

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 6th September 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, Steve Newton, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Borough Councillor David Ledger

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 had been received from Basil Smith (away) and Steve Shorter, those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Concern was raised regarding the lack of attendance of Steve Shorter; he had been unable to attend a meeting since November 2019. It was noted that he had been contacted and asked if he still wished to be a member. Apologies were also received Kent County Councillor David Robey (prior engagement), Borough Councillor George Sparks and PCSO Katherine Richards.
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 HDSLAs: conflict of interest.
3. **Minutes From The Parish Council Meeting Held on 9th August and the Planning Meeting Held on 16th August 2021 to be Authorised as Being Correct Records.** Julian Griffiths proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th August be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and that they be signed/authorised by the Chairman. David White seconded this proposal.

Julian Griffiths proposed that the minutes held on 16th August be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and that they be signed/authorised by the Chairman. Sid Gittens seconded this proposal.
4. **Matters Arising From The Parish Council Meeting Held on 9th August and the Planning Meetings Held on 16th August 2021.** *Items for discussion only; no decisions can be made under this heading.*
 - Ref empty property: 2 Quince Orchard – Ellen Black (ABC Senior Property Manager) reported that the garden had been cleared and it was being progressed for adaptation with workload and emergencies slowing progress. The applicant for it has significant needs so the adaptation is not something that can be resolved swiftly.
 - Pound Leas: As noted previously 2 trees had now been felled on the recreation area. Mark Bolam from Foreground Trees had been contacted for advice on the 36 trees that had been highlighted in ABC's report as requiring attention.

The Chairman reported that Mark had suggested that the trees be removed gradually and new ones replanted. During discussion it was noted that water loving trees were needed on the area. There were various schemes in operation where trees could be obtained; it was highlighted that memorial trees could be planted in memory of someone instead of a bench. It was noted that there were stumps that required removing before any tree planting could take place.
5. **Vacancies on Parish Council & Co-option:** There existed 2 vacancies on the Parish Council with Steve Newton and Mags Wellsted-Boorman voicing an interest in the vacancies. The Chairman proposed that they be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Sid Gittens seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present. They both completed a 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' Form and 'Notice of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests' Form and were welcomed on to the parish council by those present.

6. Reports From Representatives of the Community:

HDSL A: Mags Wellsted-Boorman reported that;

- One of the football teams using the pitch were moving to another ground. During discussion the Chairman highlighted that there were local talks regarding the forming of a Hamstreet Youth Team.
- The balcony extension was nearing completion.
- The Defibrillator needed a new battery; Mags is to order a new one.
- The new litter bins had not yet arrived; the Clerk will chase for a delivery date.
- Fencing poles by the flag-pole were rotted and required replacing. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk contact Neil Underdown (The Friendly Fencer) and ask if he could replace them.
- Car Park Height Barrier: It was noted that the barrier was constantly being patched up and required a proper repair. During discussion it was agreed that Basil, Sid & Mike had delegated authority to decide how to proceed. They are to meet on site and discuss a way forward.

7. **Funday Review:** An income and expenditure detail had been circulated prior the meeting and paper copies were made available to those present. Approximately £831.27 profit had been made from the bar. During a brief discussion it was agreed that this be donated to the Friends of Hamstreet Surgery.

The day had been successful with a large number of the village attending; with nearly every organisation in Hamstreet taking part. The children's activities had been popular and enjoyed. Unfortunately, COVID meant that Mikki the Clown did not attend and there was a slight alteration to the rides being offered. There had been many willing helpers with the Shed Men providing invaluable support and help.

Mags highlighted that not all the tables and chairs rented from 2-in-tents arrived and she had asked for a refund. The Clerk was asked to chase via email this refund.

Considerations: Although many organisations took part there needed to be a central committee running alongside to take charge of arrangements and co-ordinate everything. If another event took place such a committee would need to be established. *Mags left the meeting.*

6. Reports From Representatives of the Community Contd:

Borough Councillor David Ledger: Thanked members for keeping him informed about planning applications and highlighted that ABC's Parish Forum was being held on Monday between 2pm and 4pm via Zoom. It was noted that Julian hoped to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. *David Ledger left the meeting.*

Kent County Councillor David Robey: when providing his apologies, reported that the A2070 was on the Joint Transport Board Agenda to be discussed the following evening (Tuesday 7th August) and that he was willing to walk around Hamstreet to look at parking issues but thought it needed ABC to be involved and the PCSO.

