



HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS FOR MARCH 2024 EDITION

PARISH PRECEPT 2024-25

The Parish Council agreed its precept request at the December council meeting and this request has now been acknowledged and confirmed by TWBC.

The Council agreed to request a precept of £125,510 representing a cash increase of £24,024 (23.77%) and an increase of 36p per week for a Band 'D' council tax property.

One of the main reasons for the increase was to pay for the anticipated repairs required to The Clock Tower, at the Institute Building, which have been budgeted at £20,000. The Council also agreed to start building Ear Marked Reserves (EMR's) for the future replacement of street lights in view of their age, and raise a budget of £4,000 for professional fees; part of which is being used to provide professional planning support in considering the current application for the proposed development at Bassetts Farm.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - MAY 2024

Please note that the Parish Council seats become vacant for election in May. The process will be outlined by TMBC after the 11th March and we will make this available via our website / Facebook pages. In the meantime, you wish may wish to keep an eye on the following link:

<https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/council/voting-and-elections/elections/nominations>

The role of a Parish Councillor is voluntary and no special skills are required. If you have a keen interest in the village and have some spare time please consider if you would like to put yourself forward.

THE BEE FRIENDLY GROUP

The first signs of Spring are showing at Fromandez Drive and Orchard Way. See if you can spot the snowdrops and crocuses just starting to bloom.



A big thank you to everyone in the Bee Friendly Group who have given their time to be involved in this project.

PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall car park is a private car park for use by hirers of the hall only. Unfortunately, there are often vehicles that are parked in the car park that are not involved with any groups hiring the hall and are therefore taking up valuable spaces.

As owners of the car park, the Parish Council are regularly monitoring this and may be forced to take further action if the problem continues.

THE INSTITUTE BUILDING – WORKS TO THE CLOCK TOWER

The Parish Council are arranging for essential repairs to be carried out to the Clock Tower at the Institute Building during March/April.

We are hoping that the scaffolding will go up on the 11th & 12th March followed by the removal of the clock mechanism on the 13th & 14th March. The specialist masonry repairs are scheduled to start on the 18th March. During this time, it is expected that the main entrance will be not be accessible by members of the public however, it has been agreed that the Social Club will continue to run as normal by using an alternative entrance at the side of the building. Please keep an eye out for updates regarding this.

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>

ROADWORKS – SHARING INFORMATION

The village and surrounding area often experience 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>

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.

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)