

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held On Monday 5th October 2020 at 7.30pm via ZOOM.

Present: Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), Mike Wady (Vice-Chairman), Sid Gittens, Julian Griffiths, Basil Smith, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Kent County Councillor Mike Angell & Borough Councillor David Ledger

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.* It was noted that there had been no questions received.

Prior the start of the meeting it was observed that the meeting was being recorded via Zoom.

- 1. Apologies:** were received from Stephen Shorter (unable to attend due to problems accessing meetings via Zoom). It was noted that these were long term apologies while meetings continued to be held via Zoom. Those present agreed that his apologies be accepted long term. Apologies were also received from David Weeks who was unwell. These apologies were accepted by members present.

Apologies were also received from PCSO Katherine Richards who had explained that she was not allowed to access Zoom meetings via her work applications.

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.

- 3. Casual Vacancy: Discuss & Co-Option:** Following a brief discussion David White was co-opted on to the Parish Council. Prior the meeting he had completed a Declarations of Interest Form and Acceptance of Office Form. It was noted that someone else had also voiced an interest in joining the Parish Council but had been unable to attend the current meeting due to a prior engagement; they hoped to attend a couple of meetings to see if being a parish councillor was 'for them'.
- 4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 7th September 2020 to be Authorised as Being Correct Record.** The Clerk highlighted that unfortunately the date of the meeting had not been noted in the draft minutes, this had now been added to the top copy. Julian noted that under agenda item 9 the 'The Old Bakery' should have been 'The School House'. This was altered in the top copy of the minutes. Following these changes Sid Gittens proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council's meeting held on 7th September 2020 be accepted as correct record of the meeting and that they be signed/authorised by the Chairman of that meeting; Mike Wady seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present.
- 5. Matters Arising From The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 7th September 2020:** *Items for discussion only; no decisions can be made under this heading.*
 - Hamstreet in Bloom: as agreed compost for the planters had been provided.
 - The School House – overgrown hedge: It was agreed that the Clerk write to the resident asking that they cut back their hedge as it was infringing onto the footpath. *Update: following the meeting it was noted that the hedge had been cut back and no letter was required.*

6. Reports From Representatives of the Community:

Kent County Councillor Mike Angell reported that KCC had been examining their finances due to expenses relating to COVID; various cuts had been made including member grants being reduced. The majority of staff and members were working from home and attending virtual meetings. Mike concluded by reporting that he had managed to get representatives to meet and discuss issues with noise and speeding on the A2070. Investigation into how the road could be improved was now being undertaken.

Borough Councillor David Ledger: reported that when staff at ABC had returned back to work only around 80 could return due to social distancing so many were still working from home. He highlighted that ABC's planning committee would be meeting on 14th October and the controversial

development of the land between Mersham and Sevington (Waterbrook Park Development) was to be discussed. David further reported that there was currently a backlog of some 50 planning applications; delegation to officers for the smaller applications had been agreed with only major applications being brought to the planning committee unless a ward member asked for a particular application to be discussed.

PCSO Katherine Richards had provided a report which had been forwarded to members via email. It noted:

- i) From 14th September people could not meet socially in groups of more than 6 in any setting. This was enforceable by law.
- ii) During the month there has been several speed watch teams about in local areas.
- iii) Distraction burglaries: a number had been reported in the area with one resident living in central Ashford being targeted.
- iv) New scams circulating include one from HMRC saying that a fine is due. People are reminded never to give bank details via text, email or telephone.

Community Warden Kathy Carter: The Clerk reported that Kathy had unfortunately hurt her knee which had meant that she had been working from home. Due to her injury she had now been given a temporary administration job with Community Safety until March 2021. Peter Beasley, the Ashford Response Warden (tel no 07813 711940) can be contacted for advice or issues in the meantime.

