

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 1st July 2019 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

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

Also Present: Kent County Councillor Mike Angell, Borough Councillor George Sparks and Lee Small (Chairman to Warehorne Parish Council)

1. **Apologies:** None received at meeting. *Following the meeting apologies were received from David Lancaster who was working.*

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 Parish Council meeting Held on Monday 3rd June 2019:** It was noted that the date of the next meeting at the end of the minutes had been detailed as being at 7pm. This had been changed to read 7.30pm in the top copy of the minutes. David Weeks proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council's meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2019 be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman; Mike Wady seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present.

Notes taken during an informal planning meeting held on 11th June 2019 had been circulated and further copies were made available to those present.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd June:**

- Grass Cutting: Request to Highways to cut the grass on the left-hand side of Marsh Road as you leave Cock Lane.

Response: work has been planned as part of the regular schedule and will be undertaken shortly.

- Overgrown Hedging: Letters had been sent to various residents asking them to cut back their hedges.

- Resident at Eastside apologised and highlighted that they always cut back new growth and that the footpath beside it was narrow.

- Resident in Bunkley Meadow responded saying that they had cut back their hedging as requested but highlighted issues with other hedging and an overhanging Horse Chestnut Tree in Bunkley Meadow.

This complaint was forwarded to Highways who notified the Clerk that this hedging and tree was not on their property but on the property of R&H Evans Autos & Engineering Ltd. A request had been made for them to have the tree and hedging cut back.

During a brief discussion it was noted that the owner was the original developer of the site. If no response is received, Highways will be contacted for advice. It was noted that members were appreciative to all residents who had responded to the request to cut back their hedges.

BREAK: A short break was taken from the proceedings – no questions arose

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

Kent County Councillor Mike Angell: reported that following enquiries into the provision of a loading bay in the 'High Street' and further double yellow lines. Kieron Leader (Highways Technical Officer) had responded noting that recently there had been a request for additional double yellow lines in this area: it was not approved. Normally it would not be permitted to ask again for restrictions so quickly.

Cllr Angell read Kieron Leader's response regarding a loading bay:

'With regards the loading bay proposal- rules relating to their use are quite restrictive. A loading bay would allow for an HGV or similar to stop and undertake deliveries, as you intend, but would not allow residents to park and visit the shop, as shopping is not an example of 'genuine loading'. Does this meet with your expectation?

Additional lining would still not ensure that large vehicles would not park on the footway (which was the main concern); only a physical barrier would do so. Moreover, as loading and unloading are fully permitted on yellow lines, they would likely also be used for these purposes. The B2067 south of the shops also becomes much wider, so the need to displace parking from this area would have to be demonstrated to KCC, as vehicles parked here (which may belong to residents) will simply be displaced.'

During discussion it was agreed that a site meeting be arranged with Kieron Leader and that Cllr Angell would speak to Lisa Willoughby regarding the provision of a loading bay. Those present felt that a loading bay placed outside the Indian restaurant would stop cars parking there and make it easier for large vehicles doing their deliveries and would help protect the footpaths and drains from damage. It was further noted that bollards would also help prevent this problem.

Cllr Angell further reported that he was looking into Social Values for KCC, explaining that the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 required people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

Cut Down Lighting Column: Junction of Warehorne Road/Ashford Road: Alan Brind (corporate technical officer) was asked if the lighting column can be replaced ahead of schedule as it was causing a safety issue on the junction. He replied saying that he had raised a purchase order for the column to be replaced and that it was with KCC awaiting for their contractor to install it.

Drainage Issues: An email has been sent to Joanne Davies (Asset Team leader – Drainage Planned Works) asking if the works report regarding drainage issues in Hamstreet had been received and if possible could OPC be informed of what it revealed. It has also been asked what steps would be taken to clear the blockage along Warehorne Road.

Following discussion Cllr Mike Angell left the meeting

Borough Councillor George Sparks: reported that once Southern Water had entered into a contract then they were legally obliged to improve their system. Regarding the two proposed developments in the area, Southern Water would therefore be obliged to improve their system. He further reported that the outline planning application for development opposite the primary academy was to be discussed at ABC Planning Committee meeting being held on 31st July at 7pm with plans for access and alterations to the road and school gateway being agreed. He was supportive of the application and would not be opposing it. Cllr Sparks explained that the length of the road would be narrower, raised with double yellow lines and have a pedestrian crossing.

Cllr Sparks further explained that the application for development along Warehorne Road was due to be discussed at ABC's planning committee meeting in September. He highlighted that ABC were reviewing S106 funding and further details could be found on their website.

Following Cllr Sparks report the Chairman questioned his support of the application. Cllr Sparks explained that he was happy with the application as it stood and would therefore be supporting and voting for it at ABC's Planning Committee Meeting.

During discussion, concern regarding parking in the village was expressed if the two proposed developments were agreed. It was noted that only 6 dwellings out of the 23 along Warehorne Road had off road parking, consequently the home owners without off road parking and those visiting the businesses in this area had no choice but to park along Warehorne Road. It was agreed that a site meeting would be requested with Oliver Peel to discuss the application for development opposite the primary academy.

Borough Councillor George Sparks left the meeting

PCSO: PCSO Luke Jones has now been replaced by PCSO Carin Andrews (email 60357@kent.pnn.police.uk)

NHW:

13th May to 4th June: Ashford Road: Theft from motor vehicle (number plates removed (FV51 JFZ).

4th/5th June: Quince Orchard Area: Theft from a motor vehicle (wallet) – window smashed to gain entry.

23rd June Malthouse Lane; Farm – gate locks damaged. Suspects were driving a stolen black Land Rover
Note: Action Fraud has experienced an increase in reports regarding malicious calls and voicemails purporting to be from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The fraudsters state that as the result of the victim's non-payment of tax or other duty, the victim is liable for prosecution or other legal proceedings and the balance needs to be settled. It is suggested that payment can be made by bank transfer or purchasing iTunes gift cards.

Warning had been received regarding a man pushing for gardening or drive ways installation work. He had been reported as starting the work before it was agreed and pressing for payment and being intimidating. The police ask that if approached, they be contacted immediately.

6. **Parish Councillors' Updates/Reports:**

Highways: Mike Wady reported that he had put in a request for Darren Anderson to meet him so that various highway issues could be discussed and hopefully resolved. It was noted that the entrance to Bourne Lane had narrowed due to increased vegetation and the lack of anyone cutting it back. The problem being that Highways had not cut back vegetation from the ditch to the road; which they had done previously.

No Parking Signs: Complaints had been received regarding parking on pavements near Cotton Hill House when there were bootfairs/jumble sales. This made those using the footpaths difficult. Community Warden Kathy Carter had looked into the provision of 'No Parking' signs but had been advised that such signs could not be placed there.

During discussion it was suggested that 'No Parking Cones' could be put up when bootfairs/jumble sales were being held. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk contact Victory Hall and ask if OPC were to provide some cones would they be willing to put them up.

Following the meeting discussion with Victory Hall regarding the provision of 'No Parking' cones was held. They are to investigate the problem and try and find a remedy.

Gardening Projects: Forge Gardens & By Silent Soldier: Mags reported that the gardening was ongoing in Forge Gardens. A base had been made for a bench (made by Side Gittens) and a metal lockable noticeboard had been found. During a brief discussion it was agreed that an image of the village sign be put on it. Sid is to obtain a cost for the noticeboard.

It was noted that David Weeks and Sid Gittens had made a plate and bolted the poppies on to it, this had now been planted by the Silent Soldier. Unfortunately, the paint was peeling off the poppies and would need regular re-painting.

Allotments: An estimate for the provision of water was now being awaited from Southern Water.

Verge Posts by Junction of Cock Lane & Opposite: Funding application forms to cover half the cost were in the process of being applied. Once a copy of the contractor's public liability insurance had been received, the necessary information would be sent to Highways.

Red Ensign Flag: Details were supplied to those present. One was agreed and the Clerk was asked to order one. It was noted that a new Union Jack Fag was required. Those present agreed that the Clerk order one.

VE Day 8th May 2020: Mags asked that members gave thought regarding celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in 2020. It was hoped that a working committee for the celebrations would be set up.

7. **Correspondence Received:**

- A complaint had been received regarding the overgrown hedgerow and trees in Bourne Lane with one of the branches of a tree causing an obstruction to vehicles.

Piers Griffin from Natural England attended and cut back the branch in question. He highlighted that Natural England were in talks with Redrowe over the cost of the management of the hedge line.

It does not officially belong to either of them but it would be impractical for no management to take place so they are trying to find a solution. This may involve discussions with residents.

Peirs noted that the initial reduction would be very costly so that was why they were trying to find a long term solution. He highlighted that some of the home owners on the Lane had trees that were over-hanging and they were responsible for these. He is to have a full tree safety survey done here.

- An Invitation to renew membership to the Friends of St Mary's Church. Cost £25. Those present agreed that membership be renewed.
- An email from Ian Redding the development director at Ashford Mediation Service had been received highlighting problems that could occur including parking disputes, boundary disputes etc. He can be contacted for further information/advice/help.
- Letter from Susan Neil of Curtains and Blinds in The Street regarding vehicles parking on double yellow lines.

A response has been sent highlighting how the Parish Council were trying to resolve the issue.

- A letter from the Over 60s Club thanking the OPC for their kind donation towards their Christmas Dinner with a request for further funding for this year's event. It was agreed that they be supplied with a sponsorship form.

9.30pm: those present agreed that the meeting continue for another 30 minutes.

8. Planning Update, Applications Received:

Ref Outline Planning Application For Dwellings in Warehorne Road: Application No 18/00056:

- Letter has been sent to David Akenhurst at Southern Water asking what plans there are to provide extra capacity at the pump in Warehorne Road. No reply had been received.
- Sec 106 Funding: An email had been sent to Oliver Peel at ABC regarding the S106 funding relating to the proposed development, this included an invitation to attend a parish council meeting. No reply had been received.
- Borough Councillor David Ledger's report provided to ABC Committee Planning meeting was made available to those present.
- Aline Hicks had been asked if the trains running through Hamstreet (Marsh Link) were to be electrified. She had responded saying that she was not aware of any plans. On asking representatives at South Eastern they had responded by saying they were not aware of any work to electrify the line in the near future ie in the next 3/5 years although discussions are ongoing.

Application No: 19/00776: Land west of Viaduct Terrace, Warehorne – Erection of 8 dwellings with associated access and parking – alternative to outline planning approval of 18/00622 for 3 detached 4/5 bedroomed dwellings. Those present agreed to respond along the same lines as Warehorne Parish Council.

9. Parish Councillor Basic Allowances: Details regarding allowances had been circulated to members. The Internal Auditor had recommended that this be discussed by members as it had been some time since it was last discussed.

It was noted each member was entitled to £238.41 and the Chairman was entitled to £619.87 (rates set by ABC). Following investigation, the Clerk had drawn up a draft claim form to be completed by those wishing to claim a basic allowance which could be related to meetings attended. Unfortunately, the allowance can-not be related to work done for the Parish Council ie gardening, repairing fences etc as Parish Councillors can-not be employed by the Parish Council.

During discussion it was unanimously agreed that the basic allowance would not be claimed for the time being.

10. Possible Employment of a 'Tidyman' It was noted that until last year a gardener (David Collins) had been employed to look after Forge Gardens and do other work including flying flags on various dates. Previously Forge Gardens had been tended to by Doug Cardno for many years. It was also noted that

former Parish Councillor Vince Watkins had tended to Johnsons Corner and following his departure a landscaper/gardener had taken over for a short period until he moved out of the area.

During discussion it was noted that many of the Parish Councillors were putting in a lot of hours gardening and general maintenance that could be seen as being ‘over and above the duty of a Parish Councillor’. Those present agreed that the Village Caretaker Scheme be explored and discussed further at the next meeting.

It was noted that Doug Cardno has passed away a few weeks earlier; members unanimously agreed that flowers be sent to his wife in his memory.

11. Finance:

Budget Update/Review: was circulated to those present.

Authorisation of Cheques: Andy Othen proposed that the following cheques be authorized, Steve Shorter 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
			

12. Date of Next Meetings: It was noted that there would be no full meeting in August. The following was agreed:

Planning Meeting:	Monday 15 th July 2019 at 7.30pm
Parish Council:	Monday 2 nd September 2019 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 10pm

Chairman’s Signature: