

HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Covid has discouraged many from attending the meetings of Horsington Parish Council (HPC) and participating in its business, so it's hoped this brief newsletter will tell of some things the council has been doing and encourage people in Horsington to become involved. When the pandemic began, meetings were held on-line by ZOOM. Not perfect, as not everyone uses the internet, or would feel confident in using ZOOM, but it enabled the council to meet and function. The authority to hold meetings that way has now ended and (at the time of writing) meetings are again held in Horsington Village Hall and are open to everyone to attend.

All councillors are unpaid; there is a vacancy and if you're interested in being co-opted on to HPC, please get in touch with the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Melvin Grosvenor for further information.

ROAD SPEEDS IN THE VILLAGE: for some years, concerns have been expressed about the danger to children and others from some traffic exceeding the 30 mph limits. The council is working with the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership to explore ways of dealing with the problem. We're looking at installing "speed reduction gates" (such as those at the boundaries of Hagworthingham, Legbourne and elsewhere) which are said to remind drivers to observe the local speed limit. Whether traffic through the village, or its speed, would justify the installation of screens displaying vehicles' speed (used in many Lincolnshire villages) – or even whether a 20 mph limit (as has been suggested by one resident) would be effective, are all under consideration. Your comments and participation are welcome particularly at the Annual Parish Meeting..

POTHoles AND BROKEN ROAD SURFACES: HPC has been able to persuade the County Council to carry out major repairs to Moor Lane where the surface had cracked and subsided; missing and broken cats' eyes through the village were repaired to improve road safety in poor visibility; potholes are more generally repaired reasonably promptly (but of course, more appear). There is always more to do and you can help by reporting potholes etc. through the Fix My Street website, <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> on which fly tipping, dog fouling, blocked drains can also be reported.

BLOCKED DRAINS: the council continues to be concerned at the pools of water which accumulate in the lay-by adjacent to the bus shelter in Main Street and further along on the north side of the road to Bucknall. These make it difficult for people leaving their cars (and cause them to be driven on to the verges) and also, cause vehicles to swerve into the opposite side of the road causing danger. Although we're told the grids are regularly dredged, there is anecdotal evidence that the drains are blocked (possibly by tree roots) or indeed, slope incorrectly. We're trying to persuade the authorities responsible to repair and if necessary, rebuild the drains to end this problem.

BUS SERVICES: the County Council has been carrying out consultations on rural bus services (which it subsidises to the tune of £5.573 millions annually). HPC advised that services through Horsington (and the Call Collect facility) need to be maintained and ideally, linked into longer routes to other centres in the county. After several changes, routes 10 and 30 operated by PC Coaches and

Stagecoach now connect Horsington with Horncastle, Bardney, Lincoln and intermediate villages, with a later bus being added to the timetables.

CLIMATE CHANGE: HPC participated in a County Council consultation on its plan to mitigate the effects of climate change, pointing out that while sharing concerns at the effect of climate change, it is essential that policies are not inadvertently adopted in this county which would disadvantage the farming industry, the ability of people and businesses to heat their premises economically and in view of the limited public transport, to use cars and other vehicles freely. HPC emphasised it does not wish to see wind turbines or solar farms in the area.

STREET LIGHTS AND FLY TIPPING: it took many months to get the authorities to remove the remains of a burned out caravan from the roadside on Bucknall Road and equally as long to have faulty street lights repaired and switched to come on and off at the correct time. Without the support and assistance of our County and District councillors this might have taken very much longer. Garden equipment dumped in a stream at Poolham (causing contamination by oil) was more rapidly removed.

EMERGENCY PLAN: many communities have an Emergency Plan so that in the event of floods, snow, power failure or other calamities, supplies of emergency sandbags, fresh water, generators are ready in known locations and those who may be vulnerable through age or incapacity, can be identified and assisted. Covid has held back our hope of involving people with this and it's hoped that with restrictions easing, it can be progressed.

WHAT DOES THIS COST? Horsington Parish Council is financed by a charge called a precept, which is collected along with Council Tax and the precepts for the police and other essential services. After rises in the past, HPC is trying not to increase its precept, aware of the unprecedented pressures on household and business budgets and the very real financial difficulties which many people face. After careful consideration, we have again set the 2022/23 financial year precept at £4,000 and are on record as saying we hope not to increase it for the following year 2023/24.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: please come along to the next meeting in Horsington Village Hall at 6.45 pm on Wednesday 16th February 2022; the Annual Parish Meeting will be at 6.45 pm on Wednesday 16th March 2022.

KEEPING IN TOUCH: we're putting up a new notice board by the memorial bench more or less opposite to the village hall and snooker club; there is a new website (still with some work in progress) on <https://horsington.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>. We have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/175423274149702>. Future newsletters can be downloaded from the social media page and the website and we hope to be able to print and deliver to those who can't access online.

The newsletter will also be posted on the new notice board as well.

You're always welcome to contact any of the parish councillors: Chris Bates (Chairman); Adam Reavill (Vice Chairman); Rowland Hill; Rod Howard; either via the Parish Clerk, or in person.

DID YOU KNOW? There is another Horsington – it's in Somerset, a mile north of Templecombe and home to about twice as many people as our Horsington.

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