

**HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS  
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**PARISH COUNCIL'S SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

In line with the village's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint through the Village Footprint, the Parish Council have now adopted their own Sustainability Policy which outlines their policies on key areas, such as planning, sustainable event management and procurement procedures. The Policy is available to read in full on the website under 'Information' - 'Adopted procedures'.

**CLARIFICATION REGARDING PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETINGS.**

*Please see a statement issued by the Chair of the Planning committee, Cllr Richards:*

'I would like to make some clarifications on the procedures and workings of Horsmonden Parish Council Planning Committee meetings:

The purpose of the meeting is to allow the committee to discuss an application, then to put forward a recommendation of acceptance or refusal, with supporting comments, to the Borough Council.

The Parish Council is one of a number of statutory consultees for planning applications, the outcome of an application being decided solely by the Planning Officer or Committee of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The meeting itself has to adhere to a number of rules, specifically those of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Standing Orders of Horsmonden Parish Council. Whilst the meeting is open for the public to attend and view in its entirety, there is only limited scope for public interaction; this opportunity is afforded during the Public Session at the start of the meeting. This session is usually limited to 30 minutes and allows each individual three minutes to speak. Anyone wishing to comment in this way should put their request to do so to the Clerk before the meeting. Any member of the public is also entitled to submit written comment direct to TWBC with regard to any application.

After the conclusion of the Public Session it is not permitted for the public to comment further on any application and the members of the council are not permitted to listen to, nor take into account, any further comments. At this point the Committee must make a decision based on the information provided by TWBC, while also taking into account any comments made in the Public Session.

Whilst Councillors examine the applications before any meeting, they are expected to discuss any proposals without prejudice. This may require an open discussion on the rudiments of the case and its compliance with planning policy, followed by more in-depth analysis of the details of the application. Through this deliberation the Committee will seek to reach a decision.

The Parish Council always endeavours to be as transparent as possible in all Planning decisions. If you

require further information or clarification please contact me via [clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk)

Matt Richards  
Chair, Planning Committee, Horsmonden Parish Council'

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS ON THE GREEN.**

**Autumn Festival.**

HoVEC have kindly organised another bumper event for us all on the Green during the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October in the form of an Autumn festival.

Full details of the event can be found elsewhere in this magazine, but the event will include a petting farm, Nostalgia event in the social club, Hopping equipment display on the green, Scarecrow competition on the green, Scarecrow trail in Sprivers and the event will be linked in with the Heath Stores Apple Beer and cider event.

**Commemoration of 100 years since the end of WW1**

This year's Armistice Day celebration will be extra special in that it marks 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1. Villages throughout the country will be joining in to celebrate and commemorate appropriately and Horsmonden hopes to play its part in this by making Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November an extra special Remembrance Sunday for us all.

The church will hold its Remembrance Day service as normal and this will be followed by the annual Wreath Laying service around the War Memorial at the top end of the Green outside the Social Club at 12.30pm.

Various clubs and societies are gathering forces to put on displays and refreshments inside the Social Club which will open at 5pm and the day will culminate in a special lighting of the Beacon ceremony on the Village Green at 7pm. All the other beacons of light around the country are due to be lit at the same time. Churches around the country will be ringing their bells to commemorate the event too and St Margaret's have plans to join the ceremony.

Large commemorative poppies will be placed around the green and the Horsmonden knitting group have been busy knitting some wonderful decorations which will add to the adornments.

The event is free and open to all to attend and we do hope that you will join the Parish Council and all the societies and clubs in making this a memorable event to mark the centenary.

**HORSEFAIR EVENT**

The annual Horsefair was a much smaller event again this year and the police did not attend.

The organisers cleared the litter from the green and at the time of writing there were no reported damages.

There were a few reports of inconsiderate parking during the event, and details of this will be passed on to the event organisers for next year.

**FORTH COMING MEETING DATES**

October:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Full Parish Council Meeting  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Planning Committee Meeting  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November - Full Parish Council Meeting  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November - Planning Committee Meeting

For a full list of the year's meeting dates please see the website [www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk](http://www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk) or the village noticeboard.

**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](mailto: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 - 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)**