

Hemyock Parish Council

Newsletter

Parish Council Takes on More Local Amenities from the District Council

Hemyock Parish Council has agreed a small increase in the parish precept next year of 12p per month for the average household in Hemyock. The increase will help to cover in-

creased costs and to fund the local amenities which the Council is taking over from Mid Devon District Council including the public toilets and the village car park.

Stephen Walford, the new Chief Executive of Mid Devon District Council following the retirement of Kevin Finan, accepted the Parish Council's invitation to attend a meeting on 1st February. Mr Walford outlined his priorities for the District



Council and invited questions from the parish councillors.

Stephen was formerly Director of Growth & Strategy at Buckinghamshire County Council.



WELCOME to the third issue of our Parish Council Newsletter. We publish 2 issues each year in order to keep our community informed of the council's activities.

Editor Neil Punnett

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Come along and find out what's going on in the parish at 7.30 p.m. on **Wednesday 29th March** in the Parish Hall, with cheese and wine. It is a chance to meet representatives of local groups, Hemyock School, the Devon Air Ambulance and parish councillors.



NOT SUITABLE FOR HGVs !

Your Parish Council has installed signs on five local roads to help prevent HGVs getting stuck on our narrow lanes.

OPENING of the PARISH COUNCIL's NEW BMX TRACK

The Parish Council's new BMX track was officially opened in the autumn. Over fifty people attended, enjoying hot dogs and hot chocolate while a dozen boys and girls demonstrated how to use the track to its full potential. Designed and built by BMX star **Kye Forte**, the track is sure to be a popular facility for our young people for years to come.



Introducing Your Councillors:

1. Councillor Nick Moon



How long have you lived in Hemyock?

All my life. I was born in the village on the farm where I still live.

What is your employment history?

Farming since leaving school

How long have you been a parish councillor?

Since May 2015.

What does being a parish councillor mean to you?

Firstly, ensuring the whole

village is represented in our views and decisions. Secondly, doing what is right for the village and the community And thirdly..... applying common sense to our discussions

Do you belong to any other organisations?

Our local rough shooting syndicate, which is a group of like-minded working men and families who wish to spend their time in the countryside and help maintain

and respect the environment and wildlife. Past vice chair and chair of Culm Valley Young Farmers in the 1980s.

What are your interests/hobbies?

Enjoying the countryside and passionate about wildlife and maintaining the habitat.

Captain for many years of a local skittle team.

Haven't any more time for hobbies, farming is all that can be fitted in!

2. Councillor Paul Doble

How long have you lived in Hemyock?

All my life.

What is your employment history?

I started with a Youth Training Scheme (YTS) placement on a neighbour's farm for two years. Ever since then I have worked on the family dairy farm. For the past nine years I have been running it.

How long have you been a parish councillor?

2 years.

What does being a parish councillor mean to you?

It helps me to keep up with what is going on in the village and to represent my community. I hope that I can make a difference.



Do you belong to any other local organisations?

No; being a dairy farmer takes up all my time!

What are your interests/hobbies?

Motorbikes, and most sport especially Six Nations Rugby Union.

3. Councillor Penny Lawrence



How long have you lived in Hemyock?

16 years in total, but I have always considered Hemyock to be home.

What is your employment history?

Agricultural data: Meat & Livestock Commission and Suffolk Sheep Society, then

IT training.

How long have you been a parish councillor?

Since May 2015.

What does being a parish councillor mean to you?

Trying to make Hemyock a better and safer place.

Do you belong to any

other organisations?

Secretary of Hemyock Parish Hall Management Committee, Blackdown Hills AONB Community Heritage Forum.

What are your interests/hobbies?

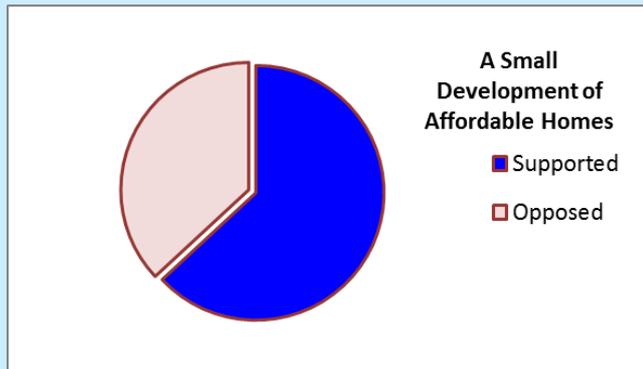
Local history, walking & cycling.

Parish Council Grants

The Parish Council has awarded grants to the Healthy Living and Activity Centre, The Blackdown Support Group, the Hemyock Lights Brigade, Tiverton Community Transport and Mid-Devon Citizen's Advice Bureau. The Council is always prepared to consider applications for grants from local organisations.

