



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

PARISH PRECEPT 2025-26

At the January meeting, the Parish Council formally approved their precept request for the upcoming financial year. This request has since been acknowledged and confirmed by TWBC. After careful consideration of the Council's financial requirements and budgetary commitments, it was agreed to request a precept of £127,330, which represents a 0.6% decrease for a Band D council tax property compared to the previous year. This adjustment reflects the Council's commitment to maintaining efficient service delivery while ensuring responsible financial management.

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK – JOIN US FOR THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN!

The Parish Council and the Women's Institute (WI) are proud to support this year's Great British Spring Clean by organising a community litter pick. This event will take place on the **22nd March, starting at 10.30am**. We are delighted to have the support of Leigh Academy Horsmonden, whose involvement will help make this initiative a great success. All necessary equipment will be provided including litter pickers, gloves and bags so you only need to bring yourself and a willingness to help! Following the litter pick, all volunteers are invited to enjoy refreshments in the school hall as a token of appreciation for their efforts. We warmly encourage residents of all ages to join us in making a positive difference to our local environment. By working together, we can help keep our village clean and beautiful for everyone.

HORSMONDEN PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Parish Council are pleased to announce that new solar panels have been installed recently at the public conveniences, supporting our commitment to sustainability. This project has been partially funded through a generous grant from the Bockingfold Solar Farm, with the remaining costs being covered by the Parish Council. By harnessing solar energy, we are reducing both our carbon footprint and ongoing energy costs, ensuring a more environmentally and cost-effective way to maintain these valuable facilities. This initiative is part of our wider efforts to promote sustainability and improve local services for the benefit of the community.

THE INSTITUTE BUILDING – RENOVATION UPDATE

The Social Club Committee have been diligently overseeing the internal renovation of the Institute Building, ensuring steady progress and significant improvements. Their hard work and commitment to project management has been instrumental in the success of the project so far. As owners of the building, the Parish Council have provided support throughout, assisting in addressing any issues that have arisen and offering financial assistance where they are able. We are looking forward to the building's reopening and to seeing the results of everyone's dedication and efforts.

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.

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.

PLANNING

The Parish council hold Planning committee meetings each month specifically for providing comments and

feedback to TWBC on planning applications for which the Parish Council are consultees. These meetings are open for the public to attend without prior notification and the Council always welcomes parishioners to such meetings.

Our next Planning committee meeting is on **Tuesday 18th March** at Horsmonden Village Hall.

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)