

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 2nd March 2020 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, Margaret (Mags) Wellsted-Boorman, David Weeks and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Kent County Councillor Mike Angell, Borough Councillor David Ledger, Lee Small (Chairman to Warehorne Parish Council) and three members of the public (Peter Davison, Mark Taylor & David White)

1. **Apologies:** were received from Stephen Shorter (prior engagement) those present agreed that these apologies be accepted.

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 the HDSLAs.

3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings Held on Monday 3rd February 2020**

Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council's meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2020 be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and that they be signed/authorised by the Chairman of the current meeting; Mike Wady seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meetings Held on Monday 3rd February 2020**

- Loading/Unloading Bay and Bollards in the Main High Street: On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Mike Angell had contacted Kieron Leader, the Technical Officer for Parking, Highways and Transportation at ABC regarding the provision of loading/unloading bays and bollards. His reply had been circulated via email to members and copies were made available to those present; it noted that the idea of a loading/unloading bay would not solve the problem of large vehicles parking on pavements. Kieron recommended that KCC's Traffic Schemes Team be approached as they were responsible for physical alterations to the highway such as bollards. The Clerk had contacted them for help and advice.

Cllr Angell further reported that he had been in touch with the team and a representative would be attending the site when the weather improved.

BREAK: *During a brief break, Borough Councillor David Ledger arrived. Cllr Mike Angell highlighted that KCC had an emergency planning department and a plan of action was being put in place regarding the coronavirus outbreak. Resident, Peter Davison highlighted that Burchett Lane needed work to it due to the number of potholes on it. During discussion regarding recent 'scraping' works that had taken place on the site opposite Hamstreet Primary Academy it was highlighted that the public footpath on the site had been damaged by the works. This had been reported to the PROW. Concern was highlighted regarding water coming from Lancaster Close via an over-flowing drain.*

5. **Reports from Representatives of the Community including a Quarterly Report from Kent County Councillor Mike Angell:**

Kent County Councillor Mike Angell: highlighted that between 19th January and 20th February 2020, KCC had patched some 135,000 potholes in Ashford. After patching any potholes requiring further work would have this carried out during the year. During a short discussion details of a dangerous tree that looked as if it may fall over and damage private property in Cock Lane and the lack of response to date

from the PROW team were passed to Cllr Angell, who is to investigate why it was taking so long to resolve.

Borough Councillor David Ledger: reported that ABC's planning department was undergoing changes with different staff leaving including the Head of Planning (Tim Naylor).

PCSO Katherine Richards: PCSO Carin Andrews had now been moved to another area and PCSO Katherine Richards had replaced her (email: katherine.richards@kent.police.uk) PCSO Richards had provided a report (tabled) which noted that she intended to hold quarterly public meetings and these would be held in one of the parishes she covered.

NHW Updates:

- Warnings regarding hoax calls regarding membership to Amazon Prime and slow broadband speeds.
- Information regarding a campaign by Kent Police/Ashford Community Safety Unit to educate people of all ages on the dangers of carrying a knife taking place in Ashford throughout February and March.

6. **Planning: Update, Applications Received:** No new planning applications had been received since the last meeting and no further updates regarding plans to develop along Warehorne Road and Ashford Road. It was agreed that Oliver Peel at ABC would be contacted regarding the public footpath that was now non-existent in the field opposite the primary academy. It was highlighted that amended plans had been approved for plots 5 & 6 which would now have 3 bedrooms regarding the application in Warehorne Road on land by Viaduct Terrace

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

Highways:

- A request for a meeting with Darren Anderson from Highways has been met with a request to log all issues via the Highways portal. Mike Wady highlighted that the main issues being: no white lines in Cock Lane and the state of the surface of the road, flooding from field in Victory Hall and blocked drains in Warehorne Road.

During a brief discussion Cllr Angell agreed that he would try and organise a site meeting so that these issues could be discussed.

- Following a query into when the fencing/tree stump would be removed by the pond near Cotton Hill House. Jamie Hendry from Aspire had responded via email saying that there are plans to make the stump safe by adding soil into the void underneath which will mean that the fencing can be removed. There will be no complete removal due to expense. When ground conditions improve the void will be made good and the fencing will be removed.

Hamstreet WI: On 30th March the WI would be litter picking in the village. During discussion it was agreed that warning signs were needed for this exercise and when other similar works were taking place. Those present agreed that Mike Wady have delegated authority to source and buy two signs. *NB Following the meeting the litter picking exercise being held by the WI was postponed.*

Charity Raising Event: The Chairman reported that a Race Night was being held on 28th March and the Parish Council had been asked if they would sponsor one of the races for a cost of £25. Funds raised going to the Canterbury Oast. Those present unanimously agreed that a race be sponsored. *NB Following the meeting the event was postponed.*

Forge Gardens: Sid Gittens reported that the refurbished noticeboard was nearly complete and gardening was ongoing with various plants coming to life. Preparations were in place for the Hamstreet Flowers in Bloom with the Men in Sheds team helping to get the planters ready for 'festival'. *Following the meeting the Hamstreet Flowers in Bloom was cancelled by the organisers.*

Verge Posts: New quotations had now been received and were nearly double than that originally allocated for the project, being some £9,700. During discussion it was agreed that the job be put on hold for the time being. During a brief discussion, Cllr Mike Angell noted that he was happy for the Parish Council to hold on to the funds (£1,000) he had provided for the project. Cllr Sparks will be contacted and asked what he wanted the parish council to do with the funding (£1,000) he had provided for the project. *Following the meeting Cllr Sparks reported that he was happy for the funding that he had provided to be held onto and spent on a safety related project if the verge posts project did not take place.*

VE Day: A quotation had been received for the hire of a marquee and chairs for the event, those present agreed that funds be released for this hire. Next steps; Mags Wellsted-Boorman is to organise a planning meeting for the event. *Following the meeting the event was cancelled; it is hoped that an alternative celebration will be held later in the year.*

War Memorial: Julian Griffiths reported that an update had been put in the Parish Magazine which included a request for design and location ideas. He now had some 13 names from WW1 and 4 from WW2.

Johnsons Corner: David Weeks reported that a service was taking place on Easter Monday; the Chairman had been copied into emails regarding arrangements but the Parish Council had not been asked for any input. David reported that the main gate had a broken hinge, during a brief discussion he and Mike agreed to get this fixed. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask those organising the service if they had any volunteers who wished to put themselves forward for helping with maintaining the area. *Following the meeting notice that the service had been cancelled was received.*

Victory Hall: David Weeks reported that the recently held meeting it was noted that six people had come forward wishing to join the hall committee. It was noted that the Parish Council were happy to help if required.

Twinning: The Chairman had contacted Therouanne, and invited representatives to the VE Day celebrations on 8th May but they could not make it due to other commitments. David Lancaster had kindly said that he would speak to the mayor to ask if they wished to visit this year.

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

- Letter from the Friends of St Mary's Church which noted that their next project was to have a new larger parking area. They were currently in the process of seeking quotes for hardstanding and the first quote had come in at £10,000. A request for funding had been made. Members agreed to consider and discuss further under Finance. It was noted that the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust could also be approached for funding.
- Letter from Kent, Surry and Sussex Air Ambulance asking for funding. Members agreed to consider and discuss further under 'Finance'.
- An application for funding has been completed from Hamstreet's Men in Sheds. Members agreed to consider and discuss further under 'Finance'. Sid Gittens and David Weeks both declared an interest and noted as members they would not take part in any discussions.
- Letter from Hamstreet Over 60s club requesting a grant. Members agreed to consider and discuss further under 'Finance'.
- An invitation to attend a Parish Forum being held on 15th April 2020 at 6.30pm in the Civic Centre. Agenda items will include feedback on how ABC communicates with parishes, an update on ABC's Corporate Plan and an introduction to and discussion on Carbon Neutrality and an update on the five-year land supply. *Following the meeting the Parish Forum was postponed.*
- Briefing notes from the Leader of ABC (Gerry Clarkson) regarding a new 'Experience Ashford and Tenterden' visitor brochure that can be downloaded from www.experienceashfordandtenterden.co.uk and details of how ABC will be celebrating VE Day.

9. Casual Vacancies: It was noted that the Parish Council had one casual vacancy

10. Finance:

Budget Update/Review: was circulated to those present with a draft budget for the new financial year. Following discussion, Julian Griffiths proposed that the following grants be awarded:

- i) £500 be given to Hamstreet's Men in Sheds group
(Sid Gittens & David Weeks voiced an interest in this group: both being members and abstained from the vote and did not take part in the discussion regarding funding for the group)
- ii) £250 to Kent Air Ambulance
- iii) £500 to St Mary's Church.

Mags Wellsted-Boorman seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

During discussion it was agreed that funding would not be provided to the Over 60s Club as they had already received funding during the current financial year. It was highlighted that members wanted to help as many different clubs/organisations/events as possible and consequently usually only provided funding once each financial year to a group.

Authorisation of Cheques: Those present unanimously agreed that the following cheques be authorized. It was further agreed that the Chairman could authorise cheques that required signing before the next meeting.

To	Details	Amount	Cheque No
			

**Cheque not released as VE Day Celebrations put on hold*

11. **Annual Assembly 6th April 2020: Preparations, Awards:** During a brief discussion awards for services to the community were agreed. The event would be held as previously with organisations and representatives being invited to attend and bring along information that would be displayed and held along the lines of a 'networking' event. The Cosy Kettle would be asked to provide refreshments and the HDSLAs would provide drinks. *Following the meeting the Annual Assembly was cancelled.*

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

Planning Meeting:	Monday 16 th March 2020 at 7.30pm <i>(if necessary)</i>
Annual Assembly:	Monday 6 th April 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.11pm

Chairman's Signature:

Following the meeting members agreed that meetings of Orlestone Parish Council be suspended for the time being. Discussions, decisions, circulation of correspondence would take place via messenger or email.