good hygiene is also required, remember to keep washing/sanitising your hands.

Bring Back the Wildlife

As previously mentioned, the Parish Council has been working with several organisations to enhance our Parish. Nothing can conjure up a perfect image of a countryside quite like a bee buzzing from flower to flower, a butterfly flying across the meadow, a beetle making its way through the tall grass. They paint a wonderful picture don't they?

The reality however is less than idyllic. Modern living has seen insect numbers drop at an alarming rate. We risk losing many of them forever. Life systems depend on insects who make up much of our wildlife and they are all totally remarkable in the roles they play.

The Parish Council wants its community to help and stop insects dying out. We are taking simple but effective actions which could have an impact. Following approval of our planning application we will be embarking on planting a range of small trees and plants around the community in a safe, socially distanced way, in March. Please look out for details.



Wherever you are there's no excuse for domestic abuse

This is a crime and it can affect anyone during the pandemic. Limited contact with the outside world has made you and a lot of people feel unsafe. The police have specialist teams and are there to help 24/7 in the same way they always do. Cheshire Police will respond to your call and arrest anyone committing offences against you.

- In an Emergency dial 999
- Non-Emergency dial 111
- Cheshire Victim Support 0808 1689111
- Cheshire West & Chester (Concerns about a child's welfare; abuse or neglect) 0300 123 7047

New Scammers Impersonating Internet Providers – Please be Vigilant

There are increased reports being received from people who have been telephoned by scammers (automated calls) portraying to be their internet/phone provider, saying that they will be cut off due to illegal activity, low activity or problems detected on the line.

Scammers try to obtain personal data or request individuals to give them access to their computer, allowing them to download malicious software which will then afford the scammers with the opportunity of taking over an individual's system and obtain access to their online banking etc.

If you receive any of these calls, please hang up immediately and report the fraud.

Cold-call phone scams typically involve scammers deceiving people into believing they are speaking to a police officer, a member of bank staff or a representative of another trusted company or agency such as a government department.

Usually, the scammer will convince an individual that they have been a victim of fraud and will ask for personal and financial information in order to gain access to their account.

Never disclose the following details over the phone: -

- four-digit card Pin to anyone, including the bank or police
- full password or online banking codes
- personal details, unless you are sure who you are talking to

Report unwanted calls to the Regulator.

Planning Updates

The recent planning applications are:

- 16/04205/FUL-Manor Farm, Manor Lane, Hapsford – Conversion of farm buildings to residential
- 20/03687/FUL-Pear Tree Farm – Retrospective planning for a field shelter

If you have any comments on either of these applications, please submit them via the Cheshire West & Chester website. While we as a Parish Council also make a recommendation, we believe individual comments are more effective. Please bear in mind that any comments, positive or negative, that you or we make, must be purely on planning grounds. There are also two planning applications in for Helsby which also involve land in the DH&H Parish: -

- 20/00324/FUL – land at Cable Drive. The demolition of the Honeywell Buildings and the erection of 247 dwellings.
- 20/01148/FUL – Erection of a bridge over Hornsmill Brook from the approved 118 dwellings development on the old Helsby Sports Club tennis courts onto a proposed light industrial estate on the field adjacent to the Honeywell site on the Hapsford side of the brook.

The proposal for 247 dwellings is of a concern to both Helsby Parish Council and DH&H Parish Council and we have both submitted objections to it. The most westerly of the Honeywell buildings is in our Parish and therefore in our boundaries hence our objection. We are working with Helsby Parish Council about the proposals that affects both of our communities.

Defibrillators

Just to remind you that Defibrillators within the Parish are located as follows: -

- Dunham on the Hill village – in the old telephone box opposite the Boshaw Centre
- Hapsford – in the old telephone box adjacent to the bus stop



- Cheshire Park Homes (off Chester Road, behind Cafe Fresh), Dunham on the Hill

Could You Be A Volunteer?

We're looking to recruit volunteers (Project Groups) to work with us on a few initiatives within the Parish. We are currently exploring (if we can obtain funding) the possibility of clearing and development of our woodlands in Hapsford. There are a few ponds which require urgent attention, as does the whole area which needs clearing and a good tidy-up. There is a lot of work required and we need funds and volunteers in order to carry out this work, not only for the benefit of our community but importantly for the wildlife. Can you help with fundraising or donate some of your time? Contact Trudy via clerk.dunhamhillpc@gmail.com

Litter Picking

Due to Covid-19 we need teams to work with us in a socially distanced way to ensure litter picking can be undertaken around the Parish safely and on a regular basis. Can you help? Contact Trudy via clerk.dunhamhillpc@gmail.com

Your Parish Needs You

We have vacancies for two Parish Councillors

- Do you have a few hours to spare each month?
- Do you want to get involved in your community?
- Do you want to have an influence on local building and planning and help protect the green belts and other aspects of our beautiful Parish?
- Do you want to work with us to help address issues of concern, including fly tipping and speeding?
- Do you want to help with development projects to improve our community?

If the answer is yes, then contact our Clerk, Trudy via clerk.dunhamhillpc@gmail.com



Appeal from the Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee are looking to create a feature wall displaying historical pictures from around the Parish. If you have any photos which can be used please speak with Sheila (01928 723696) or post/drop them off to her at 1 Croft Cottage, Dunham on the Hill.

Photos can be copied/scanned and returned if required.

Thank you in anticipation



The Christmas Tree lights 'switch on' at Hapsford

