

## ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), Michael Wady (Vice-Chairman) Sid Gittens, Julian Griffiths, Steve Newton, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

**Also Present:** Kent County Councillor David Robey, Borough Councillor David Ledger and 3 members of the public.

**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 working) and Mags Wellsted-Boorman (prior engagement): those present agreed that these apologies be accepted.

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): The following declarations of interest were received: Mike Wady David White: allotment holder; Sid Gittens: Hamstreet Men in Sheds Chairman Hamstreet FC.

3. **Minutes From The Parish Council Meeting Held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to be Authorised as Being a Correct Record.** It was noted that under agenda item 9, bullet point four: the wrong road had been noted. Warehorne Road was noted rather than Ashford Road. It was agreed that 'Ashford' be crossed out on the top copy and replaced with 'Warehorne'. Following this amendment Julian Griffiths proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and that they be signed/authorised by the Chairman. Sid Gittens seconded this proposal. The minutes were signed/authorised by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising From The Parish Council Meeting Held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

**Defibrillator:** A new battery for the defibrillator has been fitted. Mags Wellsted-Boorman had reported that the pads go out of date in December; she will order more.

**Trees on Pound Lees:** Following discussion at the last meeting regarding the need for OPC to conduct their own tree survey. Piers Griffen (Natural England) had been contacted, he had recommended, PJC Consultancy who provide Ecological, Arboriculturally and Landscape Consultancy Services. Following enquiries, a quotation from Luke White their Managing Director for £545 plus VAT for a survey of the trees had been received. Following discussion Sid Gittens proposed that the quotation be accepted; Julian Griffiths seconded this proposal and all present agreed.

**Section 106 Funding:** As requested at the last meeting details of historical Section 106 Funding had been investigated and Simon Cole (ABC Head of Planning) had provided information. An update had been circulated to members via email. It was noted that there was still S106 funding left in the Phase 2: Lancaster Close development. Simon Cole had been asked how OPC could access this funding. During a brief discussion it was agreed that details of where the funding went was needed. *During discussion 3 members of the public arrived.*

*Those present agreed to bring in the following from the top of the agenda, for the benefit of the members of the public who had arrived:*

**Public Comments & Observations:** Discussion was held regarding the decision of approval for planning application no 21/00845 regarding the stationing of a caravan as temporary living space at the Coppers, The Street.

It was noted that the parish council had expressed concern to ABC regarding this decision as no information on waste/foul water dispersal had been provided and that the application had been referred to as temporary living space but no time limit had been noted. ABC had replied saying *The disposal of waste / foul water had not been considered as there is no provision within the*

*legislation to take this into account when assessing if planning permission is required. A time limit had not been imposed for the use of the caravan because this is not a planning application and the assessment was to establish if the caravan met the various requirements within the legislation.*

Those present agreed that OPC would express disappointment regarding the decision. Following discussion, the 3 members of the public left the meeting.

## **5. Reports From Representatives of the Community:**

### **Kent County Councillor David Robey:**

A2070: Cllr Robey sympathised with OPC concerns raised in a recent email to him regarding the A2070. He explained that speed limits on the road could only be installed if data proved that speed was a problem. Unfortunately, there was no evidence showing that speed was a problem. There was a problem with speeding at the end of the A2070 by Park Farm and a speed limit was to be implemented in this area.

KCC Budget: would be known after Christmas and he anticipated various cuts in the budgets.

Grants: he still had funds in his community chest grant budget.

Ashford Land Commission: The Leader of ABC had formed a new body/group whose aim was to classify green areas and protect them. An initial meeting had been held.

*Following his report Cllr Robey left the meeting*

**Johnsons Corner:** Mags reported (prior the meeting) that the litter bin had been removed and the litter problems seemed to have ceased. The tidyman continued to maintain the area and was thinking of installing some flower beds. During a brief discussion it was noted that flower beds had been removed a few years ago due to the time it took in maintaining them. It was agreed that no more flower beds should be installed due to the time they required in looking after them. It was noted that Lance continued to oversee the area. The Chairman is to liaise with Lance and ask him to keep an eye on litter levels.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Update:**

