

## ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

**Present:** Andy Othen (Chairman), Mike Wady (Vice-Chairman), Julian Griffiths, Sid Gittens, David Lancaster, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, Steve Shorter, David Weeks and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

**Also Present:** Kent County Councillor Mike Angell, Borough Councillor Aline Hicks, Lee Small (Chairman to Warehorne Parish Council), Community Warden Katherine Carter, Andrew Ansley (Chairman to the HDSLAs) and one member of the public (Mr G Sparks).

1. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Borough Councillor 'Brad' Bradford (attending a group meeting) and PCSO Luke Jones who had provided a written report.

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; Mags Wellsted-Boorman member of HDSLAs.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019:** The following alterations were made: Two changes were made to the top copy under Agenda Item 5.

- '..she had been out with the Ashford Street Pastors..' changed to '..councillors had been out with the Ashford Street Pastors..'
- In the second paragraph a full stop was added after the word 'strategy'.

Under agenda item 7, under the sub heading 'Silent Soldier' 'Hoax Nursery' was changed to read 'Hope Grove Nursery'.

Following these changes Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman; Sid Gittens seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019:** *Items for discussion only; no decisions can be made under this agenda item.*

- Meeting With Hamstreet Primary Academy & Hallam: It was noted that a meeting was due to be held the following day (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March) at 11am at the Hamstreet Primary Academy with Hallam. The Chairman and Julian Griffiths will be attending and representing OPC.
- Meeting With Highways: Borough Councillor Bradford had organised a site meeting with Highways to be held on Wednesday (6<sup>th</sup> March) at 2pm outside The Dukes Head to discuss concerns regarding blocked drains and gullies. Mike Wady and David Weeks will attend and represent OPC.

**BREAK:** No matters were brought forward.

5. **Reports From Representatives of the Community:**

PCSO Katherine Carter: highlighted that she covered Hamstreet as well as other areas and reminded those present that any non-emergency issues could be reported by telephoning 101. Concerns would then be logged and would give police an idea of issues in the area. It was noted that Crime Stoppers tel no: 0800 555 111 did not require personal details and could also be contacted. *Katherine left the meeting*

Kent County Councillor Mike Angell: began his report by informing those present that he had just moved to Ruckinge and had experienced at first hand a flooding problem in his neighbour's garden. He highlighted that it was sometimes difficult to find out who was responsible when it came to flooding

problems ie KCC Highways or the water supplier. Mike highlighted that work around Ashford on the M20 was likely to continue for another 12 months.

During discussion problems with flooding in the village were highlighted and Cllr Angell said that he would try and attend the highways meeting. He suggested that Richard Highgate from Highways would be able to help with various issues. It was noted that there were flooding problems occurring by Victory Hall's car park as well as the continuing problems with the drains by the Dukes Head. *During this agenda item Steve Shorter arrived apologising for his late arrival.*

Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: reported that she was pleased to see that hedges had been cut back in the village. During discussion concerns were raised about three horses whose field was waterlogged by the bypass. Aline concluded her report by noting that a two-day event was to be held to discuss traffic problems.

PCSO Luke Jones: report was made available to those present. He noted that there had been no problems in the area but to be aware that there had been a rise generally in burglaries in households, outer houses and sheds and appropriate steps to secure property should be taken. There had been a number of distraction burglaries in Ashford and there was growing concern regarding fraud related crimes ie hoax callers and emails claiming they were from respected companies ie Banks, HMRC etc asking for personal information. Advice being: never respond, hang up if a telephone call or not reply if via email and do not click on links. *Andy Ansley chair to HDSLAs arrived.*

HDSLAs: Andy explained to those present that he had completed an OPC grant/sponsorship form on behalf of the HDSLAs who were looking for help to cover the cost of flooring to the pavilion. He highlighted that the pavilion was in the process of being internally refurbished and was in the process of re-painted with new more practical flooring throughout the building being installed and new furniture for the bar area.

Following discussion concerning the cost of flooring and a review of the Parish Council's budget it was unanimously agreed that OPC would cover the cost of flooring to the staircase and bar area (£3,929.17 plus VAT).

Mike Wady and Mags Wellsted-Boorman having declared an interest in the HDSLAs did not take part in the discussion or vote held.

