



HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2023 EDITION

RETIREMENT OF CLLR RALPH STEVENS

Parish Councillors were pleased to be able to thank Ralph Stevens for all his many years of service to the parish, at their meeting on Wednesday 11th January. Ralph was presented with a framed certificate in honour of his 40 years' service for the Parish Council and for service to the community of Horsmonden. During his time as Councillor, Ralph carried out many duties for the Council including looking after the Council's Christmas lights; putting them up and taking them down, storing them and changing bulbs on many a wet and windy winter evening. He was also an avid reporter of pot holes and drainage issues and enjoyed his role on the Council's planning committee where his profession as a contractor often gave insight into understanding some of the more complicated planning issues presented.

Ralph's detailed and historical knowledge of the parish was particularly valuable when serving as a member of the Council and his presence will be sorely missed at future meetings.

Everyone joined together in thanking Ralph for his many years' service and wishing him a happy retirement from Parish Council business.



2023 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The Parish Council noticeboard and website has now been updated with the new Council meeting dates for 2023. The agendas for each meeting will be published on the Parish Council website and are displayed on both noticeboards.

We always encourage members of the public to attend these meetings so that you can raise important issues affecting you and the Parish.

If you would like attend an upcoming meeting, please contact the Parish Clerk.

HORSMONDEN NEIGHBOUR HOOD PLAN

The Horsmonden Neighbourhood Plan is now approaching its final stages and our Community Planner, Jim Boot, has issued a helpful summary of the progress so far. This together with the latest version of the plan, can be viewed at:

<http://horsmondennp.co.uk/>

NH plans are unable to prevent development from taking place but if the Horsmonden NH plan is successful at the Referendum stage (which will take place later this year) it will become adopted as relevant legislation which all developers will be forced to comply with. This will help protect our village by better design, improved environmental protection, provision of affordable and smaller homes (including bungalows), improvements to broadband, pavements, public rights of way and land for a new village hall and medical centre.

Please look out for further updates about the NH Plan and the Referendum, which will give everyone in the village an opportunity to vote on this matter and help to protect our village.

REPORTING A PROBLEM ON A ROAD, PAVEMENT OR A FOOTPATH

Unfortunately, recent weather conditions have led to some problems on the roads and pavements around the village. If you notice any issues such as potholes, drainage problems or overgrown vegetation you can report directly to Kent County Council here:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

If you notice any problems on a public right of way such as broken stiles, fallen trees or dangerous path surfaces you can report directly to Kent County Council here:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

STREET LIGHTS

The Parish Council owns a lot of the street lighting within the village. Please contact us if you notice a street light that is not working and we will report it to our maintenance engineers for investigation.

ROADWORKS – SHARING INFORMATION

The village and surrounding area are experiencing a lot of disruption due to Kent County Council roadworks.

We are often advised of them very close to the date they are taking place. The details are published on the Parish Council website and Facebook page as soon as they are received so please regularly check these for information. You can look at planned roadworks in the area using the following link:

<https://one.network/uk/kent>

HORSMONDEN VILLAGE HALL GENERAL SURVEY

Many thanks to everyone who completed the Village Hall survey that was recently posted on our website and Facebook pages. We will be collating and discussing the results over the next few weeks.

TWBC COST OF LIVING SUPPORT HUB

The Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Cost-of-Living Support digital hub is now live on their website, and can be found here:

<https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support>

The hub details what cost-of-living support is available from the government as well as containing links to relevant council services, to charity and community groups offering help and advice, and to businesses offering discounts to residents.

The Clerk is also available to help either by email and phone:

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

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)