

CO-OPTION OF A NEW PARISH COUNICLLOR

Cllr Isaacs sadly relinquished his position with the council earlier in the year, as he felt he was no longer in a position to offer the time required. The Council are extremely grateful for the time and assistance which Steve Isaacs has given to them and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

Following this, the council interviewed three candidates for the vacancy, over the summer. Once again the candidates were all of extremely high calibre and the council found it very difficult to choose between them, however, their final decision was to co-opt Darren White on to the council to fill the vacancy.

Darren brings a wealth of experience on to the council and has a young family in the village giving him knowledge in multiple aspects of village life.

On 2nd October Darren signed his acceptance of office and was welcomed by the other members of the council.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

At their meeting on 2nd October the Parish Council discussed various aspects which were necessary to get the Neighbourhood Planning process underway:

Diana Morton had stepped forward to offer her services as Chair of the neighbourhood Planning Steering Group. The Council thanked Diana for stepping forward to offer her services to the village and felt that with her wealth of experience and the fact that she knows many parishioners she would make an admirable Chair to the group.

The Council went on to consider the area to be designated as the Horsmonden Neighbourhood planning area. Feria Urbanism had recommended designating the whole parish unless the Council had a good reason to home in on a particular area, when they gave their public talk. It was considered that by designating the whole parish, the council could encompass all parishioners and all areas in Horsmonden into the plan. In the absence of any good reason to concentrate on one or more specific areas of the parish, it was therefore proposed that the Parish Council should ask TWBC to designate the whole parish of Horsmonden as the area for the Horsmonden Neighbourhood Plan. The application to TWBC to designate the area has now been put forward and awaits consultation.

The Council then looked line by line at the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Steering Group which the Clerk had prepared and circulated to them before the meeting. The TOR once agreed, has now been published on the council website alongside the Code of Conduct, which all those taking part must agree to abide by.

Diana will now be taking steps to form a Steering group made up of up to 12 volunteers including two parish

councillors. From this, working groups will be established to work on the details of the plan together with those consultants or helpers organised by the Parish Council.

All finances for the plan will come through the parish council, with funding being based on any grant monies available, with the remainder being raised by parish precept.

LIME TREES ON THE GREEN

By the time this article is printed the Limes trees on the Village Green should have had their four-yearly prune back. The pollarding has to take place every four or five years as routine maintenance to keep the trees in good health and although they will look at little bare for the next few months, they should soon sprout out some new growth in the spring.

TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS PROJECT

The Council has now appointed MLM Consultants to carry out the detailed design work for the traffic solutions project and as part of this they will also be acting as Principal Designer under the Construction, Design and Management Regulations 2015). MLM will also be handling the topographical survey which will be carried out by a third party Spatial Dimensions. All of this work is necessary to enable the council to progress the solutions put forward for the village so far and to ensure that the council complies with all the necessary traffic regulations which Kent Highway services have to monitor and ensure are upheld.

If you are interested in learning more about the plans, there are further details on the council's website as below and details of the council's discussions and decisions on this can be read in their previous minutes (also available to read on the website.)

FORTH COMING MEETING DATES

Parish Council Meeting – Monday 6th November

Planning Meeting - Tuesday 21st November

Parish Council Meeting – Monday 4th December

Finance Committee Meeting Monday 11th December

Please note that any change to meetings will be publicised on our notice boards and website as below together with the full meeting schedule for 2017.

DONT FORGET TO LOOK AT WEBSITE AT www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk 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

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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 - 079769584279

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)