

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 6.30pm on Monday 6th July 2020 via Zoom application

Present: Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), Sid Gittens, Julian Griffiths, Basil Smith, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, David Weeks and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Kent County Councillor Mike Angell, Borough Councillor David Ledger and two members of the public: David White & Richard Cooper

Public Comments & Observations: *This being an opportunity for parishioners to speak or ask questions. The Agenda noted that those wishing to speak should contact the Parish Clerk via telephone or email at least one day in advance of the meeting. No questions had been received.*

1. **Apologies:** were received from Stephen Shorter (unable to attend due to family responsibilities) and Mike Wady (unwell) those present agreed that both of these apologies be accepted. Apologies were also received from PCSO Katherine Richards and resident 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): Mags Wellsted-Boorman member of the HDSLA.
3. **Minutes of Meeting Held on 1st June 2020 to be Authorised as Being Correct Record.** Basil Smith proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council's meeting held on 1st June 2020 be accepted as correct record of the meeting and that they be signed/authorised by the Chairman of that; Sid Gittens seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present. *Following the meeting, the top copy of the minutes was provided to the Chairman so that they could be authorised and signed.*
4. **Matters Arising From The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 1st June 2020:** *Items for discussion only; no decisions can be made under this heading.*
 - The Clerk had written to those living in Lancaster Close near to where grass cuttings/garden waste had been left under hedging in Bourne Lane and had received a telephone message which highlighted that the garden waste had been left under an overgrown hedge and it was believed that it was not a problem. During a brief discussion it was noted that Highways would be asked to cut the hedge back to help prevent this from occurring again.

The Chairman proposed that agenda item 8 be brought forward for discussion so that Richard Cooper could leave the meeting after the agenda item if he so wished. Those present agreed with this proposal.

8. **Hamstreet Allotments:** It was noted that an email had been received from allotment holder (Richard Cooper) who leased the last allotment plot by the footpath and Water Board fencing. He had highlighted problems with the stretch of land that lay close to the wire fence that is shared with the water company explaining that nothing that could be eaten could be grown here as the water board sprayed the fence with chemicals. It was not known what but it was thought to be some type of anti-rust chemical. However thick weeds did grow in the area. Richard cleared these regularly to protect his and the other allotments holders' plots from their seeds. He asked if funding could be supplied to provide plants that could prohibit the growth of the weeds.

During discussion it was agreed:

- a) The water board would be contacted with a request for information about what they were spraying near and on the fencing.
- b) Further discussion would be held as to what could be done to remedy the problem of the weeds.
- c) It was agreed that Richard's plot would not be leased out again and that once another plot become available it would be offered to Richard. It was understood that another plot was soon to become available.
- d) In the future this area could possibly be used for fruit trees and maintained by the allotment holders.

5. Reports From Representatives of the Community:

Kent County Councillor Mike Angell: highlighted:

- KCC are to provide an extra one million pounds to the community warden service.
- The community wardens (70 work in Kent) had been providing help during the COVID19 crisis delivering food and medicines etc.
- KCC had provided 6.5 million personal protective equipment (PPE) via over 3000 separate deliveries.
- 4500 people had been helped via the Kent Together Scheme.
- £315 million of grant funding had been accessed by Kent
- Over 5000 people had joined the library service during lockdown.
- Due to increases in expenditure KCC would be setting another Budget in September.
- Various works were being completed by Highways

Cllr Angell concluded by highlighting that he had funding in his community funding budget that could be applied for.

Borough Councillor David Ledger: reported that business was gradually returning to normal at ABC with planning committee meetings being held monthly rather than twice a month, the planning committee would be reduced from 17 to 14 members. ABC were to hold their Annual Meeting at the end of the month which would include the Mayor Making Ceremony.

Discussion led to planning application no:

20/00566/AS *The Old School House, The Street, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2HG*

Proposed rear and side first floor roof extension including 4no. roof lights and relocation of existing roof duct. It was noted that following the last meeting amended drawings had been submitted by the applicant and members had agreed via email that OPC respond by highlighting concerns regarding the safety and welfare of those staying in the overnight accommodation and the view that this was an overdevelopment of the building.

Borough Councillor George Sparks had contacted the Clerk and informed her that it was likely to be approved as there were no objections relating to planning guidelines but he continued to argue the welfare issues and had requested that the site be visited and inspected as there was concern that the overnight accommodation was being used as long term accommodation.

