The Parish Office,
4 The Old Forge,
Gardner Street,
Herstmonceux, BN27 4LG

Email: clerk@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk
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Tel: 01323 833312

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2020

End of 2020 Thank You and Good Wishes

It feels right to start this festive newsletter with a big thanks to everyone for the true community and good neighbourly spirit shown, by all, throughout this challenging year. To name but a few – our local businesses and traders, our volunteers, our next-door neighbours and friends, our Councillors, our health centre and pharmacy, our community organisations, our Village Information Centre, our 'Truggers' footpaths clearance working party. What a wonderful Parish this is to live and work in.

As for many of you, be it in daily or business life, COVID stopped the Parish Council in its tracks for a while earlier this year whilst we adjusted and revised our practices to fit the new rules and guidelines for living and continuing business in a safe manner. Following a short period of adjustment, all continued, although not quite as normal! Decision making meetings have continued online and parish life goes on. It is true that some services, such as the opening times of recreational facilities and provision of the public toilets have had to be reduced. This is due to two main reasons, the adherence to government guidelines during the first lockdown and the Parish Council's personnel risk assessment.

However, other Parish Council services have continued as ever. Jamie has continued to keep the villages looking 'blooming lovely' with his planting of the troughs and flower tubs. Now he is trying to keep our pavements as slip free as possible with his clearance of falling leaves (not an easy job this time of year!). The final project planning and now, at last, construction works for the improvements to the Recreation Ground access road, carpark and the children's play park are underway. These should be finished by Christmas. And doesn't everywhere look wonderful with those cheery Christmas lights. Hurrah! What a positive way to end this year!

LCAV recognition on BBC and continued support for anyone who needs it

The success of the Local Community Action Volunteering scheme will be celebrated in a mention on BBC's Countryfile the 20th of December. The team of volunteers are still out there for you if you are in need of a little help and support. As a reminder, the number is **07934 712707.** The Wealden's Community Hub is also still available via 01323 443322.

Defibrillator

Following some to-ing and fro-ing with BT, (re-connecting power lines) and finally sourcing (all the way from Ireland) a right-handed opening Defibrillator cabinet of material suitable for ex BT Red Kiosk, we now have our defibrillator installed in the Kiosk in Windmill Hill. This means the Parish now has defibrillators located in the phone Kiosk opposite the Village Stores in Windmill Hill, at the Merrie Harriers in Cowbeech, at the Herstmonceux Fire Station, at the Herstmonceux Cricket Club on the Recreation Ground and one outside the Village Information Centre in Gardner Street.

Dog Poo!

As usual, this newsletter wouldn't be complete without the usual plea for dog users to be diligent in remembering to pick up after their dog, for the safety of all. To those that already and consistently do, grateful thanks from everyone.

Speedwatch

We now have a new volunteer willing to take on the Co-ordination for a SpeedWatch group for the Windmill Hill and Herstmonceux Central area, (Cowbeech already has a successful group in operation). It is hoped that training can be facilitated in the New Year. If you would like to help, please contact Clare, our Clerk, on 01323 833312 or email clerk@herstmoneuxparish.org.uk.

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Council Meetings

The Parish Council continue to hold their meetings by Zoom. All members of the public are welcome to attend. The Zoom meeting details are found on the top of each meeting agenda. The agendas can be found in the Village Notice Board and on the Parish Council Website.

Council Projects for 2021

Now the long-awaited Recreation Ground carpark and children's playpark upgrade works are nearing completion, your Council can now concentrate on the next tranche of projects. Some stem from the approved Neighbourhood Plan and some from within the legal agreements with the developers of both Woodland View and Lime Cross housing.

Quotes have been obtained for the footpath's improvements from the new Woodland View estate into Herstmonceux Service Centre. This Autumn's consultation results and comments for the new play area at Lime-Cross have been presented to the developer for their inclusion in their design for the new play park to be built at Lime Cross. Other projects from the developers are the provision of a green open space (parish consultation will take place for your input) and improvements to the Recreation Ground pathway to the houses. Other Neighbourhood Plan projects will be progressed.

New Councillor

We are very happy to announce that Nick Porter has joined the Parish Council as our newest Councillor. Amongst his many other attributes, Nick is the owner of the Herstmonceux Pre-School, and so having the financial experience of running his own business will be fully welcomed onto the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Parish Council. Welcome on-board Nick.

New Administration Assistant

We are also pleased to introduce our new Parish Council Administration Assistant, Maxine Hoad. Maxine works 10 hours per week and sends you all the message below:

Hi I'm Maxine the new administration assistant at the Parish Council. Some of you may have had contact with me already but this is an opportunity to introduce myself to more of you. I am a mum of 2 young children, I have grown up in Wealden and live in a neighbouring Parish. I have a passion for rural life and for the environment. I am excited to be working for the Parish Council. I've been tasked with improving our social media reach and am working on an Instagram page, plus am wanting to gather some ideas for regular features on our Facebook page, such as 'share a recipe day' and 'share a photo (wildlife/nature/animals/landscapes/historic photos etc' day. If you have any questions or ideas feel free to get in touch with me at Admin@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk 😊

Clerk's Corner: Parish Office Open Mornings or surgeries are still suspended due to Covid-19. Please continue to contact me via email or my Clerks phone 07842 515268. Information and updates are regularly posted on our Facebook page and our website.

Although much of this year has been difficult for many of us, and some more than others and in varying ways, this has been a year when the importance of communities pulling together has been reinforced over and over again. It is heart-warming to hear of new friendships, stories of individual and collective resilience, enterprising solutions from local businesses. Adaptability has been key, and we have achieved all of this, despite the challenges. So let us be cheered by the Christmas lights that are appearing in so many windows and trees and focus on the light that always follows the darkness.
Best Wishes to all for your good health in 2021, Clare the Clerk