

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 7th February 2022 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

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

Also Present: Kent County Councillor David Robey and Borough Councillor David Ledger

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

1. Apologies: Apologies had been received from 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): The following declarations of interest were received: Mike Wady conflict of interest with the HDSLA, David White: allotment holder; Sid Gittens: Hamstreet Men in Sheds, Chairman: Involvement with the Hamstreet FC, Mags Wellsted-Boorman: Member of the HDSLA Committee

3. Minutes From The Following Parish Council Meetings to be Authorised as Being Correct Records:

Monday 6th December 2021 – Full Parish Council Meeting: Julian Griffiths proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record and be signed/authorised by the Chairman. David White seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

Monday 20th December 2021 – Planning Meeting: Julian Griffiths proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record and be signed/authorised by the Chairman. Steve Newton seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

Tuesday 18th January 2022 – Planning Meeting: Steve Newton proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record and be signed/authorised by the Chairman. Julian Griffiths seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

Monday 31st January 2022 – Working Committee For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Sid Gittens proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record and be signed/authorised by the Chairman. Basil Smith seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

4. Matters Arising From Minutes of the Meetings Listed in Agenda Item 3:

- A letter had been sent to Dr Jacobs supporting the idea of a Social/Medical Hub and inviting him to attend either a meeting of the parish council or to meet with representatives if he wished to discuss the idea further with members.
- Contact had been made with Luke White, Managing Director of PJC Consultancy regarding the tree survey that had been provided who was happy to meet virtually. He explained that 'it's very important that trees are placed in a robust management cycle/strategy. On a site such as yours, this shouldn't result in significant costs. It just needs a bit of regular thought. Little and often is my preference to tree management.' His report noted that ten trees currently require action: two need to be felled; seven need to have their crowns reduced and one tree requires its lowest limbs to be removed. It was noted that Julian had already done the latter. No Honey Fungus fruiting bodies had been found but these are seasonal and may have disintegrated. He suggested that surveys take place every eighteen months so that a variation of seasons is taken.

PJC are a consultancy group only, so Luke advised that OPC engage with a tree works contractor to undertake the work. He noted that that surveys and works should always be done by different companies explaining that if a contractor undertakes a survey, they tend to find more work for themselves. Quotations will now be sought for the work required.

- S106 Funding: Following emails regarding S106 funding an email had been received from Michelle Bryne noting ‘... if the PC are supporting an application to spend S106 funding from HDSLA, they should fill in the form, ask the ward councillor to sign to show his/her support and return it to me. I will take it through the usual internal approval process. As far as I am aware, Simon Coles has handed responsibility for S106 to his colleague Dan Carter. If you would like to meet to discuss possible S106 projects it might be beneficial for him to be there, so I have copied him in to this email’ Following receipt of this email a meeting had been requested with Dan Carter to discuss S106 funding projects further. The questionnaire/application form provided had been forwarded to the HDSLA for completion.

Once a date for the meeting has been confirmed members asked that a breakdown of Section 106 Funding be requested relating to Planning Application No Planning Application No 13/00051: Land west of Bourne Lane and north east of, Lancaster Close, Hamstreet, Kent. Erection of 55 dwellings together with public open space, landscaping, garaging and access.

- Saxon Shore/Green Sands Way: Adam Colton had provided information; these will be put on the notice-boards by Mags. Julian provided further information to be placed on the noticeboards.
- Information Centre: The noticeboard still required repair work which Michael Wady was organising. During a brief discussion Sid highlighted that he had some cork left over from work to the notice-boards on Forge Gardens.

5. Reports/Updates Received From Representatives of the Community:

Kent County Councillor David Robey: his report had been provided and circulated prior the meeting. David highlighted that KCC’s budget setting would be taking place later that week. All local authorities had been asked to deliver services in different ways. KCC’s Strategic Plan should be finalised later this year. He completed his report saying that he was happy to attend a walkaround Hamstreet to discuss ways to improvement parking in the main high street.

During discussion it was agreed that a site meeting be organised as soon as possible with representatives from ABC and KCC Highways to discuss various issues.

David Robey left the meeting.

Borough Councillor David Ledger: began his report by apologising for not replying to recent emails this had been due to his work load and being in the process of moving house. He was now sitting on the Climate Change Advisory Committee who were meeting every two months. He and Cllr Sparks were running pop in surgeries on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and would be in the Cosy Kettle around 10am every month.

Borough Councillor George Sparks: on providing his apologies wished to highlight that he still had funding in his community budget should OPC wish to apply for funding for the Queen’s Jubilee Event. Those present agreed that £500 be applied for.

David Ledger leaves meeting.

6. Parish Councillor Updates/Reports

Highway Issues: Mike and Julian had undertaken a walkaround and had taken a lot of photographs of problem areas. Julian was putting them together to form an information pack.

