



HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS FOR APRIL 2023 EDITION

2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Monday, 15 May at 7:30pm**. This is an opportunity for parishioners to raise any issues they may have concerning the parish as well as a chance to come along and hear about what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year. If you have any particular issues which you would like to discuss and have added to the Agenda, please contact the Clerk.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

There are several events planned for our Village Green this Spring:

Crosses on the Green: St Margaret's Church will be positioning the Crosses on the Green over the Easter weekend

What Goes on Here on 22nd April 10am -1pm: Local groups in the village are able to book a stand allowing them to demonstrate what they do and who they are. This is a great opportunity to join local clubs and societies or simply find out more. Please visit <https://www.hovec.co.uk/what-goes-here> for more information or to book a stand.

The Kings Coronation – at the time of going to press various events are still being considered and discussed so look out for further information about Coronation events in the village.

ROAD CLOSURES

The village and surrounding areas are experiencing a lot of disruption due to Kent County Council roadworks. We are often advised of temporary road closures very close to or even after the start date but we make sure that the details we receive from KCC are published on the Parish Council website and Facebook page as quickly as possible. You can sign up on our website for all the news to allow you to stay up to date with what is happening in the Parish.

You can also look at the Kent County Council roadworks website from which you can find details of planned roadworks in our area: <https://one.network/>

PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS

Funding for the 2023/24 period is now open so if you have local project that you would like to be considered for a Parish Council community grant please do make an application.

For further information about who is eligible for this and how to apply please visit our website page:

<https://www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk/UserFiles/Files/Forms%20and%20Grants/Grants%20Policy%20Jan%202020%20Accessible.pdf>

KENT POLICE – MY COMMUNITY VOICE

Kent Police are rolling out a community messaging system called "My Community Voice" which will allow them to hear your voice on the issues impacting you in your community either through direct engagement with officers following an alert or through surveys provided by your local officer to the local community.

For more information on how to sign up please visit:

<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/>

PLANNING

The Parish council hold Planning committee meetings each month specifically for providing comments and feedback to TWBC on planning applications for which the Parish Council are consultees. These meetings are open for the public to attend without prior notification and the Council always welcomes parishioners to such meetings.

Alternatively, you are able to read all of the minutes from parish council meetings and planning meetings on line at the parish council's website

https://www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk/Meetings_30891.aspx

SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

Unfortunately, speeding vehicles continue to be a problem in many rural villages and Horsmonden is no exception. The Parish Council agreed to continue two important initiatives to tackle speeding at their meeting on 2nd March: Speedwatch and Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Speedwatch is run by Kent Police and using the equipment owned by the Parish Council and allows volunteers the opportunity to capture information about individual vehicles which are caught breaking the speed limit in the village. The data is passed on to Kent Police and if a vehicle is registered twice on the police system it will receive a warning letter from Kent Police. The equipment has now been serviced and is in good working condition ready for the volunteers to start using as soon as the weather allows. If you would like to help with Speedwatch please email the Clerk who can put you in contact with the coordinator, Martin Drinkwater. The

PC continue to be very grateful to Martin and all the Speedwatch volunteers for their hard work.

UK Power Networks – Power cut: 0800 31 63 105 on a landline or 0333 32 32 105 (if calling from a mobile)

The Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) also deter speeding by flashing up the speed of all vehicles travelling above 30 MPH though the village. The devices capture and record information about the number and speed of vehicles passing through the village. This information cannot identify individual vehicles and their owners, or be used for prosecution, but it does provide data which the PC stores and can be used to back up requests for assistance from Kent Highways services and the Police, when required.

HORSMONDEN PUBLIC TOILETS

Unfortunately, we continue to experience vandalism in the public toilets on a regular basis. You may have noticed that the hand dryer has been removed in the disabled toilet and this is due to a recent incident where it was smashed off the wall and left unrepairable. These items are very expensive to buy and install and due to the continuous problems, particularly in the disabled toilet, the Parish Council have decided to not replace the hand dryer at the moment. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to parishioners.

The Parish Council continue to monitor the damages being carried out at the public toilets and consider options for the future, bearing in mind the cost incurred by parishioners to keep these facilities open and in good repair. More information on this will be provided at our Annual Parish Meeting in May.

If you do see anyone causing damage to these facilities please do not hesitate to phone 101 and report to Kent Police. We have also made a request for our local PCSO to patrol these facilities as often as their local shifts allow.

Any maintenance issues with the public toilets, please contact the Parish Clerk (clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk).

The Clerk is also available to help either by email and phone:

Lucy Noakes (Clerk)

Clerk to Horsmonden Parish Council

Telephone: 01892 724989 (to leave a message)

Mobile: 07484 904765

E-mail: clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk

SOME USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

NHS: 111

Kent Highways Service: 03000 418181

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council: 01892 526121

Environment Agency 24-hour Flood line:

08459 881188

Emergencies only: 999

Non-emergency Police Line: 101