

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 9th August 2021 at 7.30pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

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 David Robey, Borough Councillor David Ledger, Mags Wellsted-Boorman (HDSLA), Steve Newton (resident)

Public Comments & Observations: *This being an opportunity for parishioners to speak or ask questions.* No questions or queries had been received prior the meeting.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from PCSO Katherine Richards and Borough Councillor George Sparks.

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 declared an interest with the HDSLA: conflict of interest.

3. Minutes From The AGM Held on 4th May 2021 & Planning Meetings Held on 1st June, 5th July, 19th July 2021 to be Authorised as Being Correct Records. Review of Informal Meeting Held on Monday 5th July 2021.

The Chairman asked if the minutes and notes of the meetings listed could be agreed as being correct records. Julian Griffiths proposed that they be accepted as correct records of the meetings and that they be signed/authorised by the Chairman. David White seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

It was agreed that agenda item 6 be brought forward as Cllr David Robey had another meeting to attend.

6. Reports From Representatives of the Community

Kent County Councillor David Robey: *report circulated prior the meeting and paper copies made available to those present.* The Chairman welcomed Cllr David Robey to the meeting; his report highlighted that:

- He would be acting as Deputy Cabinet Member for Economic Development and was a member of the Growth, Economic Development & Communities Cabinet Committee. He had been appointed Chairman of the Ashford Local Children's Partnership Group.
- The government had just published a new National Bus Strategy, which aimed to improve bus services across the UK.
- He continued his dialogue with Highways England regarding speeding on the A2070.
- A grant of £1000 for Hamstreet's Funday was being processed.
- He had sent out details of the Reconnect LCPG Grant Scheme, which is designed to support children and young people coming out of the COVID restrictions.

4. Matters Arising From The AGM Held on 4th May 2021 & Planning Meetings Held on 1st June & 19th July 2021. Review of Informal Meeting Held on Monday 5th July 2021. *Items for discussion only; no decisions can be made under this heading.*

- Ref empty property at 2 Quince Orchard – Ellen Black (ABC Senior Property Manager) reported that an offer of the accommodation had been made. She had explained that it had been a long process and whilst rare was typical of where the accommodation is being checked as suitable for adaption for a wheelchair user. Ellen apologised for the delay and the effect that the garden had to the neighbourhood. Someone will be visiting the house to

check all is well inside and an order for the garden to be tended to by Aspire had been made.

5. **Vacancies on Parish Council & Co-option:** It was noted that there existed 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. During discussion Steve Newton was asked to consider joining.

Kent County Councillor David Robey left the meeting and Borough Councillor David Ledger arrived.

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

Borough Councillor David Ledger: During discussion Cllr Ledger reported that currently there seemed to be a relatively high turnover of planning officers resulting in some inconsistency and he was keeping a close eye on planning applications that come under his areas. There was concern that applications with development of less than 50 houses was likely to be decided by officers who had little experience.

Borough Councillor George Sparks: Had provided a report which had been circulated prior the meeting and made available to those present.

HDSLAs: Mags Wellsted-Boorman explained that a football tournament held over the weekend had resulted in a large number of cars being parked throughout the village which had caused a nuisance for many residents. A field set aside for the parking had not been used mainly due to parking charges being administered by the football club organising the tournament. When the HDSLAs had realised they had requested that the parking fees be waived but unfortunately those who had already parked did not move. The HDSLAs were dealing with various issues including some damage that had occurred which the football club would be charged for. A public apology from the club was expected.

Mower: The sit on mower owned by the Parish Council and kept at the pavilion had been damaged by someone using it, this had been frustrating for the tidyman. Mags reported that the mower had been repaired and as this was the second time that this had occurred the mower would now only be made available to named individuals.

Neighbourhood Watch Update:

- An anti-social Behaviour Awareness programme was held at the end of July; organised by Resolve and supported by Kent Police.
- A National Road Safety Campaign took place from 26th July to Sunday 8th August.
- New Scams circulating:
 - Vaccine Passport Email where the NHS is being impersonated and you can apply for a digital vaccine passport. You are asked to click on a link which will take you to a fake NHS website and you will be asked for payment details.
 - Mobile 'phone upgrade scam.
 - Romance scams where you are encouraged to invest into scam investments.

