

ST MARY HOO PARISH COUNCIL



JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

FLOODING IN ST MARY HOO



**The Parish Council and residents
contact Medway Council regarding
flooding in the village (see page 5)**

St Mary Hoo Parish Council

NOTICE is hereby given that the next Parish Council Meeting will be held in The Green Room of the Recreation Hall in High Halstow, The Street, on Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 7.00 pm, which meeting Members are hereby summoned to attend.

This meeting will be the last Parish Council meeting of this financial year.

All Parish Councillors will need to submit the necessary application form in March 2023 if they wish to apply to become a Councillor.

VACANCY

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS OFFICER

Unfortunately, after many years of walking and checking our footpaths, our Footpaths Officer has handed in his resignation. We take this opportunity for thanking him for all the work he has carried out over the years.

We therefore now have a vacancy.

If you are interested, please contact the Clerk on 07825 619 353 or email Clerk@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk.

Bill Budd (Chairman)

Bill.Budd@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk

Darren Summerfield (Vice Chair)

Darren.Summerfield@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk

Sally Carman

Sally.Carman@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk

Pat Kelly

Pat.Kelly@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk

Paul Hassell

Paul.Hassell@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk

Linda Atkinson (Clerk)

Clerk@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk

07825 619 353

32 Goodwood Cl, High Halstow ME3 8SU

Meeting of the Parish Council on 10 January 2023

The meeting was held in the Green room of the High Halstow Recreation Hall.

Cllr Hassell provided an apology as he was unable to attend.

There was only one member of the public present who was there to express his concerns at the flooding in the village. He had submitted photographs of the flooding to Medway Council in order that they deal with the issue. The Clerk asked for the photographs in order that she too could chase Medway Council to act. Cllr Summerfield also took photographs of the flooding as shown on page 1.

The Minutes of the meeting dated 8 November 2022 were approved.

Bank balances were discussed and approved. Payments that had been made and to be made by the Clerk were approved.

The precept document was signed by the Chairman, two other Councillors and the Clerk in readiness to send to Medway Council for processing.

There were more reports of the Nature Reserve being used for tipping grass clippings and rubbish which was

unfortunate. Maintenance contractor had spent time clearing the area.

The Duck house on the pond was considered too far gone to refurbish. It was agreed to purchase a new one with a top budget of £500.

A new noticeboard has been purchased which will be placed on the outside wall of the Fenn Bell zoo along with the defibrillator that had arrived.

Members discussed the issue of whether or not to work towards a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Carman had attended training on Neighbourhood Planning but felt that the village was too small to consider this option. There was an explanatory article on Neighbourhood Planning in our November Newsletter.

Members also discussed the planning applications scheduled on the agenda. There was only one to comment on but not to object to.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:00.

The next meeting is scheduled for 14 March 2023.

Everyone is welcome.

What future do YOU want for St Mary Hoo?

Do you want to be involved?

There is an article on page 4 regarding a potential election in May 2023..

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023

On Thursday 4 May 2023, elections are being held for all Medway Council seats in all of the wards and the 11 Parish Councils.

Prospective candidates for the local or parish council elections are invited to attend **information briefings** by the Returning Officer and his staff as follows:

- Friday 20 January 2023 at 6.30pm at Gun Wharf - for prospective **parish** council candidates only
- Monday 23 January 2023 at 6.30pm at Gun Wharf - for prospective local election candidates only
- Monday 30 January 2023 at 6.30pm at Gun Wharf - for prospective local election candidates only.

It would be helpful to let **Jane Ringham** in advance if you are intending to come and on which date.

Let us know by emailing:
jane.ringham@medway.gov.uk.

Why become a Parish councillor?

Being a Parish councillor is all about giving back to your community by bringing your energy, passion, and hard-working attitude.



You can make a real difference to the local community and wider society in many ways as a councillor. For example, you could be representing the views of local people to ensure the community gets the right services, supporting a resident with an issue, or helping to shape the community by driving new ideas.

Being a councillor is a varied and highly fulfilling role.

You don't need any experience or special qualifications, and you'll gain lots of new skills, experience, knowledge, and confidence.

FLOODING IN ST MARY HOO

WORDING TAKEN FROM H M GOVERNMENT WEBSITE

“Maintaining and protecting public rights of way

The **highway authority must:**

- keep the surface of public rights of way which are maintained at public expense in a fit state for public use
- make sure obstructions are removed
- maintain some bridges over natural watercourses, including farm ditches
- provide at least a 25% contribution to landowners' costs for replacing and maintaining structures for the control of animals, eg gates or stiles, on completion of the work to a standard the highway authority is satisfied with
- make sure there are no notices that prevent or discourage the use of a public right of way
- add signs where a public right of way leaves metalled roads
- make sure the public's rights to use a public right of way are protected
- make sure landowners carry out their duties, and take action if they don't “

Please contact the **Clerk@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk** if you see any ditches that need clearing.

Councillors are always keeping an eye on the ditches (Page 1)but should any flooding be missed, please either inform Councillors or the Medway Council team. **01634 333 333**

PARISH COUNCIL BUYS NEW DUCKHOUSE FOR THE VILLAGE POND

It was impossible for members to repair the old Duck house and therefore it was felt a new one was essential for the ducks.

A suitable provider was therefore sourced.

For over 40 years the company where we bought the Duck house from have designed and lovingly built animal and bird housing from its workshop in the Weald of Kent.

They have provided their builds to all parts of the United

Kingdom and a good many parts of our planet. Even Kew Gardens can boast one of their dovecotes. They realised very early on that to use cheap materials was penny wise and pound foolish, and that a good reputation is hard-earned and easily lost.

Specialist, expert, craftsman, professional all adjectives used today so liberally they have lost their worth.

We have purchased from them as they have a proven track record, their builds are made to the highest standard and with the animal's welfare in mind.



Does your area of the village need an uplift? Please come along to our meetings and let us know.

Lower Thames crossing – Video fly-through

Information received from the Lower Thames Crossing team.

“All of our application documents can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate’s website“

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/lower-thames-crossing>

A new video fly-through

We have also published a new video fly-through giving a bird’s eye view of the route of the Lower Thames Crossing, 15 years after the road opens.

The fly-through uses a 3D computer model of the new road blended with real video footage to show how the route has been designed to sit sensitively in the landscape with 80% of the road below ground level through the use of cuttings, embankments and the tunnel. The video also shows



the scale of proposed planting and public open space, including two new public parks, seven green bridges and over 1 million extra trees.

Changes made to the design in Thurrock and presented in the project’s last consultation are also included, such as changes on the north bank of the Thames to make space for the Thames Freeport, and changes to the connection between the Orsett Cock roundabout to the A1089 to reduce traffic impacts on some local roads.

You can watch the full fly-through video on you tube:

<https://youtu.be/-Y5g264PoJA>



Peninsula Cycle Repairs

07776 424 083

Friendly, local bicycle repairs

based in St Mary Hoo

peninsulacyclerepairs@hotmail.com

Instagram—peninsula_cycle_repairs



iToo Electrical Ltd

**MCS accredited Solar PV and
Battery storage installers**

07940 459 876

Neil Atkinson

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Strood Kent ME2 3LL

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