- Reported Issues: 19th October: Ashford Road - Vehicle window smashed
- Frauds circulating: Payment being requested from someone purporting to be from the DVLA or HMRC. Advice being to ignore and never give banking details.
- Information regarding an online tool that provides news, alerts etc has been set up by Kent Police. Further information can be found on <https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk>
- Community Safety Pop Up Shop: In County Square every Friday

- 5. Parish Council Allotments:** It was noted that two site holders had given notice; these will be offered to the two people that were currently on the waiting list. One of those vacating had left a shed with various equipment in it and hoped that the new tenant would give a donation to Cotton Hill House for the items left. During a brief discussion the Chairman highlighted that the Hamstreet Youth FC were in discussions in obtaining a field that they could use for training and matches. He hoped that this field would be large enough to house allotments. Those present agreed that the venture had the support of OPC who were willing to enter discussions if required.

## **6. Parish Councillor Updates/Reports**

**Sid Gittens:** highlighted that problems with drains continued with Marsh View recently being affected. He noted that there seemed to be a problem with the drains in Cock Lane. The Clerk was asked to highlight the problem.

Sid reported that he, his wife and Mags were tidying up the area by the Silent Soldier and were planning to paint the poppies there, ready for Remembrance Day.

**Christmas Lights:** During discussion Mike agreed to source a tree for Forge Gardens and Andy is to source solar lights for it. They would work with Sid to provide a base for the tree.

**Steve Newton:** highlighted that he was trying to get a meaningful discussion about the use of Permitted Development Rights and how they could be used in planning applications. Additionally, he was seeking views from KALC on how Ancient Woodland is being protected in the planning process.

### **Julian Griffiths:**

#### **Flooding Update**

- i) He had recently attended an information seminar which had covered surface water flooding. He provided those present with information pamphlets and had been distributing these to residents.
- ii) There had recently been an issue of wood being dumped in the Springbrook and the sluice had been trapped open with a plank of wood. Following a clear up operation, the importance of not dumping rubbish had been noted on Facebook's Hamstreet Flooding page.
- iii) Hard-standing by canal. Unfortunately, the land owner was not keen on having hard standing placed on his land to enable easy access to the Sperringbrook's sluice. Alternatives were now being investigated.
- iv) He would be providing a flooding update for the parish magazine.

**Highways Improvement Plan:** Julian had recently updated the draft HIP; members agreed that it would be reviewed in the new year. During discussion it was agreed that further questions would be asked regarding what a Highways Survey would cover if given a green light. It was noted that the number of pedestrians crossing the road by McColl's each day was needed; how many cars travelled along the road each day and the numbers of those parking casually in the main high street.

**Planning:** During discussion it was agreed that the planning meeting agenda would include discussion about future projects for the village.

**Firework Display:** was being organised by the HDSL A and would be held on Pound Leas on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November from 6pm. As before, OPC would pay for the fireworks and marque; funds raised during the event would hopefully cover this expenditure.

**Pound Leas Car Park:** It was noted that the barrier had been repaired.

*The Chairman noted that the time was now 9.30pm this being the agreed time to close the meeting. Those present unanimously agreed that the meeting continue.*

### **7. Planning Update & Review Applications Received:**

21/01884 Bankside, Ruckinge Road, TN26 2NW

Proposal: Construction of two storey rear extension, replacement front porch, replacement detached garage with garden room.

During discussion it was agreed that a site meeting be held and those attending would have delegated authority to respond to the application on behalf of the parish council.

**Update: 21/00881** Land between A2070 and Railway north of, Warehorne Road, Hamstreet, Kent Reserved Matters application to consider: Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale: Registered 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

An email received from a resident highlighted that Kent Police had responded to the original application on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 noting that they had not had any communication from the applicant and there were issues that needed to be discussed and addressed. The Clerk emailed Oliver Peel (Planning Officer for application) and copied the police into this asking if communication had now taken place. Oliver Peel has responded saying that he had passed this query to the case officer, Katy Magnall, to look into and respond.

### **8. Discuss/Agree/Debate Plans For**

- i) Remembrance Sunday: The Chairman would be laying a wreath by the Silent Soldier at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November and all members were welcome to attend. He would also be laying a wreath at Ruckinge Church during their service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November.
- ii) The Queens Platinum Jubilee: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022: All who were involved in the community Funday held in August had been contacted and asked if they would like to be

involved in a celebration being held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022. To date the WI and the Scouts Group had agreed to be involved. Victory Hall has been reserved for the day. During discussion it was agreed that the event have a 1950s theme and the provision of a band would be explored.

- iii) Village Beacon: The idea of a beacon being placed on Pound Leas or the Victory Hall green had been explored informally. Feedback to date had been negative as neither area was seen to be high enough vantage points.

**9. Correspondence Received:** not covered under other agenda items

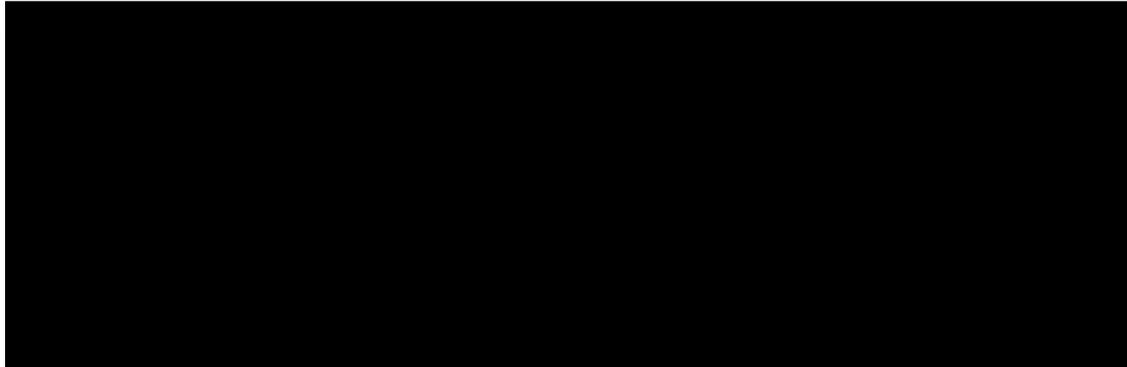
- Various briefing notes/updates had been received from ABC and KCC (these had been forwarded to members via email.
- A member had been informed that evidence of drug taking had been found on a bench on Pound Leas. This information had been passed to the PCSO who will make patrols when on duty, she asks that if noted again for this to be report.

**10. Finance:**

**Budget Review:** circulated to members prior the meeting.

**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
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**11. Items for Next Agenda:** It was agreed that the aim for the next meeting would be for it not be run for more than an hour and the agenda would be shortened. Following the meeting refreshments would be served and the Cosy Kettle would be asked to provide them.

**12. Date & Time of Next Meetings:**

Planning Meeting: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm  
*cancelled following meeting due to lack of quorum*  
Parish Council Meeting: Monday December 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.53pm

Chairman's Signature:

## **Report From Kent County Councillor David Robey**

- KCC is looking at budgets, from now to mid – 2025, and things look likely to be tight, in terms of the services required and the money to fund them
- The A2070 was discussed at length at the Ashford JTB on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September. A speed survey has been carried out on the whole length of the road from Ashford to Brenzett, with no speeding issue found. The focus going forward will be on the stretch of the road from the Clover Leaf Roundabout to the Bridgefield Roundabout, where we are hoping to try and make the whole section 50 mph and, also, look at what can be done to reduce motorcycle noise levels.
- The government is asking local government to come up with suggestions for what they would like to do in what areas, if more powers were delegated to them. This is called a County Deal and KCC is working on proposals, in consultation with the District and Borough Councils in Kent and Medway Unitary. A key focus is likely to be on infrastructure, in its various forms.
- KCC is looking at how to improve the situation with litter and fly -tipping across Kent. This is a complex issue but is likely to result in litter -picking, and the money to do this, being delegated to Parish Councils and similar bodies, on the subsidiarity principle.
- There are serious skills shortages across Kent, in a wide range of areas, including the full range of jobs, which, alongside shortages of many materials, is holding back economic recovery and is therefore a key focus for KCC and the government.
- I am assuming that your Member Grant monies are all on track, but if there are any problems, then please let me know immediately.
- The details of the second round of bids for the Reconnect Scheme have been published and I urge you and others in Orlestone to consider applying, not least of which because quite a bit of money is available and the definition of 'helping COVID recovery' is quite broad.
- I am assuming that you are making some progress with your parking issues, most of which come under ABC, but please let me know if you'd like me to be involved in any discussions, as I might be able to help