

Centre Piece for Keys Magazine October edition

As members left the September Parish Council Meeting the sky was lit with lightning in all directions. Has that signalled the end of Summer? The previous few days were beautiful and the sunshine, following weeks of cloud, was greatly appreciated. The Council meeting led us very much back to work.

The chair, welcomed a new member of staff to the Council, Sue Moore, who is now the Council's Responsible Financial Officer. We are sure she is going to be a great asset to the Council and I, personally, very much look forward to working with her.

Our local County Councillor, Harry Rayner attended the meeting, as he usually does, and the Council was pleased to thank him for his involvement in pursuing a suitable solution for students of Princess Christian's Farm. This thankfully is now reaching a resolution with KCC well underway with negotiations for a contract to provide a satisfactory solution. The Parish Council was thanked by Cllr Rayner for their involvement in raising awareness of the problem and pursuing the authorities to make provision for the students involved. He was, as ever, helpful in making suggestions to the Parish Council for ways forward on some other matters, one being that of the constant problem of parking on the footway opposite the Harvest Garage in London Road.

Have you seen the shiny new storage container on the Recreation Ground which replaces the old, dilapidated garage? If not, look at the photo, It, as you are probably aware, has taken many months to complete, largely because of the pandemic. However, on Friday 13 August (not a bad omen we hope) it arrived and was lifted off the transporter by crane. It was flat packed and placed alongside the prepared base which had been completed the week before. Finally it was erected and is now fully functional. The added advantage was that it made the Council sort out all the rubbish that had accumulated over the years.



the replacement storage

Council meetings had gradually been lengthening over the years and so it was decided to have a critical look at the way things had been done for the past decades. The result at the September meeting was a revamped Agenda. Everyone seemed to be happy with the considerably shorter meeting with members still able to express their opinions and make decisions, taking into account, the best interests of the community. A lesson for us all, I think, to take time to review what we have been doing for years to see if there is a better way forward.

More good news is that the Council has agreed to a football club, subject to rental agreement terms, using the Recreation Ground on a Saturday during the season. They are part of Tonbridge Youth Football Club and will compliment the club already run for younger children on Saturdays. These are early days but do look out for this once a full agreement is reached.

Even more activity might be coming. Tonbridge Athletic Club are seeking to use the Recreation Ground for training sessions to make it safer for younger members during the winter months. This will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

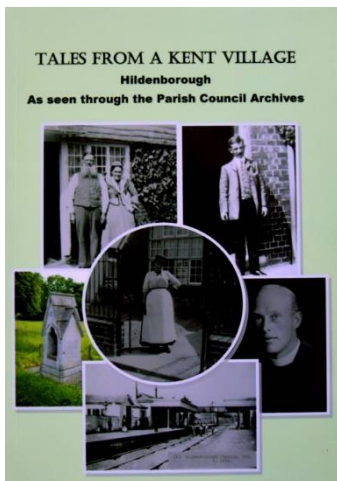
It really looks as if the Recreation Ground is beginning to come alive alongside the Stoolball and Cricket Clubs and the Saturday football club.

The Council received a request from a local resident for a starter cycle track in West Wood. This would cater for young children learning to ride their bikes and then, of course, they could graduate to the pump cycle track further along the service road. The only problem is, a dog exercise area had been planned for this particular site. To resolve the problem the Council are to consider the pros and cons of a project in this area together with costings at their next meeting. Members would welcome your views on proposals for the improvement of facilities. Currently, in addition to these, there are plans for the footway around the Recreation Ground, an extension of play equipment, resurfacing of the pump cycle track and thoughts about including a skate park on the Recreation Ground.

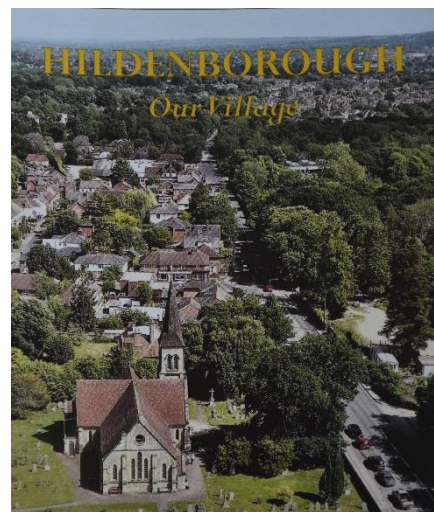
Another problem raised by several residents using Hildenborough Station is the non-existent lighting over the railway bridge on Rings Hill during dark evenings. There is progress here to report in that Network Rail have agreed to KCC looking into providing lighting here. This will have to be, at least partially, paid for by the Parish Council.

Hildenborough History Society have now published '**Hildenborough our Village**' which provides a detailed history of the village from when the settlement was first documented through the ages. The cost is great value at £15.

This compliments the Parish Council publication of 'Tales from a Kent Village, Hildenborough, as seen through the Parish Council archives', price £10 published 3 years ago which has proved a very popular volume.



Available from Hildenborough
Parish Council 01732 832367 or email
clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.com
price £10



just published and available from Hildenborough
History Society johodoll@btopenworld.com
price £15

There have been many complaints about a group of youths who are behaving anti-socially around the village, allegedly riding motorised bikes without wearing helmets in a dangerous way, defacing play equipment and other hard surfaces etc. Many thanks to responsible residents who have reported this to the police and to us when it has been on our property. Firstly, we hope the police will address the irresponsible behaviour and secondly to ask ourselves why, is there anything that can be done to engage them in other activities to give fulfilment to them and give peace and safety to residents as well as save tax payers money for repairs?

The litter picking group have been very busy once again, topping 40 participants this month. They collected well over 20 sacks of litter. There is still plenty left if anyone else would like to join – posters are on our website and on notice boards giving details. (meet on 1st Saturday of the month at West Wood or the Recreation Ground 10am finishing at 12.00 noon)

As ever do make contact with me if you have any queries, ideas or suggestions at clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.com or ring 01732 832367. One of the Council members will be at the Farmers' Market on the 2nd Tuesday of the month if you would like to raise any matters for the members to discuss or just want to know what to do about a particular matter.

Pam Gow