



## HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS OCTOBER EDITION

### COVID-19 - CORONAVIRUS

The Parish Council is working to keep up to speed on the frequent and sometimes challenging changes made concerning parish and community activities due to the current pandemic situation. Support from the village and volunteer groups has helped the Council and is very much appreciated.

As we said last month, the Community Emergency Plan is being updated and the Council is very keen to hear from anyone who would be willing to become a member of a group of volunteers who may be able to help in the future, particularly if you have been involved in any of the volunteer groups recently. Please contact the Clerk by email or telephone: [clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk), 01892 724989 if you are able to become part of this important group.

The Council provides up-to-date information and links on its website [www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk](http://www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk), Facebook page and noticeboards about how and where residents can seek assistance and advice. Information continues to move quickly so here are some sites worth viewing:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>  
<http://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates> If you need help from TWBC:  
<http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/coronavirusupdates/need-help-contact-us> Or phone: 01892 554497 (9am - 5pm)

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council is following Government and local guidelines for holding Council meetings. These are continuing to be held remotely but if you would like to "attend" any meetings or speak at the Public Session, contact the Clerk by email or on the mobile number below and she will provide you joining details. Agendas are posted online using our website and Facebook and will be displayed on the noticeboards.

### PLANNING IN THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH

We are all aware that the Tunbridge Wells Borough is going to be affected by planning for more homes over the coming years. In addition to the Local Plan, the regular planning application process is an ideal platform to use to make your views heard.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has the responsibility to review and decide whether planning applications

made by the public or developers will be allowed to go ahead. The Borough Council has a useful website which list all applications and offers an opportunity to make comments and to keep up to date with the progress of applications. Here is a link to their site: <http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-application-search>

Due to the current restrictions on public meetings, the Council is inviting interested parties to join their Committee meetings by Zoom calls so that residents who would have wanted to attend in person, can do so remotely.

In addition, the Parish Council is treated as a "consultee" for planning applications and is asked to make comment about each application. While it is able to hear comments from local residents and take them into account when commenting, it is strongly recommended that residents themselves record their views using the TWBC website portal above.

The Borough Council is most interested to hear from individual residents, rather than someone commenting on behalf of a group, e.g. a number of neighbours. The more comments made by individuals, the more notice is taken of them and the more influence they carry.

The applications the Parish Council are going to consider are also listed on the monthly Agenda for the Parish Council Planning Committee meetings so it is easy to find out which applications are being discussed.

The Parish Council is very keen to remind residents about this opportunity. If we do not comment, applications may be approved which could have been different if residents had commented rather than holding back or voicing their views on other platforms.

### NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Parish Council has a new website which we hope will be live by the time you read this article. It remains at the same website address: [www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk](http://www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk) so please take a look. The site has been created to meet Government legislation for accessibility and will be easier for those with additional needs to use it. However, since it is an ongoing development process, we would love to hear from anyone in the parish who has accessibility needs and who would like to help by checking it. Please contact

the Clerk if you, or someone you know, would be interested to give us your input.

#### **NETWORK RAIL UPDATE FROM GREG THOMPSON**

The last five months from the start of March to now has thrown down an unprecedented challenge for the railway industry, a period of time in which our role for the majority has been to keep passengers moving and ensure essential goods are moved across the region and the country. Our front-line teams have worked around the clock to keep Britain moving aided by those in office roles too.

**Stations we manage:** We are responsible for the management of several stations within the Southern region, these are Guildford, Clapham Junction, London Waterloo, London Victoria, London Charing Cross, London Bridge, London Cannon Street and St Pancras International (on behalf of HS1 Ltd).

We have a range of measures to keep passengers safe at our stations including:

- Vending machines at our managed stations, so passengers can buy face coverings, gloves, anti-bacterial wet wipes and hand sanitiser.
- Anti-viral treatment that protects surfaces for up to 30 days on all touch point and hygiene areas, and additional touch-point cleaning no less than four-hourly on a continuous cycle, guarding against risk of contamination.
- One-way systems are in place and floor stickers have been installed to help passengers navigate stations in a controlled way.
- 250 hand sanitiser stations introduced at our managed stations.
- Seating in stations and waiting rooms altered to support social distancing.

**Engineering and maintenance:** during the last five months, we have pressed ahead with engineering and maintenance as planned, even being able to bring forward some renewals in order to make use of the quieter period in time on the railway.

#### **CYCLE PARKING AT PADDOCK WOOD STATION**

£70,000 has been awarded by central government to improve the cycle parking at Paddock Wood station. This is matched by a (circa) £20,000 contribution of section 106 funding from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. South-eastern Railway is currently leading on the project with completion date estimated for Spring 2021.

#### **BUS TIMETABLES**

Bus timetables are still suffering some disruption, although they are trying to get back to normal services

where they can, so it is best to contact the operator to find out more about services.

Please feel free to contact the Clerk with any issues:

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).