NHW:

- Warning regarding telephone fraudsters who call claiming to be police officers based in London. They then attempt to get the victim to hand over money or personal banking details.
- Between 14th & 20th September a road safety campaign was held; during the week 51 people were arrested on suspicion of driving offences:
 - 17 people were arrested on suspicion of drink driving.
 - 9 people were arrested on suspicion of driving whilst under the influence of drugs.
 - 17 people were arrested on suspicion of driving whilst unfit through drink or drugs.
 - 6 people were arrested on suspicion of failing to provide a breath specimen for analysis.
 - A further 170 motorists were stopped by the roads policing officers. Of these 89 were given tickets for speeding, four were found to be on their phone, 12 were not wearing a seatbelt and 16 were giving warnings about their driving standards.
 - The camera vans detected 1,888 speeding motorists, 64 people not wearing a seatbelt and one person using their mobile phone at the wheel.
- Between Monday 14 and Friday 18 September 2020, officers from Kent Police's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking team worked with partners to visit a number of businesses across the county where concerns had previously been raised regarding labour exploitation.

During discussion the topic of a speed watch in Hamstreet took place. It was noted that Shadoxhurst had a scheme run by volunteers. It was agreed investigation for a similar scheme be undertaken.

7. **The Future of Twinning: Therouanne & Hamstreet** During discussion it was noted that the two towns were twinned in 1994 but in recent years interest levels had waned and prior to lockdown an invitation to Therouanne was sent to visit Hamstreet but this was declined. It was noted:
 - i) The village could be twinned multiple times.
 - ii) If another twin was found would enthusiasm decline again.
 - iii) A school link could prove to be better.

Discussion concluded with it being agreed that the Chairman would look into the possibility of sending a gift to Therouanne perhaps a hamper. A budget of £50 was agreed. The Chairman is to have a conversation Hamstreet's Academy to explore the possibility of a twinning link with them.

8. **Planning: Update, Applications Received:** The following had been received:
[20/01148/AS](#) *Land north east of Parker Farm, Warehorne Road, Hamstreet, Kent*
Erection of a detached four-bedroom dwelling and garage.

The plans were made available to those present via screen share, during discussion it was agreed that the Clerk email the officer in charge of the application and ask:

- i) Why the application form seemed to be incomplete.
- ii) Why more neighbours were not consulted.
- iii) Highlight the possibility of there being access problems.

Updates

Application No 20/01033 Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, The Street, Hamstreet, TN26 2JH

Extension to existing balcony.

Decision: Permit by ABC

20/00566: The Old School House, The Street, TN26 2HG

Proposed rear and side first floor roof extension

Permitted by ABC

As requested during the last meeting the Clerk contacted ABC's enforcement officers requesting that an inspection be made of the property due to concerns regarding living accommodation. A response from Sandra Heathcote (Senior Administrator, Enforcement Team, Strategic Development & Delivery) noted '*No restrictive conditions were attached to the permission requiring that the use was for temporary overnight accommodation nor was this contained in the description for the application. Providing the use is by a person or persons employed as staff at the restaurant there will be no breach of planning control and as such I am unable to open a case to investigate the matter further.*'

On behalf of OPC the Clerk replied via email on 14th September explaining that members were extremely disappointed by this response and it was their understanding that living accommodation was granted for the ground floor of the premises but there were concerns that staff were living on the first floor and if so there were worries for their wellbeing and safety due to the layout of the premises. It was explained that the main reason for the request that the property be inspected was so the living accommodation could be checked and inspectors could ensure that the rules were being adhered to and that no-one was in danger.

9. Highways: Discuss Highways Issues:

Following discussion during the last meeting, the clerk had emailed Rebecca Bailey (Scheme Project Manager, Highways) on 14th September noting that OPC hoped that a Highways Improvement Plan could be worked on in the future. Various issues regarding vehicle speed in Bourne Lane, Ashford Road, Warehorne Road and Ruckinge Road were highlighted as were issues with parking particularly in the centre of Hamstreet and the need for more regular cuts to shrubs and trees.

During discussion it was agreed that Julian and Andy would work on a list of improvements that were needed. An email from Borough Councillor George Sparks suggested that OPC lobby Damien Green MP and urge him to support the Government's proposal to ban all parking on pavements throughout the country and not just London.

The KCC Highways portal had been used to report the overgrown hedging in Ruckinge Road by 2/3 Quince Orchard. No reply had been received to date.

It was noted that work would be taking place during the month which would result in closures in Ashford Road.

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

Mike Wady: noted that he had now reported some 3 times that A2070 road surface was breaking up by the primary academy. He further noted that he had repeatedly reported the sunken drain by Carters Wood. Mike Angell highlighted that the A2070 was on the works list to be resurfaced.

Basil Smith: highlighted that although 2 gullies had been replaced in Warehorne Road the gardens were still being filled with rain water. During a brief discussion Cllr Mike Angell said that he would get in touch with the Highways team and highlight the problem.

Sid Gittens: Forge Gardens: reported that gardening was ongoing. Unfortunately, the wall that had been knocked down had not yet been repaired; it was noted that this was covered by a resident's insurance policy. The street sign was now leaning to one side, the local authority were aware of the problem but had not yet fixed it.

During a brief discussion it was noted that Darren Anderson was no longer the Highways Steward for Hamstreet having been replaced by Margaret Meades.

HDSLAs: A report from Mags Wellsted-Boorman noted that following recent changes in government legislation the pavilion was currently closed. The new outside portaloo put had been vandalised.

Lamp post Poppies. Mags Wellsted-Boorman had reported that she had some 30 poppies to put on the lamp posts, which will cover the main high street. It was agreed that Mike would contact Mags and offer help from members.

OPC Website: The Chairman reported that he had updated the website that week.

Remembrance Day Parade: It was noted that a socially distanced event would be held. The Chairman, Mike Wady will attend on behalf of OPC.

Village Sign: The Chairman noted that the sign had been taken down to be repainted and now needed to be taken to the person who is to paint it. During a brief discussion it was agreed that he would get a group together to deliver it to the painter as it was too heavy for one person to carry.

The Chairman noted that the time was 9.30pm: those present agreed that the meeting continue for a further 15 minutes.

11. Correspondence Received: not already covered

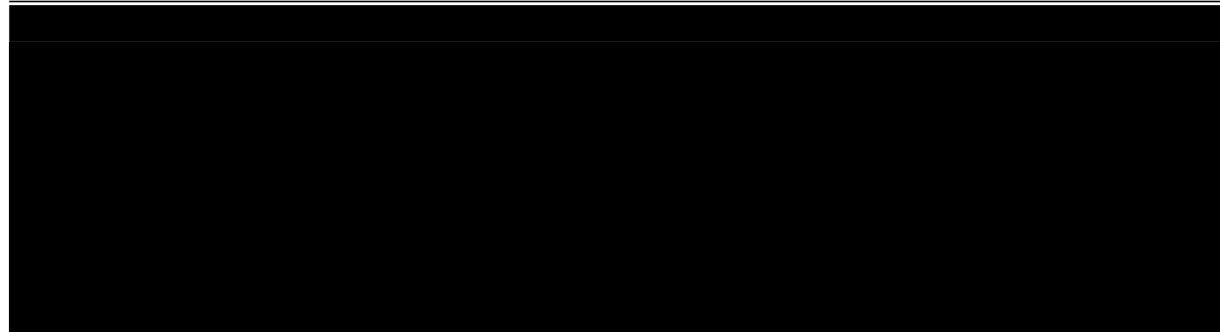
- Various briefing notes/updates had been received from ABC and KCC (these had been forwarded to members via email.
- Letter from Folkestone & Hythe District Council informing OPC that the adoption of their Places and Policies Local Plan took place on 16th September 2020.
- Letter from the Friends of St Mary’s Church informing members that their improved parking spaces were complete. They had received help from the ‘Shedmen’ who had cleared brambles, trees and shrubs. A grant from Borough Councillor George Sparks had been received, which will be spent on having the tree stumps ground out and a digger to level the earth. Funds would be raised in the future for a new fence on the north boundary. The Friends are currently giving support to the Church Warden in the absence of a village rector.
- Newsletter from the Friends of St Mary’s Church emailed to members.

12. Finance:

Update on Financial Budgets: A budget review had been circulated to members via email.

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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During this agenda item Kent County Councillor Mike Angell and Borough Councillor David Ledger left meeting

13. Items for Next Agenda: None brought forward

14. Date & Time of Next Meetings:

Planning Meeting: 19th October 2020 (place and time to be agreed if necessary)

Parish Council: Monday 2nd November at 7.30pm