

The Gill

Welcome to the October 2020 Edition of the Newsletter for our community brought to you by Hethersgill Parish Council

COVID-19 SURVEY

We enclose for you a survey regarding the impact of the pandemic upon our parish. We would be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire and return it to us, in the pre-paid envelope, before 9th November. A copy is also available to complete online at www.hethersgill.org.uk.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

When I took over as Chair in May 2019, I did not anticipate the circumstances in which I would be writing this, my first annual report, to you. These strange and unprecedented times were certainly not what I planned on having to discuss with you all in our parish newsletter - although it does make a change from the weather or Brexit!

I should firstly begin by expressing thanks to Harry Kay, who retired as Chairman and Parish Councillor at our last set of elections. Harry was a brilliant leader and his local knowledge and sense of humour are missed at our meetings.

The Council were having quite a productive year with a number of ongoing projects that we were working on. We had two events planned for you, including a spectacular VE Day commemoration in conjunction with the Social Committee, and then of course, COVID arrived and derailed all our plans. We were also working on a "Welcome to Hethersgill" pack which we intend to distribute to new residents but the launch of that also had to be postponed.

The Council meeting in March was cancelled as a result along with our Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, however, since May we have been meeting online using Zoom. Meetings are certainly different, and we do all miss being able to meet up for them, but we have adapted and are now all quite comfortable with the virtual arrangements. The agenda and papers for the meetings are always published on our website and you as the public are more than welcome to join in. During this pandemic we are not updating our parish noticeboards.

Since the last annual report, we have dealt with thirteen planning applications. Although there has been a longer period than normal between reports, it is a significant increase on the norm.

Highways issues remain one of our most talked about topics. If you do encounter any problems on our roads please do report it to the Highways hotline (either by phone or online).

As with many other projects during COVID, broadband issues have quietened down but we are delighted to hear that measures are progressing in the area to improve both phone line quality and internet speeds.

In November 2019, a decision was taken to retain the same level of precept. We will be debating the level of the precept for 2021/22 at our November meeting and we do recognise the financial strain that many are under so will be making our decision with this borne upmost in mind. We remain fortunate to be able to access Hallburn Windfarm Grants and urge any local eligible groups to do the same.

We do still have two vacancies for new members on the Council and will look at filling these by co-option once we begin meeting again in person. We did hope to be able to get together in 2020 but, at the time of writing with the virus increasing in prevalence, it is unlikely that in-person meetings will resume much before May 2021. We, as a Council, do however remain available to listen to any concerns or problems you have and would urge you to keep in touch so that we can assist you. With that in mind, there is a questionnaire enclosed with this Gill. Full details are provided for you and I would urge you to complete it and return it to us so that we can be best placed for continuing to help you in our small community.

Hopefully in 2021 we will be able to return to some sense of a new normal and we do hope to be able to put our VE day celebrations on for you too.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to each of the parish councillors and our City and County ward members for their continued support. Thanks also to our Clerk for her assistance in keeping our meeting schedule on track and all her hard work for the council – particularly during this difficult year.

Please do stay safe and take care.

Alison Sisson, Chair, Hethersgill Parish Council, Oct 2020

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The dates for our remaining 2020/21 Parish Council meetings are:

Tuesday 19 January & Tuesday 16 March

The agenda and login details for each meeting are provided on our website.

HALLBURN WIND FARM GRANTS

The next deadline for grant applications for the Hallburn fund is 13th January 2021. Application details and link to the grant funder is available on our website.



This year so far has been difficult as you all know and we have not run any formal Scouting since March 2020. We have had young people taking part in various digital events including The Great Indoors Weekender (120,000 participated) a camp in the family home and Hike to the Moon and back where over £750,000 was raised for Children in Need.

Moving forward we are looking at options at the moment in line with the extensive risk assessments that the government require and rules from the Scout association. With these in mind we don't see a restart of the group in full until after Christmas however we do plan to do some small events up until then. Therefore I am giving you notice of an event during half term we intend to run. This is a What3Words Poppy Treasure Hunt that can be completed in your family group. Details will follow shortly on the local social media outlets.

However to prepare you will need the What3Words app from the following site <https://what3words.com>. The emergency services are increasingly using this to locate individuals who are in trouble as it is accurate to a 3 metre square anywhere in the world.

Back to plans if anybody who is interested in joining the group either young people or adults as helpers please do not hesitate to contact me we will be back. Please keep safe and wishing you all better year in 2021.

Simon Barrett, Group Scout Leader (01228-675717) Bewcastlescouts@gmail.com

CONTACT DETAILS

A full list of councillor contact details is available on our website or please don't hesitate to give the Clerk a call on 01228 231124 if you require any assistance. Highways issues can be reported on 0300 303 2992.

2021

Moving forward, we aim to bring you a new edition of The Gill in spring 2021. We hope to be able to resume in-person meetings and will confirm our calendar of dates by May. Although this may seem a little early, all of the Councillors and our Clerk do wish you a safe and rested festive season and a healthy and happy new year.



2018/19	Accounts for the Year	2019/20
Income		
£7,000.00	Precept and CTRS Grant	£7,000.00
£0.00	Grants	£171.90
£0.00	Newsletter Advertising	£0.00
£0.00	VAT reclaimed	£0.00
£7,000.00	TOTAL	£7,171.90
Expenditure		
£282.10	Administration	£282.10
£3,198.88	Clerk's Salary	£3,346.56
£0.00	Parish Hall Projects	£0.00
£0.00	Parish Church Grant	£500.00
£200.00	Donations & Grants from other Bodies	£200.00
£368.32	The Gill	£395.74
£218.00	Insurance	£218.00
£379.99	Equipment and Maintenance	£799.30
£20.00	VAT Incurred	£121.29
-£240.00	Website	£97.00
£4,427.29	TOTAL	£5,941.25
Summary		
£3,162.02	Balance Brought Forward	£5,734.73
£9,269.19	Add receipts	£7,171.90
£4,427.29	Less payments	£5,941.25
£5,734.73	Balance at 31 March	£6,965.38