Following receipt of his email the Clerk had contacted PCSO Katherine Richards and asked that when she is in on patrol in the area that she keep an eye on the parking situation in the main high street. ABC parking services had also been contacted with a request that this area is put on a rota so that traffic wardens regularly visit.

Discussion was held regarding the parking problems in the centre of the village. It was also noted that there was a safety issue regarding the crossing of the road. The island was not suitable for purpose and it was suggested that the island could be removed and replaced with a zebra crossing. Julian is to contact Darren Hickman at Highways and find out if this would be possible.

Borough Councillor George Sparks: reported via email that he had been in regular contact with the Planning Officer regarding the siting of a mobile home at The Coppers. Cllr Sparks highlighted he cannot call in applications for Certificates of Lawful Development to ABC's planning meetings which this application came under. He had been asked to investigate as to why a change of use was not made regarding the Telecom Exchange.

Neighbourhood Watch Update:

- 26th August between 10am and 11am bike marking took place in the Victory Hall car park.
- 21st August in Lancaster Close 9.40pm: Damage to door and windows, possibly caused by ball bearings.
- Drug Driving: was targeted during the end of August with spot tests being undertaken

7. **Highways Improvement Plan:** Following discussion during the last meeting draft costings for some of the items on the parish council's draft HIP had been received from Darren Hickman (Highways Schemes Project Manager). This had been forwarded to members and paper copies were made available to those present.

During discussion it was agreed that priority be given to the idea of a zebra crossing and that Julian would raise the issue of road line repainting being covered by Highways rather than it being on the HIP.

8. Christmas Village Celebrations: Light Competition; Street Decorations

Street Decorations: Following discussion regarding street decorations during the last meeting, the Clerk had investigated the cost and supply of these and noted:

- Plantscape had a range of solar Christmas Trees that are placed on lamp-posts for rental only. Following enquiries details have been sent and forwarded to members via email. A minimum of £100 per half tree rental should be budgeted.
- UK Christmas World have a range of commercial Christmas Decorations but on investigation none seem to be solar powered.
- During discussion it was agreed that this type of decoration was too expensive and that a real tree lit by either solar powered lights or battery be placed at Forge Gardens. The Clerk was asked to contact Piers Griffen from Natural England and ask if he was able to provide a Christmas tree in the region of 8 to 10 foot.

Christmas Lights Competition: During discussion it was agreed that there would be two categories: 1) Best Tree Display; 2) Best Light Display. This would be promoted via social media and posters during November.

Metal Poppies: The Chairman highlighted that these required repainting.

9. Parish Councillor Updates/Reports:

Community Awards: Mike reported that he and Sid had presented community awards to Angela and Colin during their AGM. A new committee had been set up to run Victory Hall.

Lawn Mower: It was reported that Alan King who repairs the sit on mower when it is out of order believed that it was the wrong type of mower and a more up to date one was required. During discussion it was questioned whether the Tidy Man wished to continue working at Johnsons Corner and the Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for this area to be cut regularly by someone who had their own equipment. Quotations for other areas that were mowed by the Tidy Man would also be required.

Following the meeting the Clerk contacted the Tidy Man who reassured her that he wished to continue mowing the areas he did at the moment including Johnsons Corner. She asked him to let her know if he required new or alternative equipment.

Johnsons Corner: The Clerk was asked to buy three new flags for the area.

Hamstreet Woods: Julian reported that he and David had attended a meeting/walk around Hamstreet Woods with representatives from Natural England and other bodies. The purpose was to provide input for the 5-year management plan for which a key drive is accessibility. To do this the car park would be improved and Julian highlighted that Bourne Lane would require improving before any work took place to make the woods more accessible.

Flooding: Julian reported that discussions had been held with the Environment Agency regarding the installation of an originally planned large drain in Bunkley Meadow to help with flooding problems in Bunkley Terrace

A water vole survey had taken place on the Springbrook last week and results were being awaited. If none are found water dredging can be deeper and this will help to prevent flooding problems that occurred earlier in the year.

War Memorial: Julian reported that work continued investigating the possible names to be placed on it.

