

**RUBBISH – HORSMONDEN’S GREAT BRITISH
SPRING CLEAN EVENT ON SATURDAY 4TH
MARCH**

In line with the Great British Spring Clean 2017, the Parish Council has now arranged a litter pick event for the village on Saturday 4th March commencing at 9.30am in the Social Club and finishing back there again at 11.30 am.

Refreshments will be provided by kind volunteers from the WI and Parish Council.

Yellow jackets and gloves must be worn by those taking part and we are being provided with a supply of these from TWBC. We will also be lent a supply of litter picking tools which are very useful and save bending. However, if you happen to have your own yellow jacket, gloves or litter picking tool, then please bring them along, as this will help if a lot of people turn up on the day. There will be a supply of bags to collect litter in and all litter bags will be left by the club for collection by TWBC on the Monday following the event.

It is advised that you wear sturdy footwear and if the weather is inclement, wrap up to stay warm and dry!

In previous years there has been a vast turn out with people of all ages coming to help and our village has been left looking great, so please get involved in any way you can. Clubs and societies are welcome to join in ‘en masse’ if they wish.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW)

Those who are historic readers of the Parish news may remember that the Parish Council spent quite a lot of time and effort a couple of years ago collecting signatures and statements to try and get the small footpath from Back Lane to the Village Green, established as a public right of way. This was to protect the right of way over this piece of land and prevent it from ever being closed off to the public.

When the application was made to KCC we were told that the department was running approximately 2-3 years behind with its work load, and not to expect a quick response! We have kept our eye on the application to KCC ever since on a regular basis and were recently informed that we may expect to hear a response from them towards the end of 2017.

The Parish council will of course let you know once we hear more.

INSTITUTE BUILDING (SOCIAL CLUB)

You may be aware that the Parish council own the Institute Building at the north end of the green. As landlords of the building the council are hoping to soon undertake some small repair works to the fascia and soffit boards, as well as some cleaning off of the brickwork at the front of the building.

The Council are also undertaking a full survey of the internal and external roof structures to provide more information as to the condition of the roof and alert us to any forthcoming works which may require attention.

HIGHWAYS PROBLEMS

KCC Highways deal with the following problems:

- street light faults (although most in the village centre are owned by the parish council)
- Potholes (please report the size, depth and location of the hole.)
- drainage/flooding issues
- Traffic signs/ signal faults.
- Vegetation problems or dangerous over hanging branches or trees (where the owner is not known. If owner is known these can sometimes be dealt with at Parish Council level)
- Salt bins

Reporting:

Problems should in the first instance, be reported onto the Kent Highways system, where they will be given a number.

Telephone: 03000 418181 between 9am and 5pm Mon – Fri or on 03000 419191 at all other times

Online: www.kent.gov.uk and follow the links through. (Do not use this method if it is an emergency - i.e. likely to cause immediate injury or death.)

Ongoing complaints which have been reported on line and need chasing or further discussion can be dealt with by contacting the clerk, who can liaise with the local Highways Steward for the area.

Current situation:

Currently KCC are only dealing with safety critical issues owing to a lack of funds. Therefore they will only take action regarding potholes if 50mm deep on the road or 20mm deep on the pavement.

If Highways works have been carried out by a contractor in the last 12 months and have already failed, then we should let KHS know as the contractors guarantee all works for 12 months. Works carried out by Utility companies is guaranteed for 2 years therefore please tell KHS if it fails within that period.

Residents are responsible for keeping trimmed around any signs which are in their hedgerow.

Residents are responsible for keeping cleared out any ditches which are on their land or bordering their property.

YOU can help:

- By reporting queries direct to KHS, so that they are aware of them sooner, using methods above
- Making clear reports- i.e. size, location depth etc

- Letting KHS know if you notice a salt bin which is empty or has been stolen
- Being aware of your own responsibilities. Did you know that land owners are responsible for clearing around signs in their hedgerows and clearing ditches owned by them?
- Clearing rubbish and overgrown vegetation from your own verge area, and clearing leaves from the surface of drains located close to your house, (without taking any risks on the road) can also help prevent problems and save time.

FORTH COMING MEETING DATES

Parish Council meeting – Monday 6th March

Planning Meeting –Tuesday 21st March

Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 18th April

Planning Meeting - Tuesday 25th April

The meeting schedule for 2017 will be posted on the Notice boards and Parish Council website

Please feel free to contact the clerk, as below.

Lucy Noakes (clerk) on (01892) 724989

Clerk to Horsmonden Parish Council

Telephone: 01892 724989

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

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 mobi