



HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN

We are pleased to announce that Cllr Matt Richards was nominated and unanimously elected as the new Chairman of Horsmonden Parish Council at our meeting on the 13th January, succeeding Cllr Jane March, who retired from the role in December 2024. Cllr Richards has served on the Parish Council for over nine years and has held the position of Chair of Planning for five years.

We are confident that with Cllr Richards' knowledge and experience, the Council will continue to thrive and achieve success in the years ahead.

PARISH COUNCILLOR - VACANCY

Following the retirement of Cllr Jane March in December, the Council are now able to co-opt another councillor to join their important work for the parish. If you are interested in this vacancy, please see our noticeboards and website for further details about the role of a parish councillor and how to apply for the position. Please note that the closing date for applications is Monday 10th February 2025.

2025 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The Parish Council noticeboard and website has now been updated with the new Council meeting dates for 2025. The agendas for each meeting will be published on the Parish Council website and are displayed on both noticeboards.

We encourage members of the public to attend these meetings freely so that they can raise important issues affecting the Parish.

If you would like to speak at a meeting during our public session or raise an issue at a future meeting, please contact the Parish Clerk.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BASSETTS FARM

The Parish Council continue to closely monitor planning application 24/00078/HYBRID and, by the time of publication, will have submitted their latest comments on the TWBC portal regarding the recent amendments to the proposed emergency access route.

We sincerely thank all parishioners who have engaged with this application and have provided their feedback to TWBC. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Bassetts Farm Forum for their continued hard work and invaluable support to the Parish Council.

We are expecting this application to be reviewed by the TWBC Planning Committee in the coming months and will publish the date as soon as it is confirmed.

PARKING

Inconsiderate parking is easy to do when in a hurry, but it really does cause a great deal of frustration and inconvenience to others especially those who use mobility vehicles or who have pushchairs/prams.

So please bear the following in mind the following code when parking in the village:

DO NOT park on double yellow lines or solid white lines which mark a dropped kerb.

DO NOT park across someone else's driveway

DO NOT park up on the pavement - it makes it too narrow for mobility vehicles and prams.

DO NOT park on or near junctions – this reduces visibility making it more dangerous for other road users and pedestrians.

DO NOT park on crossing places or access points.

DO NOT park in spaces allocated or reserved for special activities. The spaces at the Village Hall are for users of the Hall only.

DO NOT park on grass areas, which can become boggy and rutted, causing damage.

CONSIDER – parking a bit further away from the centre and walking a little further as it will be less busy.

CONSIDER – leaving the car at home and walking instead.

ALLOW yourself enough time to park properly and with consideration for others

ASK YOURSELF – have I parked in a legal manner which is considerate and does not cause inconvenience to others.

PARISH SALT BINS

As we are now experiencing the colder, Winter months, the Parish Council are anxious to ensure our salt bins in the village have a good supply.

If you have a salt bin located near your home and you notice that it is empty or nearing empty please contact us at the Parish Office on 01892 724989 and we will arrange for KCC to fill it up. Alternatively, you can let us know by email at deputyclerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk.

SPEEDWATCH – CAN YOU HELP?

Speedwatch is a community-based scheme where volunteers record the speed of passing vehicles in the area where they live. Around 90% of vehicles observed

once by Speedwatch volunteers are not seen speeding again in the next 12 months.

We already have an active Speedwatch group in Horsmonden, who do a great job, but they are desperately in need of more volunteers.

If you would like to join the group and help reduce speeding vehicles in the area, please contact Martin Drinkwater on 01892 722883 or by email martindrinkwater3@gmail.com.

ROAD WORKS

There have been quite a number of road closures recently. It is great that works are being carried out but we get very little notice to allow us to advertise them. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages and we will share the information as quickly as we can.

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 as it should and we will report it to our maintenance engineers for investigation.

REPORTING A PROBLEM ON A ROAD, PAVEMENT OR A FOOTPATH

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>

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)