Pound Leas: The Chairman asked that it be minuted that due to the amount of rubbish being generated on Pound Leas, members of OPC had agreed during online discussions that 3 new litter bins be ordered. It had been hoped that these would arrive for the Funday but unfortunately, they had not. The Clerk is to chase for delivery of this order. *Following the meeting Slinsby where the bins had been ordered, reported that they were having supply issues and the order was cancelled and reimbursement was made. With the agreement of the Chairman, three other bins were ordered from Glasdon.*

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

21/01492: The Cosy Kettle, The Lantern Building,

Variation of conditions 2 (food preparation) & 3 (opening hours) on planning permission 13/01458/AS (Change of use from A1 retail to A3 cafe shop/tea room) for the opening hours to be extended until 23:00 and for pizzas to be cooked

The application noted the proprietor's wish for the opening hours to be extended until 23:00. This will enable them to open later some evenings. The plan being to open some evenings for dine in customers and serve pizza and for the premises to be able to host private parties and other gatherings after the hours of 18:00

During discussion those present agreed that the application be fully supported.

Update:

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

KCC Highways had responded, noting:

- i) Concerns that the entrance was too tight when approached from the east and that the access be widened.
- ii) Visibility splays are provided.
- iii) A highway condition survey be agreed prior the start of any site works.
- iv) Advised against the use of traffic lights as this would cause traffic to back up.

Following submission of OPC's comments on the application; which had also been passed to the local Borough Councillors (Cllr Sparks reply had been forwarded to members); the Clerk had separately contacted the officer in charge of the application, Oliver Peel and asked if a Transport Assessment and Transport Statement will be completed for the application and if Travel Plans will be included. The Clerk also asked what the site entrance shown on the plans in Ashford Road opposite Hamstreet Train Station will be used for and if this was to be a non-vehicle entrance and if the temporary access to the site would be signposted in Ashford Road.

Oliver Peel responded saying the proposal was for construction traffic only and a travel plan or Transport Statement was not required for this application and that the Ashford Road entrance was not for construction traffic.

Those present agreed that a more definite answer was required regarding the entrance in Ashford Road. The Clerk was asked to contact Oliver Peel regarding this issue.

21/01200: Vine Cottage, The Street, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2HE

Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement single storey extension; erection of two storey side extension

Decision: Permitted by ABC

The Chairman had received draft plans to a single storey holiday let to be built in the grounds by Dave Goddard's old house. Those present had no problems with the draft plans but further details regarding access to the site would be needed.

11. Funday Review: *Agenda item discussed earlier in meeting.*

12. 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.
- An invitation to attend the Local Council Forum being held on 13th September at 2pm via Zoom. The invitation had been forwarded to members and contained a questionnaire on how ABC can improve how they engage and communicate.
- Notice of an online event via Zoom held by KALC regarding Data Protection for Councillors being held on 9th September at 6pm. Cost to attend being £70 plus VAT.
- Resident (Bob Gallop) has forwarded a letter from Highways England which gave notice of the A2070 Warehorne Road being closed so that parts of the bridge of the B2067 could be repaired. Both sides of the road from Park Farm Roundabout through to Brenzett Roundabout will be closed from Noon on Saturday 18th September to 6am on Sunday 19th September.

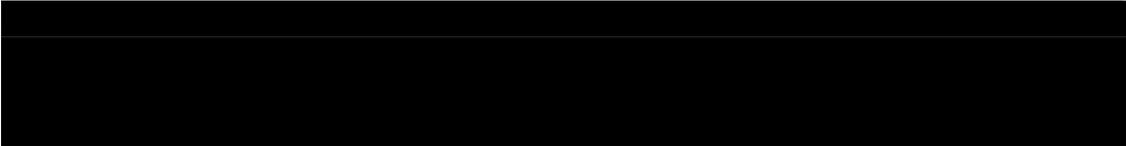
During a brief discussion it was highlighted that the information in the letter had been confusing regarding road was to be closed.

The Chairman asked those present if they were willing for the meeting to continue as it was now 9.30pm (this being the agreed time that meetings finish by). Those present agreed that the meeting continue.

13. Finance:

Budget Review: circulated to members prior the meeting. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the Community Funday Budget be renamed Community Events. It was further agreed that funds in the Victory Hall Project be reallocated and put into Road Safety and Pound Leas Budgets.

Authorisation of Cheques: Those present agreed that the Chairman had delegated authority to authorise cheques if required prior the next meeting.

For	To	Amount	Cheque No
			

14. Items for Next Agenda: 2nd Defibrillator for village and Remembrance Sunday and Queen's Jubilee. *Following the meeting Mags reported that the train station are to put in their own defibrillator so that another was not really required. The Chairman concurred and asked that this be withdrawn from the agenda.*

15. Date & Time of Next Meetings:

Planning Meeting: Monday 20th September 2021 at 7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 4th October 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.48pm

Chairman's Signature: