

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

TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS IN HORSMONDEN

Parish Council members met with Kent Highways Officers Mike Whiting KCC - Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste and Greg Clark during March to discuss possible ways forward for our cross roads and this is still ongoing. We hope to be able to report back on this, next month.

HORSMONDEN VILLAGE HALL

Apologies to those using the Hall over the last few weeks as there have been some disturbances whilst various maintenance jobs were carried out. Some electrical works were required to provide some new external lighting at rear of the building and extra sockets in the Parish Office.

The new granite kerbstones at the front of the hall have now been installed, mitigating the problems with the loose kerbing at the edge. This did cause some disturbance with parking at the Hall for about a week whilst the edging was laid and was setting, however we hope it will now be some time before any further works will be required in this area.

May I please take this opportunity to remind everyone that parking outside the Hall is limited for use of those who have hired or are using the Hall only. It does cause a lot of problems when others use the limited space to park, as hirers often have heavy or cumbersome items to carry and unload and therefore need to be able to park in these spaces, close to the door. Groups such as the Over 60's also rely on these spaces when dropping those who are disabled or partially able, when they hire the hall for their meetings- so please don't block them up.

FROMANDEZ DRIVE

The new posts around Fromandez drive are being installed as this article is written, so hopefully the job will be finished by the time you read this article. These are recycled plastic posts which will not rot so will hopefully last a long time and improve the appearance of that area.

SPEED WATCH EQUIPMENT

The Speedwatch volunteers have now received the new equipment and are waiting for a chance to get out and try it – so drive safely!

The old equipment has now been donated to Brenchley and Matfield Parish Council, who hope to be able to set up their own Speedwatch group shortly, to help us slow down those using our rural roads.

VILLAGE GREEN

Two new limes trees are to be planted on the Green, either side of the space where the large Red Oak was felled last year (outside 'Poplars'). Lime trees were chosen to provide continuity around the Green (most of the trees around the Green are Limes) and because they can be pollarded once they start to mature, removing the risk of large overhanging branches falling on to the Green.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We are still waiting to hear from anyone who may have free time and wishes to set up a NH Watch group in Horsmonden. If this might be you - please get in contact with the Clerk (detailed below) who can point you in the right direction.

PARISH COUNCIL BANKING

The Council will shortly be opening an account with Unity Trust Bank and closing its current account with Co-operative Bank Plc. This will enable us to carry out digital online banking and bring us up to date whilst providing dual authorisation for all the Council's payments by two authorised signatories, as required by law. Whilst still being able to pay those carrying out work for us by cheque if they prefer, it will also enable us to pay online, which will be quicker and more efficient.

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTING

Not content with updating our banking system, the Council will also be changing their method of accounting during the early part of next Financial Year. The Council will be purchasing an accountancy package from Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd, who provide tailored accounting packages for the industry. In the long term, this will provide a more time efficient system for the Council as well as enabling them to access new reports which the Council will find useful for making future projections of its finances.

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

April Parish Council Meeting – 1st April
April Planning Meeting – 16th April
Annual Meeting of the Council - Tuesday 7th May
Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 13th May
May Planning Meeting - Tuesday 21st May

Please note that most Parish Council meetings take place in Horsmonden Village Hall, situated in Back Lane, and usually commence at 7.30pm, however meetings are subject to change and cancellation, so for confirmation of the time, date and venues please check the noticeboard on the Village Green or the Parish Council's website www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk

PLEASE CONSULT THE WEBSITE FOR ANYTHING YOU WISH TO KNOW ABOUT THE COUNCIL OR ITS ACTIVITIES.

There is also a lot of other useful information on the site, such as dust cart timetable, local road works etc. You can sign up for email alerts which will let you know when a news item has gone on site!

Please feel free to contact the clerk, as below.

Lucy Noakes (clerk) on (01892) 724989

Clerk to Horsmonden Parish Council

Telephone: 01892 724989

mobile: 07484904765

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

Office open to the public: Mon & Wed 9am-3pm, Fri 9am -12pm .

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Kent Highways services 03000 418181

Tunbridge wells Borough Council 01892 526121

Environment Agency 24-hour Flood line: 08459881188

PCSO Jenkins - 07969584279

Non-emergency Police line – 101

Emergencies only – 999

*UK Power net works – Power cut -0800 31 63 105 on
a landline or 0333 32 32 105 (if calling from a
mobile)*