

CENTRE PIECE FOR FEBRUARY KEYS MAGAZINE 2023

Another New Year begins with much anticipation as to what it will bring! We all hope it will be a good year with plenty to enjoy and celebrate. Unlike 2022 the Parish Council was able to meet this January and there was plenty to discuss and plan for the future.

It was a pretty miserable evening weatherwise with torrential rain as we were preparing for the meeting but it was good to see most members were able to attend as was the acting PCSO for this area and our County and Borough Councillors.

Play Equipment: On the Parish Council agenda were a number of items planning for events during the coming months. Quotations were available for the replacement play equipment at West Wood, one of which members accepted. It was decided that a unit should be chosen which would fit in with the other equipment, that did not have areas which could be easily vandalized (the reason the current unit has to be replaced) and low in maintenance costs as well as being attractive to the age range it is designed for. The springer, much loved by younger children, is also to be replaced as the current one is not satisfactory. After much deliberation it was decided to accept a unit designed and provided by the company who supplied the new roundabout in the Recreation Ground. Once installation dates have been agreed we will let you know as this will involve shutting the whole play area for a short while.



The Synop, one of the pieces of equipment to be installed in West Wood.

The consultation on the Felling Licence for the removal of the diseased ash trees in West Wood and the Recreation Ground is currently with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council so the Council is hopeful the work can be undertaken in the coming month.

Have you noticed the new notice boards at West Wood play area and cycle track and the Recreation Ground? The information on them means the numerous other notices attached to play ground railings can be removed. The content included on the poster in the notice board displays all this information.

The Council also approved funding to refurbish two of the historic milestones within its boundary. One has lost the plate which details the distance and the other needs to be renovated.

Tonbridge & Malling's proposals for parking restrictions in Hildenborough: One important communication has been received by the Council and many residents, that of the proposals Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is putting forward following the parking review of Hildenborough, originally requested by the Parish Council back in 2015. The Council has commented on the current proposals (see on our website www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk). The Council was prompted originally in asking for the review as there were many inconsiderate vehicle drivers parking on junction corners, across driveways as well as in residential areas leaving householders unable to access/park outside or near their houses. Since that time, of course, there has been the pandemic which has led to a number of changes in peoples' work habits and in businesses in the area. Originally, which is not the case now, there were problems with commuters and staff/visitors to local businesses parking either inappropriately, on a whole day basis or in parking provided for residents or visiting village shops/businesses and the village hall. Much of this has now been resolved although in some places time restrictions would be of benefit and most certainly parking on junctions has not. The Parish Council felt that the proposals put forward by the Borough Council were more suited to urbanized areas rather than a rural village which the Parish Council is striving hard to retain. Any resident can make comment on the proposals on the Borough Council's website <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/parking-transport/parking-review-hildenborough>

Snow watch: I am sure many children enjoy snow, some of which we had a few weeks back. However it can present a hazard to vehicles and pedestrians. It was confirmed, at the meeting, that supplies of salt mix are available should the need arise. There is one container in Brookmead (near to the Leigh Road end entrance to Greenview Crescent), one at the junction of Riding Lane/Tonbridge Road, two in the Library car park, and one in the Recreation Ground car park provided by the Parish Council. All have been replenished 'just in case'.

Flood Wardens The heavy rain and two flood alerts have really emphasized the need we have to increase the number of flood wardens. Fortunately action has not been necessary yet, but it is always sensible to be prepared. So if you can, or you know someone who might be interested, in becoming a voluntary flood warden please do contact me.

Litter picking: Litter picking took place on 7 January when an enthusiastic band of volunteers arrived at the Recreation Ground to collect equipment etc. They did a fantastic job and collected a lot of bags of litter left along roads and hedges in the area. They will in the future be getting some new equipment, specifically long handled litter pickers to delving into hedges. In future if it is wet everyone will be asked to join the team at the Recreation Ground as there is no dry area at West Wood to keep the equipment dry.

Don't forget if you have any queries, ideas or comments do please get in touch with the Council, email clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk or phone 01732 832367 (please leave your number if I am unable to answer and I will return your call as soon as possible). Members attend the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of the month (next 14 February) when you can raise any matters you would like the Council to consider or take action on.

Pam Gow

