



## HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL- ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS FOR JUNE 2026 EDITION

### THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Following the Parish Council's Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May, we are pleased to confirm that all Councillors have signed their declarations of office and are committed to another year of service to the community. We are also pleased to announce that Cllr Matt Richards will continue in the role of Chairman, with Cllr Alison Boon serving as Vice Chair.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that all Councillors give their time voluntarily, working on behalf of the parish to support local needs and represent the community's interests.

### COMMUNITY LITTER PICK – SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Parish Council litter pick on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. It was fantastic to see so many volunteers giving up their time to help keep our village looking its best. Your hard work, enthusiasm, and community spirit made a real difference - as you can see from the amount of rubbish collected!



A special thank you to the WI for kindly serving refreshments, which were very much appreciated after all the hard work.

Thank you again to all who came along and helped out. We truly appreciate your support.

### PARISH COUNCIL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS

The Parish Council has now completed its Annual Governance and Accountability Return together with internal auditing for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and has provided all of the relevant information to the external auditors, Forvis Mazaars, who are responsible for completing the external audit.

Details of the accounts will be posted on the Parish Council's website under 'Finances and Audit' and will

be available for public viewing by appointment from 3rd June to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

### THE HOVEC SUMMER FESTIVAL 2026

It is only a few days until this year's HoVEC Summer Festival and it promises to be bigger and better than ever before!

This four-day event is organised by a team of extremely dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to make sure everyone has a great time. A big thank you to HoVEC for all that you do – we can't wait!

For full details of the schedule for the weekend please visit: <https://hovec.co.uk/>

### MAINTENANCE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN

We are pleased to confirm that the village green has now been successfully scarified, aerated, and received an application of herbicide and feed treatment. It is already beginning to look much improved and will continue to recover and thrive over the coming weeks.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to local residents for their patience and cooperation while these essential maintenance works were carried out. Your understanding has helped ensure the green can be properly cared for and enjoyed by everyone.

### A POLITE REMINDER REGARDING CONSIDERATE PARKING

It has come to attention that in several residential areas within the village, vehicles are increasingly being parked in a way that obstructs pavements, in some cases blocking them entirely.

We kindly remind residents to consider the impact of their parking on others in the community. Pavements are essential pathways for everyone, particularly for those using pushchairs, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, or those with visual impairments. When these routes are blocked, it can force pedestrians into the road, creating unnecessary safety risks.

We also ask residents to avoid parking across dropped kerbs, as these are vital access points for pedestrians, wheelchair users, mobility scooters, and parents with prams, as well as for residents accessing driveways.

We ask all residents to park thoughtfully and ensure that pavements and access points remain clear and

accessible wherever possible.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping keep our village safe and accessible for all.

### **HORSMONDEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN**

Horsmonden Parish Council are starting the process of updating their Emergency Plan and are inviting local residents to join the Village Response Team - a group of volunteers ready to support the community during emergencies.

In situations such as severe weather, flooding, power cuts, or other major incidents, team members help with:

- Local communication and information sharing
- Practical assistance to residents
- Supporting vulnerable members of the community

If you would like to be part of this important initiative and help your neighbours in times of need, the Parish Council would love to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Office on 01892 724989 or via email [deputyclerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:martindrinkwater3@gmail.com).

### **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>

### **STAY INFORMED ABOUT LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS FROM HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

To receive our updates, simply register your email address and confirm your agreement with our Privacy Notice by scanning the QR code below:



### **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)