

## Centre Piece for March Keys Magazine

It is lovely to see all the Spring flowers beginning to appear but they are certainly being battered by storms (Ciara and soon to come Dennis) and heavy rain. There have been flood alerts for residents in Hildenborough but fortunately they have not been at risk of flooding so far. We hope that Storm Dennis will not bring too much rain to break this pattern. The Council has been kept up to date assuringly by the Tonbridge & Malling Emergency Planning Support Officer and the Met Office.

The Parish Council met on 12 February to consider a very long agenda, in fact the meeting lasted an unusual 3hrs. The topics covered were very wide ranging from many aspects of their open spaces to be considered as well as the financial management of the Council.

Sadly, the Council accepted the resignation of one their members, Helen Noone, who is unable to continue due to changes in her work pattern. The Council wish her well and thank her for her, not insignificant, contribution to the Council's work since May 2019.

A date for your diary, before I give you details of the meeting this week, **Wednesday 11 March, 2020**, 7.30pm in the Village Hall to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting of the Council**. Do come along because it is your opportunity to make comment on what the Council has achieved, raise any concerns or contribute any ideas for the future. There will also be an exciting speaker of interest to residents details of which have yet to be confirmed but do look out for the poster on our notice boards and in the village hall as well as on the website under 'News' for more details. The Council always invites local organisations to provide information on their activities or services at the meeting, so if yours would like to take part please do contact me either by email or phone (contact details at the end of Centre Piece). The Council will, as always, provide refreshments and this year there will be a special treat of 'CAKE' instead of the usual bog standard biscuits. So make sure you arrive just after 7pm to make sure you do not miss out.

The topic of 'litter' comes up at practically every Parish Council meeting as it continues to be a great eyesaw around the village. We have several very dedicated people who regularly clear up rubbish dropped by inconsiderate people or thrown from passing cars. However, the Council would like to take part in the national initiative of the Great British Spring Clean on 19/21/22 March. Equipment will be provided as will collection of the sacks of rubbish. Do please contact me if you can help. Areas, as before, will be allocated to you in order that we do not have either everyone in the same place or expecting you to cover too large an area.

Another important project was discussed at the meeting, that of making the Village Green a more friendly place. Several ideas were considered but the Council decided to make a start with providing some seating. They are going to obtain some quotations which will be discussed and hopefully one of them approved at the 8 April Parish Council Meeting with the intension of having them in place late Spring/early Summer. Other developments will then be considered, several of which have been received from local residents, which include more trees and flowers.

Approval was given for the Scouts, once again, to hold their Music in the Park in June this year. I am sure many people will look forward to this very popular event. Due to the size expanding every year there will be more security measures taken this year. Approval was also given for the Hildenborough Road Race to take place on Sunday, 3 May, another event looked forward to by many people. As usual this will include some other attractions on the Recreation Ground where the races start and finish.

As you are aware the village has been suffering from a lot of anti-social behaviour and vandalism, in many instances from those outside the community. The Recreation Ground and West Wood continue to receive visits from those bent on destroying the various facilities. The Council is taking steps to get these repaired or replaced but it all takes a lot of time and money. There have also been some incidents outside the Village Hall which has, very sadly, resulted in the Management Committee taking the decision not to allow parties of the 13-21 age group to be held in the hall. It is such a shame that the few destroy the pleasures of ordinary youngsters trying to enjoy themselves in a safe and happy environment.

There were many items concerning highways on the agenda. The good news is that Stocks Green Road having already had the kerbing replaced is to be micro surfaced to raise the level of the carriageway by 16-20mm to help prevent flooding and ponding. This should happen in the new financial year, May it is thought.

More good news, it has been confirmed by the police that we are to have a new PCSO following PCSO Jack Bridger's departure to train as a police officer. He is PCSO James Billson who we hope to see in the next few weeks.

To make comments, raise queries or contribute idea please contact us on [clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.com) or ring 01732 832367. A member will be at the Farmers' Market on Wednesday 10 March

*Pam Gow*

**Join us in the  
Great British Spring Clean**

**Help us to make our Village a  
beautiful environment to live  
in and enjoy**

**19 March**

**21 March**

**22 March**

**If you can help please  
email:**

**[clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.  
com](mailto:clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.com)**

**or phone  
01732 832367**

**HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020**

**HildenboroughVillage Hall**

**7.30pm**

- Come and hear what your Parish Council has achieved this year and put your comments or ideas forward as well as get your questions answered
- Come and see what local organisations have to offer
- There will also be a speaker of interest to residents for details see notice boards and website
- And enjoy refreshments, including **CAKE**