Independent Local Housing Needs Survey for Hemyock and Clayhidon Reveals Support for Affordable Homes

- 1069 surveys were delivered and 287 survey forms were returned. The response rate was 27% which is about average for such surveys.
- The survey identified a local need for 26 affordable homes and 18 open market homes within the next 5 years.



- Respondents were asked if they would be in favour of a small number of homes for local people being built if the need for affordable housing were proven. 63% of those who answered the question said they would be in favour of a small development of affordable housing for local people. 37% said they were against such a development.
- Respondents were asked if they would support an open market housing development in the village. 33% of those who answered the question said they would be in favour of a development of open market housing. 67% said they were against such a development.
- Respondents were asked if they knew of anybody who had had to leave the village in the last 5 years due to lack of suitable housing. 25 households replied that they did know of someone.

Heart Defibrillators in Hemyock

The Parish Council has leased three heart defibrillators for the village, partly funded by Mid Devon District Council's TAP fund. The defibrillators are sited at the Parish Hall, Longmead and The Garages.

These defibs are user-friendly devices that untrained bystanders can use to save the life of someone having a cardiac arrest. In addition training sessions will be run annually. If you see a person suddenly collapse and pass out, or if you find a person already unconscious, confirm



that the person can't respond. Shout at and shake the person to make sure he or she isn't sleeping. Take the defib from the cabinet and follow the instructions. The machine analyses someone's heart rhythm and then uses visual and electronic voice prompts to guide you through each step.

In order to fund these valuable additions to the village's facilities the Parish Council has organised fund raising events and received tremendous support from local organisations and individuals.

Housing Developments in Hemyock: Possible Benefits for the Parish

A planning application by Waddeton Park Ltd to build 38 homes on land north of Culmstock Road has been submitted to Mid Devon District Council. As a consultee the Parish Council has pragmatically supported the application* provided that it continues to be involved with the legal agreement discussions centring on the **range of community facilities that will be provided** as part of the development.

The developer is committed to including a minimum 3 hectares of community land to be offered to the Parish Council together with an appropriate

sum for maintenance. **Possible facilities include** allotments, community orchard, dog exercise area, adult gym equipment and a footpath from Longmead through to Culmstock Road and the primary school.

** Currently the planning authority, Mid Devon District Council, does not have a five-year bank of land for housing development. This means that the government's national policy for more house building will carry more weight and thus that this new development is very likely to be approved by the District Council.*

Devon County Council's telephone number for the public to report any lights that are not working, pot holes, blocked gulleys and any other road maintenance issues is **0345 155 1004** Lines are open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturday. Or report the problem on line - new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/

The Dog Mess That Could Cost £162,000

Longmead Field is owned by the Parish Council and has been developed to provide a versatile and functional sports and recreation centre. The Parish Council has spent £985 to put up signs stating that dogs must not be allowed on the pitches. This has caused some comment so we would like to make clear why this has been done.

Dog mess is not simply unpleasant, it is a health risk. Dog mess can contain an organism which causes Toxocariasis, a condition which **causes blindness**. A trace can remain even when dog mess appears to have been picked up. Our footballers have to spend time before each match removing dog mess from Longmead's pitch. The situation is becoming so bad that the teams may move out of the village! This would be very bad news indeed as the Parish Council would have to repay the **£162,000** grant it received from the Football Association when Longmead was developed.....

PLEASE do not allow dogs on the pitches and surrounding grass area.

PLEASE remove dog mess and put in the red bins provided

PLEASE let us know if any dog owners are allowing their animals to run free, registration numbers of vehicles, addresses etc.

We want responsible dog owners and other walkers to be able to enjoy the walk around Longmead, but failure to deal with the irresponsible owners will cost us all. A new dog friendly exercise area is being proposed for part of the community land resulting from the new housing north of Culmstock Road.



Watch Your Speed!

Following regular complaints from parishioners about speeding vehicles Community Speed Watch Volunteers are now regularly monitoring speeds on Hemyock's roads. Don't be caught out!



Your Parish Councillors

Hemyock Parish Council consists of ten local residents who were elected as councillors for a four year term of office in the May 2015 election, five of whom were elected for the first time.

Hemyock Parish Council Clerk

Mrs. D Evans

Park Farm

Dunkeswell

Honiton

Devon

EX14 4RN

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Back Row left to right:

Roy Calcraft, Nick Moon, Simon Clist (Vice Chair), Tim Barton, Neil Punnett

Front Row left to right:

Jocelyn Pritchard, Penny Lawrence, Paul Doble, Donna Evans (Parish Clerk), Heather Stallard (Chair), Lance Povah.

Meet Your Parish Councillors

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month in the Forbes Lounge of the Parish Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

One or more of your parish councillors will usually be present at the Hemyock Saturday Markets which are held every third Saturday in the month between 10 a.m. and noon.