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

Pound Lees: It was noted that under the agreement between ABC/OPC/HDSLAs the parish council were responsible for the trees on Pound Lees. A recent survey undertaken by ABC indicated that 3 trees required felling; one had fallen on its own. During online discussion it had been agreed that the other two be felled and Foreground Trees had removed them. The survey also showed that many of the trees were in poor condition. A copy of the survey has been passed to Foreground Trees and a covering email from the parish council, noting the 36 trees that had been highlighted as in poor condition many having structural decay. His opinion as to whether these should be felled had been sought.

Highways: Mike Wady reported that there had been a lot of surface water at the bottom of Bourne Lane, this had now been removed but he was not aware of the details at the present time.

Parking in the High Street continued to be a problem with a resident not able to get out of their property earlier that day due to a lorry parked directly outside it.

During discussion it was agreed that Kent County Councillor David Robey be invited to a walkaround; it was hoped he could provide a fresh/new solution to the problem.

Highways Improvement Plan: a draft copy had been sent to KCC. Darren Hickman (Highways Schemes Project Manager) responded:

- i) He asked if the list submitted was in order of priority and if OPC were in a position to fund the work.
- ii) He noted that some of the requests did not fall within his remit and he would forward these to the relevant asset managers.
- iii) The relocation/extension of some speed limits, can be investigated. In the first instance traffic surveys would be required to gain intelligence of the issues raised and to assess the feasibility of undertaking the task. He can advise of the cost of the surveys.

During discussion it was agreed that indicative costs for these works be requested.

Bowels Match Mike reported that it had been a great success and thanked members for attending. **Springbrook:** Had been dredged in February; Basil noted that the banks needed cutting back.

Warehorne Road: Basil had reported the blocked drains and Highways were aware that there was an issue and had promised to undertake a camera survey.

Pound Leas: new litter bins had been ordered but had not yet arrived.

Allotments: One plot had recently been vacated and had been taken up by a new tenant. There were currently 4 people on the waiting list. Confirmation had been received from the Environment Agency regarding how much could be pumped out of Springbrook and ways of doing this was being investigated by the allotment holders.

Forge Gardens: Sid reported that work was ongoing and that he was pleased to have a new volunteer from Kingsnorth helping.

Bench By Pond Near Cotton Hill House: A damaged bench near the Pond by Cotton Hill House had been reported to OPC by the community warden Katherine Carter. On inspection it had been found that this was the property of ABC and the issue had been reported to Aspire, who are to remove it. During a brief discussion the ownership of the bench was questioned and who should be responsible for its upkeep, but as this was unknown members agreed that perhaps it was best it was removed.

8. **Community Flood Watch Update/Flood Warden For Hamstreet:** Julian reported that he would be handing out information about being a flood warden at the Funday and was in the process of putting up posters. There were now approximately 100 homes in the village who were part of the flood alert programme with himself and Paul Settle being the flood wardens. Julian highlighted:
- i) A list of homes that had flooded was being compiled.
 - ii) A list of those who would need assistance in the event of a flood was being discussed.
 - iii) Problems with surface water drainage continued to be reported.
 - iv) A map of the existing sewers had been requested from Southern Water.
 - v) Negotiation with the land owner to put hard standing near the sluice so that a lorry could be easily positioned there if required to pump water away.
 - vi) A water vole survey was being planned during the next few weeks.
 - vii) Some residents whose properties backed onto the Springbrook were improving the area.
 - viii) A national woods meeting was being held on 11th August; a management plan for the next 5 years was to be discussed. Julian and David will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.
 - ix) It was hoped that a 'leaky dams' satellite image could be obtained. This would help to hold water back if it could be seen where help was needed.

War Memorial: Julian reported that work continued obtaining names for it with Sid recently providing some new ones.

9. **Planning: Update & Review Applications Received:**

21/01098 19 Dukes Meadow TN26 2HD
Extension of Vehicle Cross Over

During discussion it was noted that there could be a potential boundary dispute or possible mistake on the drawing. No objections were raised.

21/01328 Land between A2070 and railway north of Warehorne Road
Development of temporary access to site

During discussion it was agreed that a separate planning meeting be held to discuss the application in detail.

21/01242 9 Bunkley Meadow, Hamstreet TN26 2HQ
Block paving of the front lawn to create additional parking

Chairman declared an interest in the application as he knew the applicant. No objections were raised.

