

CENTRE PIECE FOR MARCH KEYS MAGAZINE 2023

Life was considerably brightened this week with the rare appearance of bright sunshine and a clear blue sky, with even a hint of warmth. It certainly makes me feel so much more lively. It was a beautiful starry night when the Parish Council met in early February.

Events on the Recreation Ground: This month there were some local residents present who are looking to hold events on the Recreation Ground and Village Green. It looks as if there is going to be a very busy May. There is the Hildenborough Road Race starting and finishing in the Recreation Ground, the two primary schools (Hildenborough CEP and Stocks Green) getting together for a Colour Race and of course, the celebration for the King's Coronation, details of which I am sure will certainly be circulated around the village. The Council also looks forward to the return of Hildenborough cricketers and stoolball players as well.

Financial matters: There was a long Parish Council agenda this month, as is often the case, these days. High on the agenda was, as usual, financial matters. This month they included confirmation of the insurance cover for the year ahead, the new play equipment for West Wood, a donation for the upkeep of the churchyard and a members internal audit.


Annual Parish Meeting:

The first important date for your diary is the Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 8th March. Do try to get along as these evenings are always interesting and motivating. This year will be no exception as there will be the usual end of year report from the Parish Council, in fact it will be the last year of this Council as everyone is up for nomination and

election in May. Everyone will be welcomed with refreshments and a chance to find out about organisations in the village which may be of interest to you as some will be displaying information of what is on offer.

The purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting is to give residents an opportunity to ask questions, air their views on projects or the achievements of the Council during the past year. Following on from this session (which usually last about 25 mins.) there will be a presentation by the Environment Agency on their work and, no doubt an update on work to date on providing more protection from flooding in Hildenborough. The evening commences at 7.30pm but all are welcome from 7pm and the evening will last until some time between 9 and 9.15pm. More detail will be on our website www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk

Ash dieback in West Wood and Recreation Ground: The big news is, of course, the felling of the diseased ash trees in West Wood and the Recreation Ground. This has been planned with,



COME TO HEAR ABOUT

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

- What your Council had achieved during the past year.
- Meet the Environment Agency Team who are increasing the capacity of the Leigh Barrier and building the protective bund for Hildenborough

Wednesday 8 March, 2023, in the Village Hall 7.30pm

Refreshments from 7pm.

hopefully, a minimum amount of inconvenience to users of the two areas. Unfortunately because of the position of the trees in West Wood, the service road and surgery access had to be closed for a few days, even more unfortunate was that it was necessary to coincide this with half term break from school which resulted in children only having access, for a short time, at the Recreation Ground play areas and ball court. This work was urgent because already two trees have fallen within West Wood, and has needed to be done during school closure as at least one tree has to be removed from a school boundary.

Responses on Hildenborough's Highways Improvement Plan: The Parish Council's Highways Improvement Plan has taken a small step forward.

Mill Lane: During a meeting with KCC the officers agreed to look at more safety work in Mill Lane, namely signage warning of pedestrians in the road. It is unfortunate that the road is not wide enough for a footway along it. Further investigations are also in hand to see if a dropped kerb can be installed to help wheelchair and pushchairs navigate the footway near to Mill Lane in London Road, as well as better warning signage of people crossing the B245.

Leigh Road/Tonbridge Road Junction: Another point was not so positive, that of installing railings or bollards beside the B245 in front of the Flying Dutchman. After investigation it was found that the footway was not wide enough to accommodate them and allow access by wheelchairs. They will look into widening the footway but it is thought the road will not be wide enough. The chicane is also under investigation in Leigh Road to see if this can be improved.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Parking Proposal Consultation: Many of you will have been contacted and responded to the Borough Council's parking proposals for Hildenborough. If you would like to see the comments sent from the Parish Council they are included on the website www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk Briefly the Parish Council felt the most important aspect was the protection of junctions with double yellow lines but were not in favour of urbanized permit restriction in any of the areas or covering the area with no parking restrictions. The Council is most concerned to keep the rural atmosphere of the village and stated this in their response. We await the outcome of this when it is presented to the Joint Transportation Board which is jointly run by KCC and the Borough Council.

As usual if you have any comments, queries or requests do phone (01732 832367) me or email on clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk One of the Council's members will be attending the Farmers' Market on 14 March so do look out for them, and don't forget to come to meet all the members at the Annual Parish Meeting on 8 March in the Jim England Hall of the Village Hall from 7pm onward.

Pam Gow