



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

NEW COUNCILLOR

We are delighted to welcome our new Councillor, Stewart Baxter-Smith, who was co-opted on to the Council on 2nd May 2023. The Parish Council look forward to working with Stewart on all future aspects of Council business.

REFERENDUM ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR HORSMONDEN

The Neighbourhood Plan has now reached its final stages and is ready for your vote at the Referendum on **Thursday 8th June 2023** at Horsmonden Village Hall. Please remember that you will not be able to vote unless you show photographic identification to the polling station staff.

PARISH COUNCIL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS

The Parish Council has now completed its Annual Governance and Accountability Return together with internal auditing for the year ending 31st March 2023 and has sent all the relevant information off to the external auditors, Mazaars LLP who are responsible for completing the external audit.

Details of the accounts will be posted on the Parish Council's website under 'Finances and Audit' and will be available for public viewing by appointment from 6th June to 17th July 2023.

SUPPORTING THE KENT PLAN BEE PROJECT

The Parish Council are pleased to announce their support and participation in Kent's Plan Bee project and their "No Mow May" initiative by allowing the grass area at Fromandez Drive to grow during the spring and summer months providing opportunities for feeding and nesting pollinators.

The Council's maintenance contractor will continue to regularly trim around the edges of the green area to allow sight lines to be maintained and around the young memorial trees so that they do not become overgrown. At the end of the season the long grass will be cut and removed to allow the meadow to grow again the following year.

The Parish Council plans to monitor the area's progress and over seed with wild flowers and native bulbs over the next few years to try and create a wild flower meadow which can encourage pollinating insects. If you want to know more about Kent's Plan Bee project and how you might get involved at home, follow the link :

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/nature-and-biodiversity/pollinators/how-you-can-help-pollinators>

PADDOCK WOOD COMMUNITY ADVICE CENTRE

The Parish Council were delighted to invite Fiona Pengelley from the Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre to speak at their Annual Parish Meeting in May. The Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre is a charity offering free, confidential and impartial advice to people living in Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and the neighbouring villages. They can offer support on wide range of matters including welfare benefits, housing, employment, debt and more.

For more information please visit their website <https://www.pwadvice.org/>.

HORSMONDEN NOSTALGIA GROUP

The Parish Council were also most pleased to invite the Nostalgia Group along to the Annual parish Meeting as their second guests. The Nostalgia Group gave a fascinating talk about how they collect various pieces of information and artefacts, store them digitally and manage them on their system so that they can easily be found and referred to in future. It was evident that the group have worked extremely hard to gather together some very interesting collections ranging from maps and photographs to plans and old documents. The group have their own Facebook page 'The Horsmonden Nostalgia Group' and you can freely join to see regular updates from them here, as well as details of their events and collections.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH AND PLANNING

You can stay up to date with new planning applications in the Parish by keeping an eye on our monthly meeting agendas, which are published on our website and put on our noticeboards.

You can also view and make comments on applications as well as set up email notifications to receive details of planning applications in the local area by using the TWBC planning portal:

<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

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)