Updates:

21/01011 9 Farm Road, Hamstreet, TN26 2JA: Lawful development certificate proposed; conversion of garage space and proposed porch.

Decision: Proposed use/development would be lawful

20/00868: *Ashstone House, Hamstreet Road, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2EB.* Change of use of former care home (C2) to 2no residential dwellings

Regarding the damage to the ancient woodland, Steve Newton. explained that the issue was now in the hands of the Ombudsman. There had been no apology or solution offered by Ashford Borough Council. A letter Steve had received from Simon Cole had been forwarded to members for information. It was hoped that a replanting scheme could be investigated.

10. Correspondence Received: not covered under other agenda items

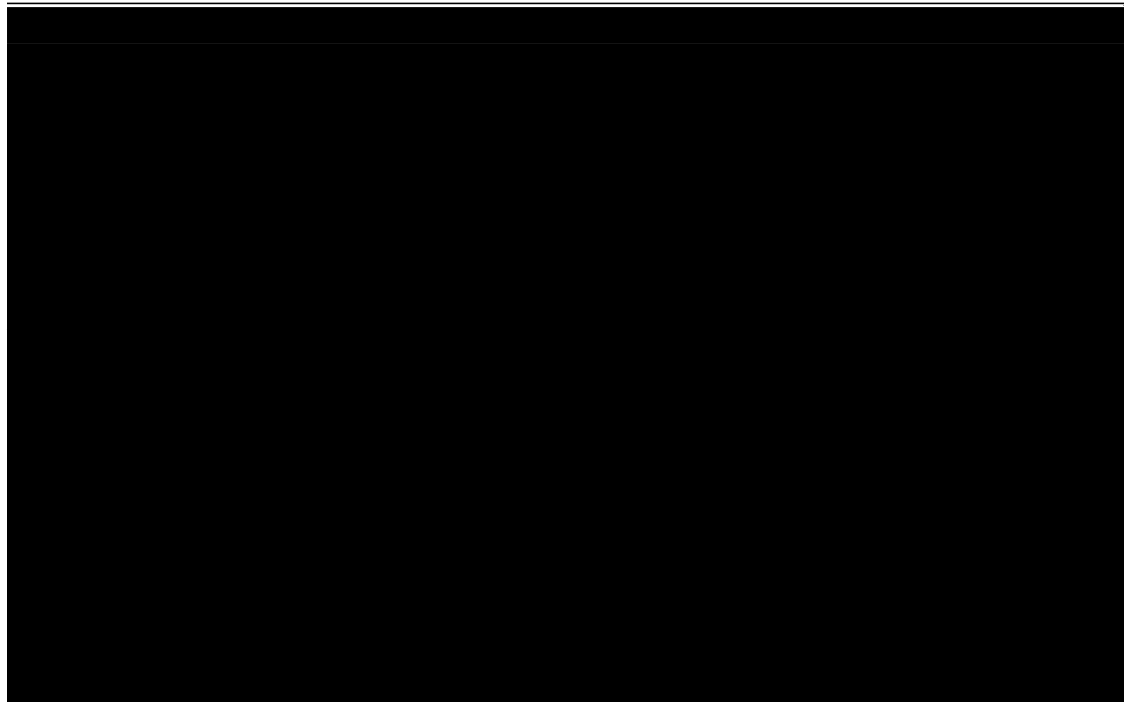
- Various briefing notes/updates had been received from ABC and KCC (these had been forwarded to members via email.

