

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14th October 2019 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

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

Also Present: Borough Councillor David Ledger and Lee Small (Chairman to Warehorne Parish Council)

During a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed that Sid Gittens would act as Chairman for the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** were received from Andy Othen (working) those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies were also received from Kent County Councillor Mike Angell, Borough Councillor George Sparks, PSCO Carin Andrews and Community Warden Kathy Carter.

- 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): Mags Wellsted Boorman – members of the HDSLAs.

- 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday 2nd September 2019:**

David Weeks proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council's meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019 be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed/authorised by the acting Chairman of the current meeting; Julian Griffiths seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present.

- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd September 2019:**

Overhanging Hedge & Horse Chestnut Tree in Bunkley Meadow: A further email had been sent to Darren Anderson (Highways) highlighting that it was understood that the tree and hedge in question was owned by the original developer of Bunkley Terrace and that they were no longer in business. Advice was requested on how to get the tree and hedge cut back before someone hurt themselves on the mess below the tree.

During a brief discussion it was noted that neither the tree or hedge had been adopted. The hedge in question had now been cut back. Problems with the tree continued and it was noted that it shadowed the street lights and was causing a tripping hazard as its roots were pushing the pavement up. A site meeting will be requested with Highways.

Traffic Survey Darren Hickman (Highways): arrangements were currently being made for the traffic survey to take place. *Following the meeting confirmation had been received that the traffic survey was to take place during the week commencing 4th November.*

It was noted that it had been suggested that a survey be done excluding Ruckinge Road. Following consultation with Darren Hickman, who highlighted that this would entail another quotation being drawn up and then agreed, the Chairman requested that the original locations for the traffic survey be organised as quickly as possible; as seeking further quotations would be too time consuming.

Verge Posts: Work was due to take commence during December or January.

Display Cabinet For Forge Gardens: Delivery was expected during the week. Unfortunately, the village 'crest' had not been able to be placed on it. Sid Gittens highlighted that it would be organising a working party to remove the existing noticeboard and have the new one put up.

Defibrillator Pads: 2 new pads had been delivered and two further ones had been ordered.

- 5. Cycling Strategy in Hamstreet: Amanda Scott (Play & Open Spaces Project Manager at ABC):**

Amanda was welcomed to the meeting and it was noted that she had helped lead the project for improving the play area by Victory Hall.

Amanda explained that she was involved in a project to have a cycling/walking path running alongside the Royal Military Canal through Hythe and connect through Ashford to Rye. This being some 14 miles in length and would cost around £8 million. This project would take years to complete and the first step being to install a path between Hamstreet and Appledore. Various work was involved in this project including doing a feasibility study, looking at the infrastructure, applying for external funding, talking to local accommodation providers, putting together digital information, promoting walking routes and trying to increase visitors to the area. None of this would be easy and would need discussions with various land owners and accommodation providers. Funding needed to be put in place and a funding strategy was being put together.

During discussion following Amanda's report, members of the Parish Council were supportive of the idea. It was noted that Simon Harris be invited to provide a report of the cycling strategy for the area.

During this agenda item Mike Wady arrived apologising for his late arrival. Following discussion Amanda Scott left the meeting.

BREAK

A short break was taken from the proceedings. During which it was agreed that Sid Gittens would remain as acting Chairman for the meeting.

6. **Casual Vacancy for Parish Councillor: Discuss Possible Co-option:** During a short discussion it was noted that David Lancaster had resigned from his position of Parish Councillor – notices for this vacancy was being awaited. There were now two vacancies on the Parish Council. It was agreed that these be advertised on the Parish Council noticeboards, on their website, in the round and about column in the Kentish Express and in the parish magazine. Mike Wady knew of a possible person who was interested and would approach them.

7. **Reports From Representatives of the Community including a Quarterly Report From PCSO Carin Andrews and Community Warden Kathy Carter.**

Borough Councillor David Ledger: Highlighted that he and Borough Councillor George Sparks would be running a clinic at the Cosy Kettle between 10am and 10.45am the following day.

During discussion David highlighted that he was willing to work with the parish council regarding the two outline planning applications affecting Hamstreet and Warehorne. Regarding the planning application for development opposite the primary academy it was noted that Hallam had argued that only one entrance was needed and that the Academy's caretaker would be responsible for ensuring that members of the public would not park in the proposed car park. Concern was raised about increased traffic movements and it was agreed that a planning meeting would be organised so that a response for ABC's planning meeting could be considered.

Community Warden Kathy Carter: reported via email highlighting that the week commencing 7th October 2019 had been 'Safeguarding Week' and she had visited various clubs in the area raising awareness of phone, email and postal scams. She had handed out leaflets and 'no cold calling' stickers and provided Kent Fire Cards to the elderly to remind them that the service is free and they could have their smoke alarms checked. Kathy highlighted that any police issues not reported to 101 she passed on to the PCSO and she reported all issues of flytipping.

PCSO Carin Andrews: reported via email (full copy made available to those present) that she was willing to meet with representatives of the Parish Council if there were any issues of concern and invited members to the Rural Police Forum Meeting being held on Thursday 24th October at 7pm at Tenterden Town Hall.

NHW Updates:

- i) On 7th October three vehicles one parked in Ruckinge Road had their catalytic converters stripped. Advice on how to reduce this type of theft was provided.
- ii) Theft from vehicles in Ashford has risen and advice of how this can be prevented was provided to those present.
- iii) Warnings had been received regarding increased 'scams' one being a lottery scam when the victim receives a letter saying they have won a lottery. Bank account details are requested so that the winnings can be paid into the bank account. Another being a telephone call/message which

indicates that £600 had been removed from your bank account; this is followed with bank account details being requested. It was noted that bank details should not be given out freely and that care be taken with bank transfers

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

HDLA: Mags reported that the furniture in the bar area was now in place and the new flooring had been laid. An open evening to show case the renovations was under discussion. It was highlighted that the dog bins on Pound Lees were not being emptied and the Clerk was asked to contact the dog warden about the issue.

Firework Display: The display is to be held on Saturday 2nd November; the HDSLAs had made the necessary arrangements contacting various organisations and ensuring the paperwork for the event was correct. Mags asked those present for their help in shaking a bucket.

War Memorial Committee: Julian reported that a request for information for the memorials would be placed in the next issue of the Parish Magazine and on OPC's website. Their first meeting had been successful with discussion ongoing for a suitable site for the war memorial and its design.

Johnsons Corner: David Weeks reported that he was hoping to cut the grass soon; weather permitting and would be putting up a new flag. The football club were in the process of moving their equipment so that the mower was easily accessible.

Victory Hall: Mike Wady reported that he, David and Sid had attended the Victory Hall Committee's monthly meeting. Discussion was held regarding the need for a proper drawings and costings for a new hall as this was needed if a bid was made for S106 funding. Rural Kent had been contacted to see if they could help with the such plans. Discussions had also been held regarding the future committee to run the hall. To date two people had stepped forward.

Highways: Mike Wady reported that there was a blocked drain in Dukes Meadow/Bunkley Meadow. He had received complaints regarding the state of the surface of Romney Road. There was a blocked drain in Dukes Meadow/Bunkley Meadow. He would be reporting the broken light on the bollard by Bank Side and the one by the bypass, highlighting that without the lights they could easily be hit.

Street Lighting: Sid reported that the street light by the crossroad had now been erected and was working after nearly 3 years. *David Ledger left meeting*

Forge Gardens: Sid reported that work was ongoing and bulbs had been planted and the refurbishment of the old noticeboard was to be investigated.

9. **Correspondence Received: *not covered under other agenda items.***

- Notice that there was an on-line consultation by ABC regarding four proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders in Ashford (Churchyard Passage in Ashford Town, Coney Bear Site, Ashford Urban and Singleton Lake)
- ABC Briefing Notes which highlighted that a High Court had rejected a case brought against ABC's Local Plan ref Network Rails plans to bring back a site for light maintenance; notice that Freedom Leisure was the new operator to run the main leisure facilities in the borough; ABC has partnered with Barclays Bank and Ashford Gateway and the One You Shop to host a digital inclusion event aimed to provide those who lacked basic digital skills and confidence to get online. Workshops will be held on 13th November at the Ashford Gateway from 10am.
- Hamstreet in Bloom: a brief outline for the event to be held in 2020 was provided to those present.
- An email from a Frank Osborne who wished to set up a pizza man van in Hamstreet once a week. Those present agreed that this would be a good idea as long as the necessary regulations were followed.

10. **Planning Update, Applications Received:**

Application No: 9/001250

Proposal: Proposed two storey side extension; installation of first floor side window

Location: 29 Bank Side, TN26 2EZ

During a brief discussion it was noted that no comments had been made to date on ABC's website regarding the application; those present unanimously agreed that there was no objection to application.

11. **Highways Update:** Following the last meeting various banners and panels had been erected in the area. Some of these had been removed. During an on-line discussion it was agreed that a further 3 banners and 4 panels be ordered.

Car park ticket: It was highlighted that a car had parked in Pound Lees car park for over 24 hours and had received a parking ticket and fine. On investigation it was noted that this was correct and any vehicles parking for over 24 hours would get a ticket by ABC. It was noted that there was a notice in the car park informing those parking here of the conditions. During discussion it was agreed that the Clerk ask ABC if the pot holes in the car park could be filled and that the white lines be re-done.

Overgrowth: It was noted that the tenants in a dwelling in Lancaster Close had now dumped their hedging that they had but cut back in Bourne Lane. A request to the owner of the dwelling to remove the cuttings will be made.

It was noted that the hedging by 2 Quince Orchard was blocking the footpath and needed cutting back. A request to highways for this to be cut back will be made. It was highlighted that the hedging in the alleyway by Bunkley Meadow had been cut back by Aspire.

It was noted that the trees leading up to Sugar Load from the Church Road needed cutting back and that KCC had received a report regarding Ash Trees between Lancaster Close and the Railway Bridge that were dead and needed removing.

12. **Finance:**

External Auditors Report: Had noted that there were no issues arising and on their basis sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention that gave cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirement had not been met.

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

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

Planning Meeting: Monday 21st October 2019 at 7.30pm (*if necessary*)
Parish Council: Monday 4th November 2019 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.45pm

Chairman's Signature: