

## ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

It was noted that the Chairman was running late, in his absence members agreed that Sid Gittens would act as Chairman until his arrival.

1. **Apologies:** were received from Mike Wady (away), Mags Wellsted-Boorman (unwell) and David Lancaster (prior engagement), those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies were also received from Peter Davison.

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): None were made at this point from Councillors present.

3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July & Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019:**

Julian Griffiths proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council's meetings held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 be accepted as correct records of the meetings and signed/authorised by the Chairman; David Weeks seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July & 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019:**

Overhanging Hedge & Horse Chestnut Tree in Bunkley Meadow: The letter sent to the owners of the hedge and tree had been returned by the Royal Mail noting 'undelivered - return to sender'. Highways had been notified and advice had been sought.

On 29<sup>th</sup> July Darren Anderson reported that '*... another CSM for this vegetation has come in and I have checked and this hedge is next to a PROW path, so I have passed this CSM on to our PROW team, so they can look in and arrange land owner to cut back this hedge.*' On Friday the Clerk requested an update and Darren Anderson replied saying '*this path and grass area is not maintained by KCC highway but our PROW team, I will copy them in to this email so they can relook in to this issue.*'

During a brief discussion it was suggested that the developer for Bunkley Meadow who had owned the hedge and tree in question were no longer in business. Further advice would be sought from Highways.

Street Cleaner: Jane .... had taken over from Colin ..... The first week Jane had shadowed Colin and the following week she had worked alone. The third week (1<sup>st</sup> September), she was away so Colin had stepped in for her. During a short discussion it was noted that Colin had worked as the tidyman for 15 years and 3 months and a long service award would be presented to him. (*Following this meeting Jane resigned from the position of 'tidyman' and Judith ..... offered to act as the new 'tidyman' It was later questioned if the village required a 'tidyman' and Judith was asked to step down until this matter was discussed further.*

Street Signs & Banners: Following the last meeting two quotations had been received for the supply of signs and banners. Following an online vote the cheaper quotation received from Medash Signs was agreed. The signs and banners depicting 'No To Over-Development' had now been delivered. Neil Underdown is to put up those around the village that members cannot and he is to provide the posts for the notices.

5. **Casual Vacancy for Parish Councillor: Discuss Possible Co-option:** During a short discussion it was agreed that this agenda item be deferred until later in the meeting.

**BREAK:** *A short break was taken from the proceedings. During which it was noted that the Victory Hall Committee had announced that they would be retiring in 2020 and were looking for a new members to take over. Andy Othen arrived and replaced Sid Gittens as Chairman.*

6. **Quarterly Report From Borough Councillors:**

**Kent County Councillor Mike Angell:** reported that the water leak near Meadow View estate had now been repaired. During a brief discussion it was noted that there were other leaks in the village: one by the Doctors Surgery and one by Dukes Meadow.

**Quarterly Report From Borough Councillors:**

**Borough Councillor George Sparks:** *(Full report attached)*. Reported that the Parish Council should now be in receipt of £1,000 funding from his community chest grant for the verge post project. Cllr Sparks highlighted that S106 funding was being examined and he would continue to lobby on behalf of the community that all S106 funding from proposed developments in Hamstreet/Warehorne went to benefit the immediate area only. He would also raise questions regarding the safety of the public right of way crossing over the railway line.

During discussion that followed Cllr Sparks report it was noted that Victory Hall had been asked for a fully costed design for a new village hall that OPC had offered to pay for. It was also noted that OPC were not in favour of the proposed football pitch for the proposed development opposite the primary academy; it was understood that if it were built Hallam would provide the academy with funds to maintain it. The paperwork to have the verge posts installed had been passed to Highways for approval.

**Borough Councillor David Ledger:** reported that he sat on the Appeals Committee, Licensing Health and Safety Committee, Overview & Scrutiny Committee and was on Planning Policy. He highlighted that Section 106 funding was in the process of being discussed and concerns were being raised. He had been busy with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a complaint being investigated that following a consultation comments were not properly considered. Cllr Leger asked if members would be willing to discuss Ashford's Walking and Cycling Strategy. He concluded by reporting that he and George were looking into setting up regular surgeries to cover all their areas.

During discussion following Cllr Ledger's report it was noted that Simon Harris from ABC had attended OPC's meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to discuss Ashford and Districts Walking/Cycling Strategy. During discussions, plans for an improved cycle path along the canal were also discussed. It was agreed that Simon be invited to provide an update during a meeting of OPC.

*Kent County Councillor Mike Angell and Borough Councillors Sparks and Ledger left the meeting.*

7. **Monthly report from PCSO Carin Andrews:** had been received and was made available. It noted that:
- i) PCSO Andrews continued to be a visible presence.
  - ii) Reports had been received relating to Dering Woods: with camping and fires taking place and rubbish being left.
  - iii) Operation Idaho had taken place during the summer holiday, its aim being to conduct pro-active patrolling.
  - iv) There were numerous types of frauds and scams and latest alerts could be found on Action Fraud website.
  - v) There had been a period of bicycle thefts in and around Ashford. To help with recovery of stolen bicycles and to help protect them from theft, PCSO Andrews highlighted that they be registered on <https://www.bikeregister.com/>
8. **Parish Councillors' Updates/Reports:**  
**HDSLAs:** Improvements continued in the pavilion with new flooring planned and the bar area being enhanced.

Forge Gardens: Sid provided details for a new noticeboard/display cabinet to be placed at Forge Gardens. It was noted that it was lockable and magnetic. Those present agreed that this be ordered with posts and if possible with the OPC crest. It was further agreed that the other noticeboard be refurbished; it would be available for members of the public to use. Sid reported that the gardens were slowly being cleared and tidied.

War Memorial Committee: Julian Griffiths reported that the committee had held their first meeting and were in the process of putting a notice together to ask for information that could be put on the memorial. Various designs were being investigated.

Johnsons Corner: David Weeks reported that due to ill health he had been unable to visit the area for 3 weeks, but he would be visiting the plot this week and aimed to do some grass cutting.

Verge Posts by Junction of Cock Lane & Opposite: A method statement for the work to be completed had been created by Neil Underdown (who is installing the verge posts). This has been passed to Darren Hickman at Highways. Authorisation was now being awaited.

Red Ensign Flag: It was noted that the flag was up and flying for 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Defibrillator: It was highlighted that the pads needed to be renewed in November. Those present agreed that the cost be covered to replace them. During a brief discussion it was noted that Warehorne's defibrillator was now defunct and parts were no longer accessible. It was agreed that a check be made on OPC's regarding its lifetime.

## 9. Correspondence Received:

- Notice that ABC will be marking the Merchant Navy Day with the Mayor of Ashford (Cllr Mrs Jenny Webb) on 3<sup>rd</sup> September with a ceremony at 10.30am outside the Civic Centre.
- ABC's Leader Briefing Note which highlighted that due to contamination in recycling bins between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September Biffa crews and council officers would be putting stickers on recycling bins if they contained major contamination eg black sacks, food and nappies and will not be collected.
- Letter from the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) noting their work to heighten awareness of their existence due to declining membership.
- Email raising awareness of the Ashford Volunteer Centre's Community Car Scheme; which is a volunteer-led service for people who cannot drive or easily access public transport.

## 10. Planning Update, Applications Received:

- 19/00147/TP: Permission granted to fell/cut back/prune on land between 37 Bank Side and Ashford Road.
- Notice that KCC had prepared a revision of the Drainage and Planning Policy Statement. The policy is currently out for public consultation from 19<sup>th</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> September and can be accessed through [www.kent.gov.uk/drainageandplanningpolicy](http://www.kent.gov.uk/drainageandplanningpolicy) Those present agreed that Julian Griffiths have delegated authority to look and respond on it on behalf of OPC.
- It was noted that no further updates had been received regarding the outline planning applications for Warehorne Road and opposite the Primary Academy.

## 11. Highways: Update including Discussion Regarding Traffic Survey in Village:

Three quotations had been received from Darren Hickman (Scheme Project Manager – Ashford Highway Depot) for a traffic survey.

1. £585 plus VAT
2. £660 plus VAT
3. £740 plus VAT

Oliver Peel (Joint Development Control Manager at ABC) had responded to a request for a traffic survey saying ' Whilst of course this can be done there is no way of verifying its accuracy and as such would carry little / no weight in the decision making process. Both schemes in Hamstreet have had Transport Assessments submitted which KCC have considered accurate and acceptable and these look at the cumulative impacts of the developments. Both sites have also been through an Examination in Public as part of the local plan process and

deemed acceptable from a traffic perspective hence their retention as site allocations. Please note that the test in the NPPF for a refusal on traffic grounds is that it must result in 'severe' harm. It is not considered that this would be the case given the capacity within the highway network. Indeed if this were the case then KCC would have objected to the application.'