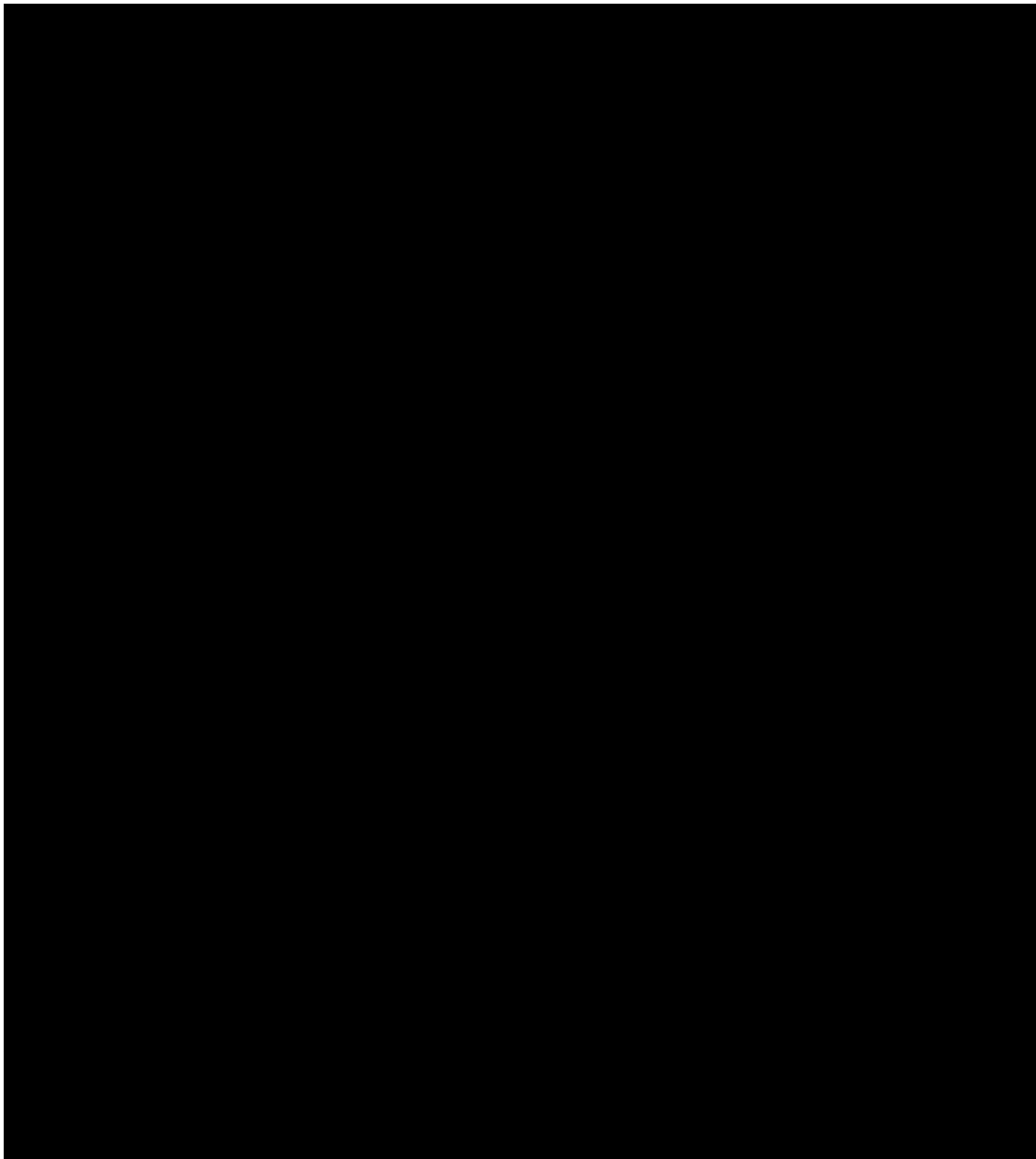
11. Finance:

Budget Review: circulated to members prior the meeting. Notice had been received from the external auditor that due to income not exceeding £25,000 and expenditure not exceeding £25,000 for the last financial year an external audit did not have to proceed and the internal auditor's report was sufficient. An exemption certificate had been completed.

Authorisation of Cheques: It was noted that the following cheques had been authorised by the Chairman since the last meeting held in May 2021. All payments had been agreed via discussions on Messenger and the informal meetings held. Those present agreed that the Chairman had delegated authority to authorise cheques if required prior the next meeting.

For	To	Amount	Cheque No
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12. Community Funday Saturday 14th August 2021: Notes from the recently held meeting had been circulated prior the meeting and paper copies were made available. During discussion it was noted that Basil needed help with his stalls, Sadie needed help moving her ice-cream machine, the Woodchurch Morris Men had been invited to attend and the Chairman had brought a new NHS flag.

13. Items for Next Agenda: Christmas Tree and decorations for village, Christmas Light competition, Poppies. During a short discussion it was noted that new flags were required for Johnsons Corner.

14. Date & Time of Next Meetings:

Planning Meeting: Monday 16th August 2021 at 7.30pm
Parish Council Meeting: Monday 6th September 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.28pm

Chairman's Signature: