



# HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2023

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**COMING UP:** Meetings in the Village Hall are now being held quarterly (so one less each year, which will save costs and it's hoped, make meetings more effective). The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Horsington's Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023, followed by an Ordinary PC Meeting. At the start of each meeting, time is given for residents to raise matters which concern them, or to comment on topics on the agenda. The Chairman of the meeting can also suspend standing orders during the meeting to allow those present to contribute, in the hope that decisions are as representative as possible of the views of Horsington's residents. All meetings commence at 7.30 pm.

**ALSO COMING UP:** The Annual Horsington Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the village hall at (TIME to be advised). This is your opportunity to discuss any matter of interest or concern to the community.

**ELECTION TIME:** Parish Councillors are required to stand down every four years; they may stand for re-election and others wishing to serve on the Parish Council may be nominated for office. If more applications for a place are received than the number of Councillor positions available, then a vote has to be held. If you think you can contribute to the running of the village and would like to serve on the Parish Council, then please consider applying. Everything you need to know can be found on the Electoral Commission's website: [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england)

**STAYING DOWN: THE PARISH COUNCIL'S PRECEPT:** at a time when we are all facing unprecedented rises in the cost of everything, the Parish Council has succeeded in not increasing its parish precept (the money which pays for the Parish Council's services, collected as part of the bill for Council Tax, the police, and adult social care). The parish Council recognises the very real hardships many are facing and hopes that this will ease some of the pressures on household budgets, though it seems inevitable that other components of the Council Tax bill (over which it has no control) will go up.

**POTHoles AND BROKEN ROAD SURFACES:** potholes on the village roads are on the increase again – around the junction where Main Street becomes Horncastle Road; further along Horncastle Road towards its junction with Baumber Road and “dropped ironworks” are a hazard in the western side of the village. Concern has been expressed that the uneven and broken surfaces of footpaths through and approaching the village are a hazard to pedestrians. The Parish Council continues to draw the attention of LCC highways and the danger they pose, as well as the cost to vehicle owners of repairing damage caused by driving into potholes, ruts and dropped drain covers etc. You can report these problems, as well as anti-social fly tipping and other matters, through the Fix My Street website, <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>.

**BLOCKED DRAINS:** after the council raised concerns about continually blocked drains opposite the Parish church along Main Street, contractors were sent in by LCC to attempt to clear any blockages by jetting water through the pipe work. This appears to have been only partially successful, as it may have forced sludge and other debris into adjacent drains, resulting in water backing up, flowing across the road and then freezing during the period of very cold weather. Signs erected by Anglian Water saying they planned



to close the road in early November to allow repairs were still in place two months later with no sign of any activity, again raised with LCC.

**EMERGENCY PLAN:** This is now “live” and has been for some or some time. The equipment was delivered on 8th December by Steve Harris of the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum. He will do a ‘tabletop talk’ at the village hall to the EP committee (date tbc), to ensure we are all ‘singing from the same hymn sheet’. **To recap:** The Horsington Emergency Plan is to have preparations in place in the event of an emergency, and in case emergency services or relevant authorities are delayed by the nature of the emergency. This will involve provision of expertise and voluntary support in a safe way, initially in this and neighbouring villages. Together with new and existing local resources, the Coordinator and/or Deputy will be able to notify and direct residents to a place of safety (village hall) if appropriate and necessary, and with volunteers, go door-to-door to ensure safety of all residents. **THIS DOES NOT REPLACE 999 IN AN EMERGENCY.** Further information, offers of help: contact Cllr. Rod Howard (01526 388022).

**BUS SERVICES:** Fares on Stagecoach routes through the village (to Lincoln, Horncastle and intermediate villages) have been capped at £2 thanks to a Government subsidy. However, much of the funding which subsidises rural bus routes is being withdrawn by the Government in April 2023 and operators have warned this may lead to the withdrawal of some services. The old adage of “use it or lose it” seems particularly relevant at the moment.

**TRAFFIC SPEEDS AND SURVEY:** we’ve generously been offered “village entry gates” free of charge as part of efforts to reduce traffic speeds and improve road safety in the village and hope these will be delivered in due course by the donor; we’re also still waiting for the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and LCC Highways’ review of the 60-mph limit on approaches to Horsington and how they might be enforced. The Parish Clerk has asked for progress on this.

**‘ELLO ‘ELLO:** the council was concerned that a “surgery” in the village held with the local PCSO to enable people to discuss their concerns about policing was not well publicised and so most remained unaware it would take place; the police responded and held a second roadside surgery last month, advising that more police have been recruited for the area, that any suspicious activity (such as people who might be ‘casing’ properties in preparation for a burglary) should always be reported by calling 101. The point was made that this would enable police to compare the information (such as descriptions, vehicle registrations, times etc.) with other reports and help them build up intelligence to prevent crime or prosecute its perpetrators. Only call 999 if there is an emergency or a crime is taking place.

**HELP IS AT HAND:** there are around 40 schemes to offer help and support as prices surge, incomes are squeezed and keeping fed, housed, warm and mobile becomes ever more expensive and difficult. The Government has provided a list of support available, which can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living>. East Lindsey District also has an extensive list of many types of help which can be given and how to contact providers: <https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/CostOfLiving>. If you don’t have internet facilities, then you can contact ELDC on 01507 601111 or, visit their HQ at Tedder Hall, Manby (which is shortly to move to a new site in Horncastle). Please don’t suffer in silence: these schemes can’t solve every problem, but they can go a long way to helping.

**DID YOU KNOW?** All Saints Church in Horsington is now a “festival church” and a Christmas carol concert was held in December, thanks to those who cleaned and prepared the building. Here’s the CoE’s definition of what that means: “A Festival Church is a church building which is not used for weekly worship, but is valued and required by the community for local events and for Festivals of the Church and for Rites of Passage (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals). These Festivals include Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival, but also local festivals, Saints’ days, Mothers’ Day, Remembrance Sunday, Rogation Days, A Festival Church can also accommodate more secular events, for example a beer festival.”

More at [www.churchofengland.org/resources/diocesan-resources/strategic-planning-church-buildings/festival-churches](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/diocesan-resources/strategic-planning-church-buildings/festival-churches).

**Horsington Parish Council wish you all a Happy, Peaceful and Safe New Year 2023.**

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