

## ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

**Present:** Andrew (Andy) Othen (Chairman), Michael (Mike) Wady (Vice-Chairman), Sidney (Sid) Gittens, Julian Griffiths, Basil Smith, David Weeks and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

**Also Present:** Borough Councillor David Ledger, Lee Small (Chairman to Warehorne Parish Council) and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** were received from Margaret Wellsted-Boorman (unwell), Stephen Shorter (wife unwell); those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies were also received from Kent County Councillor Mike Angell.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest (relating to items on this agenda made in order to comply with the Kent Code of Conduct): None were made at this point from Councillors present.

Declarations of Significant Interest (relating to items on this agenda made in order to comply with the Kent Code of Conduct): Mike Wady conflict of interest with the HDSLAs.

3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Julian Griffiths proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council's meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed/authorised by the Chairman of the current meeting; David Weeks seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Over-Grown Tree in Bunkley Meadow: At the last meeting Cllr Mike Angell offered to investigate into who could deal with the tree. He had been informed that the tree was sited on land not forming part of the Public Right of Way and action would only be taken if the tree was dangerous and threatened public. Kent Highways would not take responsibility as it was not sited on their land. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the matter be reported again to Highways and the Public Right of Way team, highlighting the slip risk due to the debris beneath the tree and tripping hazard due to raised slabs cause by the tree roots.

Application No 18/00056: *Land between A2070 and railway north of Warehorne Road, Hamstreet; outline planning permission for development of 50 dwellings.* The application went before ABC's Planning Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019. During discussion on this application, Borough Councillor George Sparks proposed that it be supported by the committee and later voted in favour of it being passed. Following the meeting, discussion was held by members of OPC and it was agreed that the Parish Council should distance themselves from Borough Councillor George Sparks as members did not feel that he was properly representing the views of those living in his constituency and had not kept to the promises he had made in his manifesto and members did not want those living in the parish to think they supported his view. Following an online debate, it was agreed that a letter be sent to Borough Councillor George Sparks highlighting this and notifying him that he would no longer be invited to provide and give reports or updates to OPC. Borough Councillor David Ledger had been informed and asked when possible that he provide regular updates instead.

Discussion had also been held regarding 'Declarations of Interest' and it was noted that the Chairman of ABC's Planning Committee meeting declared an interest in this application at the meeting (he was friends with someone who lived opposite the site that the application referred to). Members believed that Borough Councillor George Sparks should have declared a similar interest and should have further highlighted that due to his past association with OPC he had attended meetings and held discussions regarding development of the site in question. Via an online vote, members had agreed that a complaint be made into his lack of declaration of interest to the Monitoring Officer at ABC. A reply from the monitoring officer had been circulated: it noted that Cllr Sparks had not needed to declare an interest.

A brief discussion was held during which it was noted the Cllr Sparks had informed members that he had to declare an interest in the application for development opposite the primary academy. Members did not understand why he then did not need to declare an interest in the application for development in Warehorne Road. It was agreed that clarification be sought as to what the difference was. *During this agenda item Borough Councillor David Ledger and three members of the public arrived.*

### **BREAK**

*During the break, discussion was held regarding the outcome of ABC's Planning Committee Meeting and the support Cllr Sparks gave to the application for development along Warehorne Road. It was noted that disappointment had been expressed regarding his support by residents. Further discussion was held regarding development opposite Hamstreet Primary Academy (ref No 18/00644) and S106 funding.*

5. **Reports from Representatives of the Community including a Quarterly Report from Borough Councillor David Ledger:** highlighted that he sat on the Appeals Committee, The Licensing Health and Safety Committee, Licensing Sub Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and was involved in the Local Plan and Planning Policy Task Group. He explained that he kept 'nagging' for more explanation of the HU05 policy which concerned residential windfall development in the countryside. He highlighted that windfall sites were areas which have not been specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process and normally comprised of previously-developed sites that had unexpectedly become available.

*For Information:*

*Policy HOU5 - Residential Windfall Development in the Countryside*

*Proposals for residential development adjoining or close to the existing built up confines of the following settlements will be acceptable: Ashford, Aldington, Appledore, Bethersden, Biddenden, Brabourne Lees/Smeeth, Challock, Charing, Chilham, Egerton, Great Chart, Hamstreet, High Halden, Hothfield, Kingsnorth\*, Mersham, Pluckley, Rolvenden, Shadoxhurst, Smarden, Tenterden (including St Michaels), Wittersham, Woodchurch and Wye.*

*See page 209 and 210 in the Ashford Local Plan 2030 <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/media/7542/adopted-ashford-local-plan-2030-2.pdf>*

Cllr Ledger further highlighted that Rolvenden had received funding for a community bus and he had received an enquiry about Hamstreet having a community bus. During a brief discussion it was noted that this had come to the attention of Orlestone Parish Council previously and on enquiry into being able to join the scheme, they had been informed it was fully subscribed.

**PCSO Carin Andrews:** had provided a written report (tabled). It noted that there had been a spate of bicycle thefts and thefts from cars in Ashford.

**NHW Updates:** It was noted that there had been an attempted break in at Orlestone View on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

6. **Planning: Update, Applications Received, Review Traffic Survey Analysis**

It was noted that the Folkestone & Hythe – Core Strategy Review – Submission Draft had been received; this was made available to those present.

Application No: 19/00022/OLE/AS: Overhead Line Exemption – Burnt Oak House, Hamstreet Road TN26

Proposal: Installing a new pole in verge on Church Lane allowing a new underground cable route to connect to existing HV overhead line

Comment: Those present agreed that there were no objections to the application.

Application No 18/00644: Development of site opposite Hamstreet Primary Academy.

It was noted that this application was due to be discussed during ABC's Planning Committee Meeting being held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. During discussion it was noted that there were many objections on Ashford Borough Council's website relating to the application and only one comment of support. Acting for the many who objected to the application it was agreed that the application would be objected to again. Julian would speak on behalf of the Parish Council at ABC's planning committee meeting (the Chairman being away working) and issues relating to traffic and safety would be highlighted. Borough Councillor David Ledger noted that he would also be speaking at ABC's planning meeting and he and Julian would work together on responses.

## 7. Parish Councillors' Updates/Reports:

### Highways:

- It was noted that a request had been made to have the hedging/trees cut back: outside 2 Quince Orchard, Church Road to Sugar Loaf and by Birchett Lane.
- A request had been made to the owner of a property in Lancaster Close whose tenants had dumped vegetation in Bourne Lane to have this cleared.
- Piers Griffin from Natural England had been contacted with a request for a meeting and it was asked if an update could be provided regarding negotiations with Red Rowe ref management of the hedgerow in Bourne Lane. It had been highlighted that there were issues with trees touching power lines in Bourne Lane.
- Cones could be found in the village where work to potholes was to be undertaken.
- Problems with parking in the village centre continued with lorries causing damage to kerb stones again.

**Forge Gardens:** Notice Board – Sid reported that he was in the process of sourcing new backing for the noticeboard that was being refurbished. He had found some that was self-sealing and those present agreed that once sourced he had the authority to order some. Sid further reported that gardening and tidying up continued.

**Johnsons Corner:** David reported that he had litter picked the area and emptied the bin that morning but the ground was too wet for the grass to be cut.

**Information Centre/Bus Stop:** Mike reported that the beads around the glass were rotten and needed replacing. Those present agreed to this work and Mike is to source the materials required.

**Water Supply at Allotments:** Oliver Peel had been provided with information regarding the location of the allotments in reference to S106 funding being provided which would pay for the supply of water.

**Play Park Lancaster Close:** A request had been made to have the tarmac surface cleaned. A response from David Hartley (Assistant Operations Manager of Aspire Landscape Management) noted that it is a usual occurrence that play area surfacing turns green due to wet weather. He had reported that they were in the process of spraying biocide to kill off moss and reduce algae growth on the worst affected areas but have to wait until conditions are right. Lancaster Close will be done asap. It was noted that the play park had been visited that week.

**War Memorial:** Julian reported that the committee would be holding a meeting in January 2020.

## 8. Correspondence Received: *not covered under other agenda items.*

- A request has been made by Graham Woodcock who would like permission to use the pavilion on Christmas Day to host a Christmas dinner. It was unanimously agreed that Graham Woodcock could use the pavilion on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Note: In the Annual Rolling Agreement between OPC and the HDSL A regarding the management of Pound Lees Ground and Pavilion under 1.3 of the agreement it notes *The agreement period excludes a 24 hour period from midnight on 24<sup>th</sup> December to midnight on 25<sup>th</sup> December in each year, as well as any other day(s) that may be mutually agreed with THE CHARITY during which Pound Lees shall be exclusively available to PARISH COUNCIL.*

9. **Casual Vacancies:** It was noted that the Parish Council had two casual vacancies and Basil Smith had expressed an interest in joining. During a brief discussion it was agreed that Basil be co-opted onto the Parish Council with the necessary paper-work being completed after the meeting.

10. **Finance:**

**Budget Update/Review:** was circulated to those present.

**Precept Consideration for the Next Financial Year:** A draft budget for the new financial year had been circulated with the precept being kept the same. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the draft budget be accepted and that the Precept be kept the same.

**Review of Clerk's Salary:** The Chairman highlighted that the Clerk had not received a pay increase for a number of years and those present agreed a pay rise of [REDACTED] 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. A brief discussion was held regarding a possible Christmas bonus being granted, but the Clerk declined saying that she would be embarrassed to have one considering the amount of work members did without any payment.

**Authorisation of Cheques:** Those present unanimously agreed that the following cheques be authorized. It was noted that the cost of the fireworks for the village display held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019 would be covered by OPC and a donation towards their cost would be provided by the HDSL A (*ref minutes dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019*). It was further agreed that the Chairman could authorise cheques that required signing before the next meeting.

To	Details	Amount	Cheque No
[REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]			

11. **Date of Next Meetings:** The following was agreed:

Planning Meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm (*if necessary*)  
Parish Council: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.20pm

Chairman's Signature: