



## HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION

### PARISH COUNCILLOR - VACANCY

Following the election in May, the Parish Council still has a vacant seat, as only eight councillors were nominated and elected. This means that the Council is now free to co-opt another councillor to join their important work for the parish.

If you are interested in this vacancy, please see our noticeboards and website for further details about the role of being a parish councillor and how to apply for the position.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly public Council meetings which cover general matters and also planning applications.

There is no meeting in August but the next full Council meeting takes place on Monday, 6 September.

### HELP BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL

The Tunbridge Wells borough wants to work towards climate change targets set out by the Government and environmental bodies. We can all do small things to help this but the Parish Council will continue to consider all its procedures and actions, including issues such as the number of times grass is cut and where to make changes to re-wild suitable areas.

### DEFIBRILLATOR

A defibrillator has been installed in the Village Hall entrance lobby. It is available for emergency use by anyone using the hall. If you are a regular user, the Parish Council will be happy to arrange training for its use so please contact the Clerk who will be able to let you know the next dates.

### WAR MEMORIAL

The Parish Council has decided that the war memorial outside the Social Club should now be cleaned and restored. It is an important reminder of the sacrifice and service given by parishioners so we want it to look at its best. Work will be carried out over the coming months.

### ALLOTMENTS

Please contact the Clerk if you know of any landowner who may be prepared to make some land available to be used for allotments. The Parish Council has been on the look-out for some months but so far, no one has

been able to offer suitable space. Allotments are in short supply in the area and the Council has a list of people who would like to make use of an allotment.

### CONSERVATION AREA MAP AND HOP PICKERS LINE



A number of parish councillors recently joined the Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group to unveil two new information boards on the green. The conservation area map replaced an existing one unveiled in 2014, which had seen better days. The map shows listed buildings in the conservation area, which is the historic centre of the parish.

Funding towards this new map came from the remainder of a generous legacy from a parishioner which had also funded the new walkers map unveiled in early 2020.

The Parish Council also supported the Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group who produced an information panel which was also unveiled.

These maps show the history of the village and the development and changes in the area over many years, as well as being able to show visitors what an interesting place we live in.

### HORSE CHESTNUT TREE

The Horse Chestnut tree on the south west corner of the village green is in need of reduction in size and maintenance to ensure its safety. This will be carried out during late summer so do not be surprised when you see these works begin; they are being done to ensure the long life and health of the tree.

### HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLANS (HIPs)

Kent County Council now require parish councils to produce highway improvement plans which provide a list of the priorities for improvements to the Highways in the parish.

These are reviewed regularly by the Parish Council and some have been amended and added recently. Local

Borough Councils are working together to press for action on rural roads and safety.

### **LOST PATHS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN THE PARISH**

This ongoing project is moving ahead with councillors reviewing all the old footpaths they have found and considering which are still used but have not been officially recorded. They have also met representatives from the local Ramblers Association who are keen to work with the Parish to record lost paths. The Ramblers website has lots of information about this project: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/>

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN THE BOROUGH**

The Council is aware of concerns about planning applications and developments in the Parish. The Council has an opportunity to comment on local applications but it is even more important that residents record their own comments directly to TWBC about developments.

While the Council will always comment, TWBC will take residents' comments seriously so please do take time to use this opportunity to have your voice heard.

It is easy to keep in touch about applications. Sign up to hear about local applications. Here is a link to the TWBC page:  
<https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/planning/applications/search>

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](mailto: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

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