PCSO Katherine Richards had provided a report which had been forwarded to members which highlighted that during the past few weeks she had been tutoring a couple of new PCSOs and had now been teamed with PCSO Kyle Farnfield. The importance of following government guidelines regarding social distancing and staying safe was noted. Details regarding scams involving calls from people personating the police and emails from Netflix had been provided.

6. Planning: Update, Applications Received: The following details had been received:

20/00665: Land adjacent to Orlestone Rise, Ruckinge Road, Hamstreet, Kent

Erection of 3 detached dwellings with associated car barns and landscaping...

Details of the application had been forwarded to members via email and made available via screen share to those present. To date there had been eight objections on ABC's website which noted the following:

- Dangerous access on to the B2067 which had a 60mph national speed limit on it.
- The access on to the B2067 was near a blind bend which was a hazard.
- The meadow/land contained a variety of wildlife which were protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- The proposed houses would block out daylight and overlook dwellings in Carters Wood
- Concerns regarding possible flooding properties in Carters Wood.

During discussion it was agreed:

- i) Concern regarding access from the proposed development on to the B2067 would be raised with a request that the existing 30mph speed limit be extended further up the road.
- ii) A request that a full assessment of drainage and flooding issues be undertaken due to flooding concerns that had been raised.

20/00883/AS: 88 Lancaster Close, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2JG Partial garage conversion with extension to form ancillary annexe. Details of the application were forwarded to members via email. Members agreed that they had no objection to it.

20/0868: Ashstone House, Hamstreet Road, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2EB Change of use of former care home to two residential dwellings. Details of the application were forwarded to members via email. Members agreed that they had no objection to it and could not see any detrimental effects.

20/00872: The Cosy Kettle, The Lantern Building, The Street, Hamstreet, Ashford, TN26 2HE Removal of condition 2 on planning permission 13/01458/AS (Change of use from A1 retail to A3 cafe shop/tea room) to allow for onsite food preparation/cooking. Details of the application were forwarded to members via email. Members agreed that the application be supported.

Update:

20/00635: Squirrels Wood, Ruckinge Road, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2NW

Single storey rear extension, roof extension, demolition of garage and construction of garage with ancillary annexe accommodation (revision to application 19/01774/AS).

Decision: Permitted

20/00521/AS Fairview Industrial Park, Hamstreet Road, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2PL *Erection of industrial/storage building for 8 units.* Objection to the application had been logged. No further updates on ABC's website.

7. Parish Councillors' Updates/Reports: Inc. Highways; Johnsons Corner; HDSLAs; Gardening

HDSLAs: Mags reported that the pavilion would not yet be opening but arrangements were being made in preparation for when it would open with sanitisers being purchased. The group had been successful in obtaining a grant of £10,000 from ABC for loss of earnings. A recent inspection of the building had revealed a water leak which was to be repaired. An application was in the process of being put together to have the pavilion's balcony extended.

Mags highlighted that the car park barrier had been broken; the Clerk was asked to report this to ABC with a request that it be repaired. Sid reported that the former secretary for the Hamstreet FC had passed away.

Victory Hall & Play Park: Basil reported that the hall would remain closed to hirers, this was to be reassessed in August. The Play Park had re-opened with appropriate notices in place regarding safe distancing. The existing committee members would continue until it was safe to hold an AGM with a new team waiting to take over.

Johnsons Corner: Sid reported that the gardening work continued. A COVID-19 pebble snake which lay in the garden now contained over 200 painted stones. Mags reported that it would be removed at the end of July and plans were being made to have it displayed permanently.

Highway Issues: David highlighted concerns regarding the speed that cars were travelling along Bourne Lane. During a brief discussion Mike Angell agreed to speak to Darren Anderson (Highways) about the issue; Mike highlighted that a request to reduce the speed limit could be a lengthy process.

During discussion it was noted that the bin at the top of Bourne Lane required emptying more frequently or a further bin installed. The Clerk was requested to raise this issue with ABC.

Basil highlighted that work had been taking place by the crossroads and having spoken to the team he had been informed that the gully in Warehorne Road was to be replaced and the drains were to be rodded to help clear blockages.