## 5. Update: Landscaping of Forge Gardens & Area Around Silent Soldier:

Forge Gardens: It was highlighted that further gardening work was to take place the following day (5<sup>th</sup> March) and David Collins was to remove the water tank and a trailer would be hired to have various debris taken away.

Silent Soldier: It was noted an email had been sent to the Marsh Academy highlighting that some of their students had been seen being disrespectful. A full apology for this behaviour had been received with a suggestion that their art students make poppies to be placed around the statue.

During discussion it was noted that members were happy with this suggestion and it was hoped that representatives from the Parish Council could meet and chat to some of the students and explain the importance of the statue.

It was noted that both Mags and Julian were in the process of investigating the best type of barrier/hedging to place around the statue. Those present agreed that they have delegated authority to purchase what was needed for the area.

## 6. Members Reports:

Highways: Mike Wady highlighted that he would be attending the meeting to discuss Highway issues. He and David Weeks had cleared six bags of rubbish from the top of the by-pass road and planned another rubbish clearing day. Hi-Vis vests had been purchased so that this work could be completed safely. Mike highlighted that he had reported the broken bus stop pole > He asked those present that if they saw any lorries

parking on the foot-path that photographic evidence be taken and passed to him. It was highlighted that parking around the Dukes Head was causing access difficulties at times to Dukes Meadow.

Johnsons Corner: Service on 13<sup>th</sup> April: Charles Flisher (Hastings and Veterans Association) who are organising the service had reported via email that the Johnson Family would be represented by family

members; one who lived in London and another who attended University in England. Charles was now in the process of making arrangements to discuss a Firing Party and a ceremonial flag folding and a bugler to play Taps (The American Last Post).

The Chairman highlighted that he and Julian would be attending a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the arrangements being made.

*Note: During the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, it was noted that for safety reasons a shuttle-service was needed from Pound Lees Car Park to Johnsons Corner. A vote was held on-line for OPC to cover this cost and it was agreed by the majority of members that OPC would cover this cost.*

It was highlighted that the existing American Flag flying at Johnsons Corner was getting old and that a new one be ordered and a couple of spares. The Parish Clerk is to order three from The Flag Shop and arrange for them to be delivered directly to David Weeks.

**Hamstreet War Memorial Committee:** Julian Griffiths reported that the committee had held their first meeting. They had received interest from two residents and taking the committee membership to five. He hoped to provide an update every few months. The committee's next steps to be to meet with Ted Hugues who had been instrumental with the memorial in Aldington.

*During this agenda item Kent County Councillor Mike Angell and the member of public present left.*

**Twinning:** During discussion it was noted that Hamstreet would be the 'Hosts' for the next twinning event due in 2020. However due to falling numbers it was agreed that thought be given to holding the event over one day. Ideas briefly discussed included a football or cricket tournament or a country fair type of event with lunch being offered. David Lancaster is to contact Therouanne and ask if they would be interested in attending such an event and when it would be suitable for them. It was agreed that this be discussed further after the Annual Assembly.

**Recycling Bins:** It was reported that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had been in discussions regarding recycling bins being placed on Pound Lees car park. A resident (Sandi Starling), who was committed to recycling and raising funds for the Hamstreet Primary Academy had put forward the idea of there being three recycling bins (for different items). The bins would be wheelie bins and would require some type of fixing (padlock and chain) so that they did not get stolen. Sandi would be responsible for the bins and would empty them regularly and send the contents to Terracycle who would in turn provide funding to the Hamstreet Primary Academy. One bin had been donated, one had been donated by the Hamstreet WI and Sandi was asking if OPC would purchase another.

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council pay for the provision of one bin and the padlock & chain that would be required and Mike Wady seconded this proposal. Sandi Starling will take on full ownership/responsibility of these recycling bins and all this entailed.

**Dog Fouling:** Mags highlighted that problems with dog fouling continued and she had recently made containers to hold dog fouling bags. It was agreed by those present that she be reimbursed any costs.

## 7. Correspondence Received:

- Information regarding the local elections taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. It was noted that for Parish Council's; nomination papers would be received at the end of March beginning of April. Following completion these will be sent to ABC. If there are more people standing then seats then there will be an election. Borough Council elections will also be taking place.
- Notice of resignation had been received from Vicky McKissock who due to work and family commitments could no longer commit to the Parish Council. Flowers thanking Vicky for her time as a Parish Councillor have been delivered.
- Shadoxhurst's Parish Council's newsletter.
- Thank you letter from Hamstreet Over 60s for their grant
- A thank you letter from a resident for new benches that Mike Wady and Borough Councillor Aline Hicks fought to get. These had been placed on the grass by the pond near Cotton Hill House.
- Email regarding cars parking around the junction of Ashford Road and Cock Lane during football matches.

During discussion it was noted that this was a problem that had existed for a while and those attending or playing football could not be blamed. It was noted that fencing posts could be erected

and that this would discourage parking. Those present agreed that enquiries be made into suitable fencing posts and their installation.

*Following this meeting a site meeting was held and discussion was held on where the posts should be situated. On investigation it was found that Appledore had recently had posts installed and Neil Underdown Fencing Contractor had been used. A site meeting was organised with him (members were informed on-line of the meeting). Following the meeting he had provided a quotation for 122 oak posts. A meeting with a Highways Representative is to be organised to ensure that proper procedures are followed.*

- Pound Lees Car Park: The Parish Clerk had received a telephone call from a Highways contractor. He had explained that they were working in the village re-doing white, yellow and red lines and asked if the Parish Council would want any paint left over to be used to go over the lines in the Pound Lees Car Park. A minimal cost would be due for the materials used. Via an on-line poll, the majority of members voted 'no' to the proposal.

## 8. Planning Update, Applications Received:

### Update:

19/00020/AS Old Bournemouth Store, TN26 2HN: Change of Use from Dance Studio to Offices

Decision: Permitted

## 9. Finance:

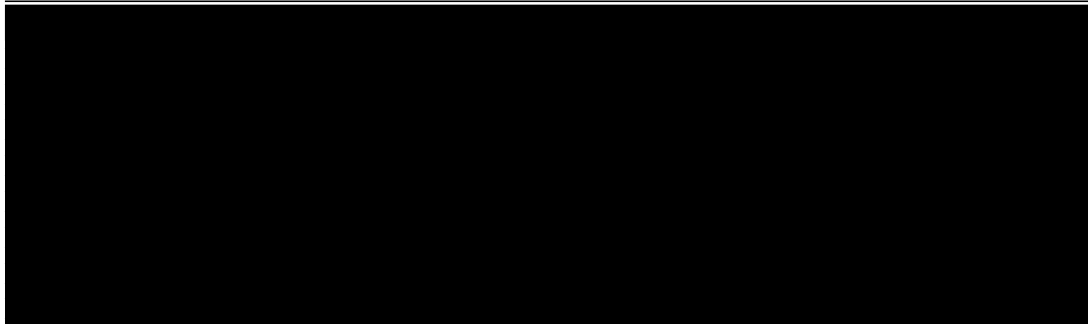
**Budget Update/Review:** was circulated to those present.

**Annual Grants:** As agreed during the AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 the HDSLAs, Victory Hall and St Mary's Church needed to be provided with their annual grant towards mowing and maintenance costs. None of the groups had thought it beneficial for OPC to pay for their mowing costs directly. It was agreed that these be paid.

**Subscription:** It was noted that the Clerk's subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks was due. This historically was shared and OPC paid the subscription on alternative years.

**Authorisation of Cheques:** Sid Gittens proposed that the following cheques be authorized, Mike Wady seconded this proposal. It was further agreed that the Chairman could authorise cheques that required signing before the next meeting.

To	Details	Amount	Cheque No
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**10. Arrangements For Annual Assembly & Presentation of Community Awards:** During discussion it was noted that Mike Wady would arrange for those who were to be presented with an award to be present. The Chairman would make arrangements with the Cosy Kettle to provide nibbles. It was agreed that the Annual Assembly be held on a similar line at the one held in 2018, starting with an address by the Chairman, followed by an awards ceremony then a networking event. Those invited to attend would be asked to bring information regarding their activities in the village.

## 11. Date of Next Meetings:

Planning Meeting:

18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm (if necessary)

Annual Assembly:

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7pm

Meeting Concluded 9.45 pm

Chairman's Signature: