



Ashington Parish Council

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2020

PARISH ROOMS IN SIGHT

AFTER many years of trying it is looking likely that the Parish Council will at last have a permanent home for their meetings.

A change of use planning application has been passed by RDC to allow part of the sports pavilion in Ashington Memorial Park to be converted into office accommodation. Our Parish Clerk will be able to work out of the office instead of using her own home and monthly Council Meetings will be held there instead of the committee room in the Ashington Memorial Hall.

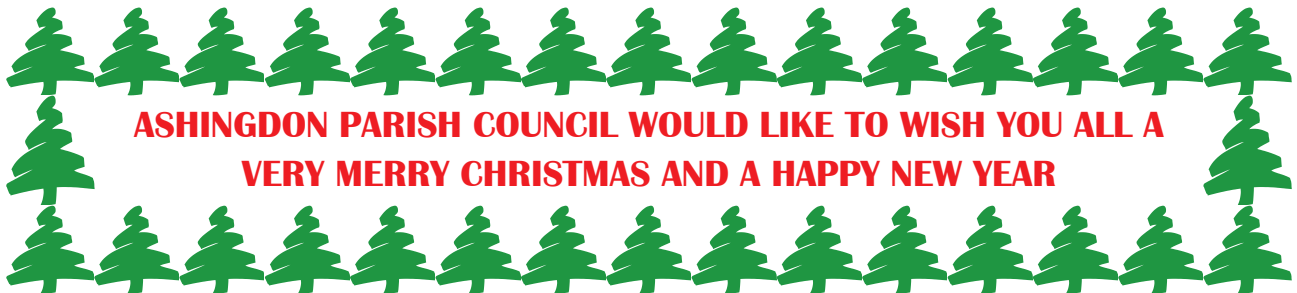
Parishioners will also be able to visit the of-

fice if they have issues and wish to discuss matters with the Clerk of the Council.

Included in the project is the construction of new public toilets which have been long overdue for a park of this size and the number of users that now visit the park.

The details of the final lease are still to be agreed and there is a good deal of building work to be undertaken but it is hoped that this will start in mid 2021 and finished towards the end of the year.

Further information will follow.



MEET YOUR PARISH COUNCILLOR



Councillor Dryhurst has been Parish Councillor for Ashington Parish Council for more than 23 years.

Currently, he is the longest serving councillor, although the late Norman Drayton-Thomas was a councillor for 42 years. He is a retired engineer. He worked mostly in the Aviation Industry with many years spent working at our nearby Southend Airport and at Stansted and also worked in the Telecoms Industry. Councillor Dryhurst is a member of both the Planning Committee and the Personnel Committee. He represents the council on the RSPB working group and is also a Trustee on the Wyvern Community Transport charity and Ashington and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. He has a wealth of knowledge on the local area.

ASHINGDON AND EAST HAWKWELL MEMORIAL HALL RE-OPENS

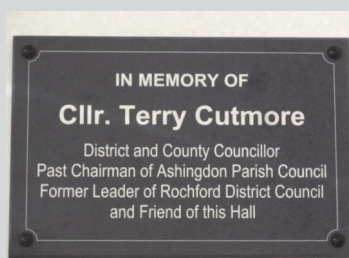
**New Board of Management Trustees are elected
and working hard to make improvements**

THE Memorial Hall has re-opened after months of closure due to Government restrictions. Local groups are finally treading the boards after months of frustration. The sprung maple dance floor has been totally refurbished and is looking like new. The Trustees are anxious to make the hall the centre of the community again and trying to obtain grants to make major repairs that are required. If trades people



www.ashingdonmemorialhall.uk 07307 692889

and volunteers would like to help in this they will be most welcome. The hall recently erected a plaque in the hall in memory of Cllr. Terry Cutmore who sadly passed away in April from Covid-19. He was a great friend of the hall. Cllrs from RDC attended along with his widow Sue and her family. See pictures below of the new floor and plaque.



Above, the plaque. And right, Terry's Brother gave a short Eulogy



The Rochford District Heritage Tapestry

The **Rochford District Heritage Tapestry** is made up of 10 'timeline' panels that depict the key historic, Christian and social events across the 14 parishes of Rochford District since the decisive battle of Assandun in 1016, which determined the destiny of the English crown.

This community project was funded through a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and additional sponsorship from the Estuary Elim Church Group.

Each panel measures 65cm high by 90cm wide, prior to framing. Local artists created the timeline panel drawings according to an overall design based on research by local historians. The initial idea of a knitted/tapestry creation was developed and the panels were then created on calico by volunteers using a mixture of appliqué, felt work and different types of embroidery. It's taken just 20 months from initial concept to tapestry completion.

The project's working title of "**Knitting Our Heritage Together**"

also inspired the creation of knitted figures that can be matched to figures on the tapestry panels. Historical narratives have been created to explain the background and key events depicted in each panel.

One objective for this community project was to be widely inclusive and enable people of any skill level to be involved in its creation. About 90 adults and 80 children have been involved in different aspects of the project, with the 'makers' ranging from complete beginners to experienced craftspeople. We have all learned from it, whether that be new skills, local history or different ways of working together.

After an initial exhibition, the panels and knitted figures will be displayed at various locations across the district, as well as details being available on the Rochford Town Team website (www.rochfordtown.com/heritage-tapestry) and on the free "Historic Rochford" app.



THE ESSEX COASTAL PATH

The historic establishment of the "England Coast Path" which will change forever and for the better our footpath network by the reopening of the coastal footpath routes, starting from Wallasea Island in Canewdon, through our Parish, via South Fambridge to the Ashingdon and Hullbridge boundary and then around the Brandy Hole SSSI salt marshes, then back to the River Crouch coastline, to run through Hullbridge and on further to Battlesbridge.

It will restore the connecting riverside footpaths which were breached by high tides and sea erosion and lost for over 80 years, but soon to be revived.

The recommendations for the route that we had requested reported on and suggested have been accepted by the Natural England and the Department of Environment and now only await approval by the Minister of the DoE.

CHAIRMAN'S NEWS



Welcome to our latest Newsletter and I hope you enjoy it. As you might have imagined not a lot has been happening. No functions, meetings or AGM's to go to due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Our parish council meetings are all now being conducted virtually using Zoom but don't feel excluded you can still join the meeting if you use Zoom, contact our Clerk for details.

We do have some good news; the Parish Council has erected a new bench seat in front of the Ashingdon & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall, and it is hoped that we will soon have our own Parish rooms and the re-opening of the toilets in the King George's Playing Field (see elsewhere for details).

I was also pleased to hear that the Memorial Hall has re-opened. It is now being managed by a new board of Trustees who are working hard to save the hall and to find funding to make the major repairs required. This hall is a major asset to the Parish and we must all make every effort to keep it. There is only a handful of people doing a lot of work and they would welcome any help that residents and local trades people could offer.

Sadly we had to make the decision to cancel the annual Christmas Buffet because of the Coronavirus and distancing regulations. I know many residents enjoy this event. We hope to return to normal next year.

So in closing can I thank on behalf of the Parish the shop keepers who managed to keep open and those that re-opened as soon as they could during these troubled times. Thank you.

Keep within the law, keep safe and well in these trying times and a Happy Christmas to All.

Cllr. Terry flowers — Chairman Ashingdon Parish Council

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL like most councils around the country have been unable to hold face-to-face council meetings due to the Covid-19 restrictions. These have been conducted using Zoom and have worked quite well. If you wish to join a virtual meeting you can obtain an entry code and password from the Clerk to the Council.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET CANCELLED

Unfortunately due to the Government restrictions around the Corona virus the parish council reluctantly took the difficult decision to cancel our annual Christmas Buffet. Due to the restrictions on numbers it would not have been sensible or safe to hold the event.

Rochford District Councillor Terry Cutmore dies from Covid-19



It is with much sadness that we have to report the death of Cllr. Terry Cutmore vice-chairman of Rochford District Council and ward councillor for Hockley and Ashingdon. Terry had been involved in local council work since 1994 he was elected chairman of Ashingdon Parish Council in 1998 and in 1999 was elected onto RDC. He served APC until 2006. He was elected to ECC in 2013 and also served as Leader of RDC until 2019 when he became vice Chairman. He died on 1st April 2020.

CAN WE HELP WITH A GRANT?

If you are a charity or local community organisation in Ashingdon, Ashingdon Parish Council has a small fund available to offer Grants to such organisations. If you think you qualify you can obtain an application form from the Clerk to the Parish Council whose details are below.

If you have any comments or enquiries, or have something you would like included please contact Clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs Karen Boyce via e-mail at ashingdonparishcouncil@outlook.com

Please address all correspondence to 4 Warwick Road, Rochford, Essex SS4 1HP

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS



Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Monday 7th December 2020 at 7.30 p.m.



ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD VIRTUALLY. CONTACT
THE CLERK ON 07950 947731 FOR MEETING DETAILS

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

Ashingdon & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall booking: **07307 692889**

St Andrews Church Hall bookings – Julie Goodge **01702 205918**

Neighbourhood Police **101**

1st Ashingdon Scout Group (St Andrews)

Group Scout Leader - Roger Constable **01702 548834**

Cubs – John Blundell **01702 545666**

Brownies – Hilary Skeggs **01702 291131**

County Councillors

Carole Weston **07525 714715**

District Councillors

Mike Carter **07958 707070**

Carole Weston **07525 714715**

Parish Councillors

David Catchpole (Ashingdon ward) **01702 544516**

Debbie Constable (Ashingdon ward) **01702 548834**

Sean Chittenden (West ward) **01702 543704**

Pat Hennessy (West ward) **01702 205060**

Roy Martin (West ward) **01702 202750**

Glen Dryhurst (Ashingdon ward) **01702 543380**

Terry Flowers (Ashingdon Heights ward) **07776 013543**

Dan McCarthy (Ashingdon ward) **01702 530870**

Clerk to Ashingdon Parish Council

Karen Boyce

4 Warwick Drive, Rochford, Essex SS4 1HP

ashingdonparishcouncil@outlook.com **07950 947731**

All contacts correct at time of printing

Rochford District Council

Council Offices, South Street,
Rochford, Essex, SS4 1BW

Essex County Council

County Hall, Market Road,
Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH

Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall

Ashingdon Road, Rochford,
Essex SS4 3HF

Telephone 07307 692889

www.ashingdonmemorialhall.uk

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

Take a look at:

[www.ashingdonparish
council.gov.uk](http://www.ashingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

PLANNING

THE Planning Committee of Ashingdon Parish Council normally meets just before the regular monthly council meetings at Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend along with any other interested parties. Meetings normally start at 7 p.m. On the first Monday of the month. **Now on Zoom**

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

There are currently three vacant seats on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a member of Ashingdon Parish Council please join a virtual meeting held on the 1st Monday of each month (except August) at 7.30 p.m.

Contact the Clerk on 07950 947731 for a Zoom meeting link and password.