VE Day Prizes: Prizes (Tesco give vouchers) had been awarded to the best decorated gardens during the VE Day Celebrations; the judges being those who had put together the Hamstreet COVID19 community booklet.

Flag Pole: The Chairman highlighted that recently there had been issues with certain flags not being put up and suggested that they be kept in the pavilion for ease of access. During a brief discussion it

was agreed that unless a particular flag needed to be flown the NHS Flag would be flown for the time being.

Borough Councillor David Ledger left the meeting.

9. Correspondence Received:

- Various briefing notes/updates had been received from ABC and KCC (these had been forwarded to members via email: one noted that Ashford Town Library would be opening on Monday 13 July 2020 with a new 'Select and Collect' service would temporarily replace bookshelf browsing, a free PC and WiFi use would also be available.
- Notice had been received that the Stour Centre was to close ahead of major refurbishment. Freedom Leisure is to take over from Ashford Leisure Trust in the running of ABC's main leisure facilities.

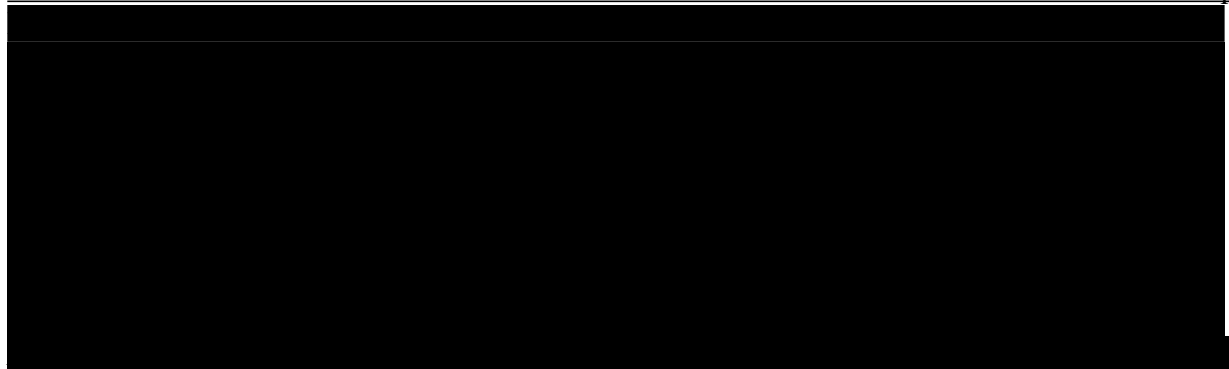
10. Review & Adopt Guidelines for Recording Parish Council Meetings: It was noted that under the national rules of being open and accountable; Parish Council meetings could be recorded by anyone. A meeting could be filmed, audio recorded, photographs taken, tweeted and blogged. No prior permission was required to carry out this activity. On investigation it had been noted that it was advisable that Parish Councils adopt guidelines regarding the recording of meetings. The clerk had drawn up a draft guideline and had circulated it to members. All present agreed that the guidelines be adopted.

11. Finance: Internal Auditor's Report: The internal auditor, Mrs Claire Morley had provided an Internal Audit service to Orlestone Parish Council for the financial year ending 31st March 2020 and acting independently, she had examined the system of internal controls by undertaking a variety of tests guided by the questions raised in the Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20 of the Local Councils Annual Return Form. On the basis of her examination, in her view the Council's system of internal controls is adequate for the purpose intended and effective. She made that recommendation that the Parish Council review the possibility of Internet Banking.

Update on Financial Budgets: A budget review had been circulated to members via email. No questions arose.

Authorisation of Cheques: The following cheques were authorised; those present agreed that the Chairman had delegated authority to authorise cheques if payment was required before the next meeting.

For	To	Amount	Cheque No
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**Following the meeting the HDSLAs highlighted that OPC needed to pay the planning application fee for the extension to the pavilion's balcony as they were the 'owners'. This payment was authorised by the Chairman as it was needed to be made immediately. This payment had then been reimbursed by the HDSLAs*

12. Items for Next Agenda: None brought forward.

13. Date & Time of Next Meetings: During discussion it was agreed that a summer recess would be held and that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on 7th September. It was hoped

that this meeting could be held in person if government regulations allowed. If there was a need to discuss and meet prior this an extraordinary meeting would be called via Zoom.

Meeting Concluded 8.20pm

Chairman's Signature: