

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm via ZOOM.

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

Also Present: Borough Councillor George Sparks and David Robey (Candidate for Conservative KCC Councillor) PCSO Katherine Richards

Public Comments & Observations: *This being an opportunity for parishioners to speak or ask questions.* No questions were put forward at this point of the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** were received from Stephen Shorter (long term apologies); these apologies were accepted by members present.

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 with the HDSL A.

During a brief discussion it was agreed that Agenda Item 6 would be brought forward.

6. **Reports From Representatives of the Community**

PCSO Katherine Richards: highlighted that she sent out newsletters every month and hoped that they were informative and was happy to add people to her mailing list. Katie noted:

- There had been a spate of attempted burglaries in the area with garages and vehicles being targeted.
- Issues needed to be reported through the correct channels; not Facebook as this was not monitored.
- Dog thefts had risen and there were ways to confuse would be thieves including changing routines when out walking.
- With the lifting of restrictions, she was hoping to organise drop-ins at the Cosy Kettle.
- 3 men had been arrested on suspicion of stealing catalytic converters. Kent Police also assisted with a search of a shipping container on the Essex coast. It contained suspected stolen metal and car parts which were due to be transported to the Ivory Coast.
- A suspect had been charged with multiple offences including two incidents of spitting at police officers.
- There had been increases in Courier Fraud

Katie concluded her report by asking that all crimes even minor ones be reported and if possible, via the website www.kent.police.uk/report *Following her report Katie left the meeting*

Borough Councillor George Sparks: Reported:

- ABC's Planning Department had been reorganised and should be more efficient.
- It was likely the application for development opposite the Primary Academy would go to full committee for discussion due to its size. He can highlight issues of concern and would be making comments about work schedules and deliveries.

During a brief discussion it was highlighted that the water works in Warehorne Road currently had 3 tankers visiting the plant every day. Pressure was required to have this made bigger before any further development took place. It was suggested that the planning authority should not allow the application to be passed until Southern Water's site was improved.

Borough Councillor David Ledger: Apologised for not attending the last meeting. He explained that it had been a fairly quiet month but he was available to help where he could. Regarding the planning application for development opposite the primary academy he noted that it was frustrating that poor infrastructure was not a reason to object to a planning application.

3. **Minutes of Meeting Held on 1st March 2021 to be Authorised as Being Correct Record.**
Julian Griffiths proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council's meeting held on 1st March 2021 be accepted as correct record of the meeting and that they be signed/authorised by the Chairman of that meeting; Basil Smith seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present. *The minutes were signed by the Chairman following the meeting. David Ledger left meeting*

4. **Matters Arising From The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 1st March 2021:**

Mobile Speed Monitor: A brief update prior the meeting had been circulated. It noted that following discussion during the last meeting, the Parish Clerk for Bilsington (Peter Setterfield) had been contacted. He reported that the process involved first deciding where the monitors would be placed: they need to be on a straight stretch of road and in a position where the battery can be changed safely. This is then followed with a site meeting with Highways. He suggested that toby.donlon@kent.gov.uk be contacted for advice. Bilsington spent some £8,000 in 2017 on theirs.

It was noted that in February 2021, when enquires were made about purchasing monitors, Darren Hickman from Highways remarked in an email *'I would advise that it is unlikely the request for new signs of this type will be approved until we have investigated other traffic management options to address the issue of alleged speeding traffic on Ashford Road. These signs being used only as a last resort when all other avenues of road safety management have been investigated. Signs of this nature are proven to only provide a short-term measure in reducing traffic speed as they do not offer any form of enforcement in law with regard to excess speed and prosecution.'*

Those present agreed that the issue would be revisited after proposed developments took place.

Community Awards: Mags Wellsted-Boorman is arranging for the community award 'plates' to be purchased and engraved. Following discussion, a special plate is to be hand-made by Beverley Gray at Appledore (Romney Marsh Ceramics). This 'plate' will be oval, 13 inches by 11 inches. It will have the NHS flag and a picture of a nurse on it; the rim will say 'Hamstreet Surgery' at the top and 'Thank You' at the bottom. A metal plaque set onto oak will be presented along the china plate saying; 'Presented to Hamstreet Surgery by Orlestone Parish Council on behalf of Hamstreet Village to Thank All Staff for Their Hard Work During Lock Down 2020/21'

During discussion it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would present these awards and photographs would be taken and they would be placed in the annual newsletter. The Chairman will also say something during the village end of lock-down party.

Land Slide by Cotton Hill: Sid reported that he had spoken to the land-owner who reported that he is going to install a membrane and plant trees to hold the water back.

5. **Vacancies on Parish Council & Co-Option:** Continue to be advertised and interest has been received.
6. **Reports from Representatives of the Community Continued**

Hamstreet & District Sports & Leisure Association:

Pavilion: The balcony is still under construction. It is closed but there are plans to eventually open on a Thursday evening. Bookings are being taken but none until June 2021.

Pound Leas & MUGA: Football and Tennis has resumed

Neighbourhood Watch Update:

- A Kent wide road safety campaign had started with emphasis around E-Scooters and educating those using them.
- Crime reports received since the last meeting included damage caused by catapults in Ashford. Scams reported included courier and royal mail fraud, with scammers trying to find personal addresses and bank details.
- 8th April: Carters Wood are: theft from a vehicle (tools)

During this agenda item George Sparks left the meeting

7. **Parish Councillor Updates/Reports:**

Village Sign Opposite Flag Pole: Sid reported that the sign was in the process of being repaired and repainted would be back opposite the flag pole in the next few weeks.

Community Flood Warden Update – Julian Griffiths: emailed the following report prior the meeting:

- Dredging from the Chocolate box to the Canal has been completed. 200 cubic metres of silt was taken out around Pound Lees (equals 200,000 litres, 350,000+ pints or 250,000 bottles of wine).
- The EA are paying for, and organising, an ecology survey during May to see if there are any Water Voles or other protected species in the Springbrook sewer.
- A highways representative has been seen with a long rod checking all the drains and gullies and an update on the 101 blocked drains that were reported is awaited.
- The EA has confirmed a bigger flume into the canal cannot be done, but they are discussing with the landowners laying down a permanent way/hardstanding so that they can move a high-capacity pump in easily when needed. They hope to have this agreed with the landowner by the end of May and work schedules before the winter.
- The Flood Warden (Julian Griffiths and Paul Settle) now have from the EA a list of 90 properties that have been affected by flooding historically (this excludes winter 20/21). We will add names of residents to this list together with their abilities/children/pets. Also look for gaps and add properties as appropriate.
- Paul and Julian have discussed what is needed according to their handbook and will work on completing required tasks during the summer. They plan on a six-monthly watercourse walkabouts to take place in September and March.
- An article in the Parish Magazine which included a reminder to villagers of their ‘riparian rights’ if their property bordered Springbrook generated more response than items in the Flooding Facebook page. He has met with and talked to various people in the village.

War Memorial: Julian reported that research had proven that the plaque at the church seemed to be correct. Unfortunately, there had been no interest locally and he had put the idea on the back burner for the time being.

Highways:

Bunkley Meadow: Mike Wady highlighted that the brick footpath by Bunkley Meadow was a tripping hazard. It had been re-laid about 18 months previously. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways and ask if it could be re-laid.

Cotton Hill Green Area by Pond: The Clerk was asked to contact ABC again regarding issues with the area regularly flooding with a request that this be investigated.

Bourne Lane: It was noted that Natural England had been trimming back trees during the last week. It was highlighted that the road was dangerous due to the drop either side of it. The Clerk is to investigate who has responsibility for the road.

Drains: It was noted that Highways were undertaking a survey of all the drains in Hamstreet.

Forge Gardens: The Waiting Restriction Sign had still not been repaired. The Clerk was asked to report this again.

Allotments: David reported that tenants had started work on their plots but he was unsure how the dredging will affect those getting water out of the Springbrook.

Village Sign on Flag Pole: The Chairman reported that the sign was now being repainted.

Tidyman: Had been asked to clean the signs be the village entrances; he continued to cut the grass and take care of Johnsons Corner.

Newsletter: The Chairman was working on his introduction and would circulate a draft when completed.

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

Application No 21/00524 Land to the north of St Marys Close and east of, Ashford Road, Hamstreet, Kent

Approval of reserved matters (layout, internal access arrangements, scale, landscaping and appearance) in relation to the development of 80 new homes, a 60-space car park, classroom and football pitch with covered shelter for Hamstreet Primary Academy and associated infrastructure, pursuant to outline planning permission 18/00644/AS.

- It was noted that the developer 'Bovis' had been contacted with a request for a meeting in February 2021; no reply received.
- A paper copy of the application had been requested on 1st April 2021 and again on 11th April, this request had been refused as ABC's offices were closed.
- Julian had drafted a response to the application and circulated it to members.

During discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would try and organise a meeting with the planners (DHA Planning) and contact the Primary Academy and ask for their thoughts on the application especially in relation to the pedestrian crossing. It was noted that there had been a lot of talk about the application on Facebook but no comments seem to have been made formally, it was agreed that the application be highlighted and residents invited to comment on it. All who had commented on the outline application had been consulted.

Application No: 21/00487

18 Bournemouth, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2HJ

Erection of a single storey rear extension to replace existing garden room and alterations to existing rear dormer to improve the first-floor accommodation

Details of the application had been forwarded via email to members. During discussion it was agreed that there were no objections to the application.

Application No: 21/00483

Vine Cottage, The Street, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2HE

Erection of a single storey extension & a two storey side extension.

Details of the application had been forwarded via email to members. During discussion it was noted that no provision had been provided for parking. It was agreed that there were no objections to the application.

Application No: 21/00488

21 Fairfield Terrace, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2HS

Proposed Rear Conservatory & Vehicle Access to Front Garden with Car Parking Area.

Details of the application had been forwarded to members via email. During discussion it was agreed that there were no objections to it.

Ref: Application No 18/00056: Land between A2070 and Railway north of, Warehorne Road, Hamstreet, Kent: *Outline planning application for residential development for up to 50 dwellings including details of pedestrian and vehicular accesses onto Warehorne Road and pedestrian and cycleway access onto Ashford Road only (all other matters reserved). Provision of informal recreation / ecological area to the north.*

An email had been received from the Planning Manager (Ben Shaw) for Dandara Ltd who have an interest in the site asking if OPC would like to meet and discuss their proposals. They are currently preparing a reserved matters application to be presented to ABC. It was agreed that a meeting be set up with Warehorne Parish Council.

Ref: Application No 20/01408: Planning Breach: OPC had been copied into correspondence regarding planning breaches concerning development at Ashtone House. The main issue being that the developer failed to mark the boundary of the Ancient Woodland and then excavated

approximately 20 square metres of woodland to lay hardstanding. These works have ceased but the damage had been done. ABC's enforcement team have said that no action will be taken to repair, compensate or fix the existing eyesore.

During discussion it was agreed that OPC would express concern that no enforcement action is being undertaken.

9. Correspondence Received: not covered under other agenda items

- An email has been received from Mags Wellsted-Boorman regarding the COVID Children's Snake': A stone snake was made by children living in Hamstreet during lockdown. Stones were individually painted and placed so they looked like a snake in Forge Gardens. With the help of David Weeks, Amy and Brad Stevens (who thought of the idea) a display cabinet is to be made. With kind permission of the Hamstreet Victory Hall Committee this will be placed by the play area by the hall.

During discussion those present unanimously agreed to fund the project.

- Notice had been received that Burchett Lane and Woodchurch Road would be undertaking road surface improvements from 8th May.
- An email had been received from Dawn Champion from the British Pilgrimage Organisation, saying *'I'm the new project leader for the Old Way, the British Pilgrimage Trust's flagship project to revive an ancient pilgrimage route between Southampton and Canterbury. I'd love the opportunity to speak to the council to discuss how the project could be beneficial for your community, and ensure we tailor our approach to the needs of your area taking into account its unique character'...* Her email had been forward to members

Julian had noted that this was the 'Saxon Shore Way' across the fields from Warehorne joining the B2067 just past the bridge of the A2060 into the village (detour to the shops) past the Pub to Bourne Lane and then up through Hamstreet Woods to Gill Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk invite her to a meeting.

- The Chairman had received an email from a resident who was concerned about a large caravan being placed in her neighbour's property which not only was an eyesore but they were worried that their neighbour's son was going to live in it. This has been passed on to ABC, who have confirmed that the issue is under investigation (case ref no CO/21/00066) the case officer being Miss Sophie Oliver.
- An invitation to join the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) has been received. The email received has been circulated prior the meeting.

During discussion it was agreed by those present that it did not seem to represent value for money for the parish council and would not be taken up; this decision would be reviewed in 2022.

- An email from David Ledger regarding a consultation on Permitted Development Rights and the dial in details for the next Joint Parishes Planning Group; this had been circulated to members.
- Various briefing notes/updates had been received from ABC and KCC (these had been forwarded to members via email.

9.30pm Those present agreed to continue with the meeting for a further 30 minutes.

10. Finance:

Authorisation of Cheques: David highlighted that he had joined Rural Kent on behalf of OPC as an individual to see if it was worth the parish council joining. Members agreed that he be reimbursed this cost. The Chairman noted that £2,000 had been set aside for the 'End of Lockdown Village Party' and this would cover various expenses. This amount would be reviewed to ensure that it covered expenditure. The following cheques were authorised; those present agreed that the Chairman had delegated authority to authorise cheques if required before the next meeting.

For	To	Amount	Cheque No
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11. **Parish Council Newsletter (to replace Annual Assembly):** A first draft had been circulated to members; the Chairman was currently working on an introduction. The Clerk was asked to find out where the Parish Newsletter was printed and costs.

12. **Hamstreet End of Lockdown Family Funday – Update:** Notes from the initial meeting held on 16th March had been circulated to members. The date/time of the event: Saturday 14th August from 2pm until dusk. The next meeting: Tuesday 13th April from 7.30pm. The Chairman explained that the idea was to keep the event low key, it being an opportunity to meet and mingle and say thanks to all the volunteers in the village. For this reason, there would not be a barbecue run by a number of volunteers but businesses would be invited to provide refreshments during the evening. During the day the WI would be providing refreshments with help from the Cosy Kettle which would allow the groups to raise much needed funding. All entertainment would be free.

13. **Items for Next Agenda:** Parish Councillor Allowances

14. **Date & Time of Next Meetings:** Community Funday Committee: 13th April 2021 at 7.30pm
Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.58pm

Chairman's Signature: