**Hermitage Parish Council Update**

* The public inquiry into the development proposed by CALA Homes Ltd, for 36 homes on the land of Charlotte Close, was concluded on Wednesday 21st November. The parish council put forward its statement off opposition on the opening day of the inquiry and a councillor attended every day, as did Quentin Webb, district councillor for Hermitage. A decision is likely within four to six weeks so early New Year. Keep your fingers crossed for the right outcome.
* The application to build on the land of the Old Farmhouse and outbuildings has been approved with some conditions, one of which is to plant a wide buffer zone before work starts on site.
* Time has come around again to get grant applications in to the council. Modest grants are available from the parish council for any community group, organisation or voluntary body that works within the parish for the good of its residents. Application forms and all the information you need about how to apply and what information to provide can be obtained from the parish clerk. Applications must be returned by Monday January 7th.
* An increase in Burial Ground fees has been agreed by the council. These can be found on the Hermitage web site [www.hermitage.org.uk](http://www.hermitage.org.uk).
* Any groups wishing to use the recreation ground can now contact the parish clerk for a copy of the policy which the council has agreed. As with all council documents, this policy can be found on [www.hermitage.org.uk](http://www.hermitage.org.uk).
* In November West Berkshire Countryside Society again got stuck in to the management of our green spaces. Nineteen volunteers cut back an enormous quantity of brambles around the butterfly meadow between the recreation ground and the motorway corridor. Some more hazel stools in the exclusion zone (behind the high fence) were coppiced and protected and the network of paths in the scrub to the east of the drive to the village hall was opened up.
* The date for work to begin on the Active Travel Route is not yet confirmed. The permissive path from Hermitage to Hampstead Norreys, including the stretch from Pinewood Close to Sandhills, will be closed whilst the works are carried out. This is expected to take 13 weeks, depending on the weather. When they start, please do not hold up the works by trying to use the path. HPC has signed a twenty-year lease with WBC to retain its section of the route as a permissive path.
* Hermitage Parish Council wishes all residents of Hermitage a very happy Christmas and a joy filled New Year
* An early diary date for 2019 – the Annual Parish Assembly will be held in the village hall in the evening of Thursday April 18th.
* The date of the next parish council meeting is Thursday December 13th then Thursday January 20th and Thursday February 21st. All monthly meetings are held in the Adelaide Room at the rear of the church and begin at 7.30pm. Agendas, minutes and information about the council are posted on notice boards throughout the village and on [www.hermitage.org.uk](http://www.hermitage.org.uk).
* Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce by emailing hermitagepc@outook.com.