During discussion Julian highlighted points relating to the transport assessment submitted to KCC with the application for development opposite the primary academy (application no 18/00644). It was agreed that Darren Hickman be contacted and asked about the credibility of a traffic survey. *Following this meeting a meeting was organised for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am with Darren Hickman to discuss the road survey in more detail.*

It was noted that the hedge by No 2 Quince Orchard needed cutting back and the owner of the property was in hospital. It was agreed that Highways be asked if they could cut it back.

12. **Provision of Water Supply: Hamstreet Allotments** – South East Water had provided a quotation totalling £2,536.56 to provide service to the allotments. It noted that OPC would have to arrange for the private supply pipe to be laid from the property to the highway boundary and inspected in open excavation prior south East Water carrying out their work. Sid noted that he would look into the possibility of obtaining a quotation for this work.

**5.Casual Vacancy for Parish Councillor: Discuss Possible Co-option – Discussion Cont.** The Chairman highlighted that he had received interest from two residents. It was agreed that they be invited to the next meeting.

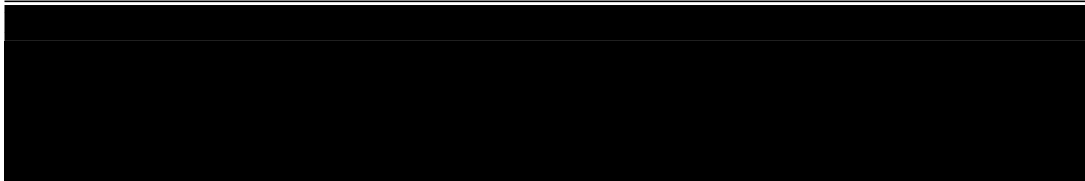
13. **Finance:**

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

**Funding to Over 60s Club:** During discussion it was noted that during the previous year the club had received £750 from OPC and they were asking for the same. During examination of the budget it was noted that £2,000 had been set aside for donations/sponsorship and if £750 was granted this would be over one third of the budget going to one group. Those present felt that as many groups should benefit as possible and that it would be fairer if smaller grants be provided to many groups. Following discussion Sid Gitten proposed that the club be provided with £350, Julian Griffiths seconded this proposal which was agreed by all 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
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14. **Date of Next Meetings:** It was noted that there would be no full meeting in August. The following was agreed:

Planning Meeting:  
Parish Council:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.30pm (*if necessary*)  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.30pm  
(*due to refurbishment work in the pavilion this meeting date was changed to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 on 14/9/19*)

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**Report Provided by Borough Councillor George Sparks (2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019)**

I have made grants from my Community Fund to Orlestone Parish Council, The Mother & Toddlers Group, The Hamstreet Coffee Morning, The Hamstreet Lunch Club and The Hamstreet Academy Flower Arranging Group.

I congratulate your Chairman on his presentation to the Planning Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Had that speech been made last year to the Government Inspector then it is possible that S31 would not have been included in The Ashford Local Plan 2030. However because the consultant engaged by the Parish Council failed to put forward any legitimate planning reasons the plan was found to be sound by the Inspector and adopted by the previous administration of Ashford Borough Council earlier this year. The plan is now the official Planning Policy for the next 10 years and supersedes all previous policies.

Planning Officers are required to implement the plan and the Planning Committee scrutinises the applications to ensure that they comply with the Council's Policy. It is unlikely that an application that conforms to the policy will be refused as should the applicant appeal against that decision then they would win the appeal because the Council has ignored its own policy. The Council would then be liable for all of the costs which could be in excess of £100,000. The Planning Committee may defer decisions and refer back to the applicant for clarification or amendment. However they will eventually come back to the Committee for decision. It does not imply that the development has been stopped as some seem to believe.

I will continue to lobby for the best outcome for Hamstreet. However I am advised by the Borough legal team that whilst I can address the Planning Committee as the Ward Member I should not vote on matters relating to S31 because of my previous association with this Parish Council.

I am trying to ensure that commuter parking does not become a problem after the new road layout is completed. I am also endeavouring to get a more favourable distribution of S106 funding for

Orlestone in order that a new village hall can be built. However I am advised that for legal reasons OPC and the Victory Hall Committee will need to provide a fully costed proposal to the Planning Department before this can be considered.