Mike highlighted the problem of litter near the Primary Academy and was planning a litter pick of the area. During discussion it was agreed that a community litter pick be held on Sunday 20th February 2022 commencing at 9am outside Hamstreet Primary Academy. *Following the meeting this litter pick was cancelled due to bad weather conditions.*

Steve highlighted that the pothole in McColl’s car park had now been filled. The Chairman noted that the bin on the main road near Bankside required a new plinth. The Clerk is to ask the Tidy man to do this.

David reported that while playing with ‘RingGo’ a parking app he had found that parking charges were applicable for the small car park near the woods at the end of Bourne Lane. During a brief discussion it was noted that it was believed that this had never been enforced.

Green Area by Pond Near Cotton Hill House: Discussion was led by Sid on how to improve the site which was very wet and the land needed raising. It was suggested that a water loving tree could be planted in the area.

Steve Newton: Expressed concern about a villager who was regularly walking along Ashford Road in the dark either going towards Ashford or returning who could not be seen. The Chairman was aware of who this was and will offer the person the use of a high viz jacket.

Queen's Jubilee Celebration: Steve reported that he was investigating the possibility of there being a 1950's display stand and film. He would be visiting Tenterden Museum to see if they can help. He was also hoping to organise some type of filming of the event.

Andy reported that he was looking into grants for Jubilee Events. He had possibly found a lunch time jazz band to play at the Jubilee Celebration and was hoping that they would be available in the evening as well.

The Clerk is to confirm the booking of an ice-cream van for the event. Funding, matching the Christmas Light Display prizes, had been passed to the Hamstreet WI group. They had not required all the funding provided so the Chairman had agreed that they keep any left-over funding and put it towards the Jubilee Celebration; it will be used to cover their expenses and provide prizes for a competition that they will run.

Action with Community in Rural Kent: David had re-joined and those present agreed that his subscription fee be reimbursed as the information obtained was sometimes useful.

Julian Griffiths: explained to those present that he would be stepping down from his role at the AGM as he would be moving out of the area.

7. Planning Update & Review Applications Received:

21/01699/CONA/AS Ashstone House, Hamstreet Road, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2EB

Discharge condition 4 (landscaping), 5 (walls & fences), 7 (biodiversity enhancement).

During a brief discussion it was noted that overall, the biodiversity plan was in depth and would provide great benefit to the site if it is implemented in full. However, there were a number of concerns; it was agreed that a draft reply be drawn up circulated to members for agreement before being sent.

18/00056/CONG/AS Land between A2070 and Railway north of, Warehorne Road, Hamstreet, Kent Discharge of condition 16 (Landscape Management Plan). No comment

Update:

21/02048/AS Squirrels Wood, Ruckinge Road, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2NW Proposed construction of detached garage with ancillary accommodation (revisions to garage approved under permission 20/00635/AS)

Decision: Permit

21/01328/AS Land between A2070 and Railway north of, Warehorne Road, Hamstreet, Kent Development of Temporary Access to Site.

Decision: Permit

22/00017/TP Hamstreet Woods National Nature Reserve rear of Bournewood and, Carters Wood, Hamstreet, Kent: Removal / Replacement of DD's covered by a TPO
Consent Granted (OPC not consulted)

8. 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).
- Email had been received from PCSO Katherine Richards who reported that following an accident at the end of November she has been off but is now back. There have been problems with sheep worrying in the area.

9. Review Dates & Times of Meetings: During a brief discussion it was agreed that meetings be held at 7pm rather than 7.30pm and where possible on the first Monday of the month.

10. Finance:

Budget Review: circulated to members prior the meeting. No questions were raised.

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

11. Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business: The Clerk was asked to find out if there was any further news regarding 2 Quince Orchard.

12. Date & Time of Next Meetings:

Jubilee Committee: Monday 21st February at in the Sports Pavilion
Parish Council: Monday 7th March in the Sports Pavilion

Meeting Concluded 9.01pm

Chairman's Signature:

Report From Kent County Councillor David Robey For Parish Council Meeting on Monday 7th February 2022

- We have managed to achieve a balanced Draft KCC Budget for 2022 - 23 and a Draft 2022 - 2025 Medium Term Financial Plan, which will need to be approved by the Full Council, on 10th February. This scheduled to be an eight-hour meeting and things are going to be very tight next year

- The Government has asked Local Authorities, at all levels, to come up with ideas for how more powers could be devolved from Whitehall and given to groupings of Local Authorities, to enable better delivery of various services, within 'sensible geographical areas'. The budgets would go with the powers. This is called a 'County Deal' and KCC is working with Kent District Councils and Medway to try and flesh out what this might means for Kent. This is tied up with the 'Levelling -Up' agenda, and we are studying what this means, now that the White Paper has been published this week.

- KCC is also in the process of producing a new Strategic Plan. The last plan was produced in March 2020, but could not be implemented, as COVID became the main priority, and an interim plan was produced in December 2020. However, as we move out of COVID and back to normal, a new Strategic Plan is required, and the intention is to have this in place by mid - 2022. It is obviously connected with the 'County Deal' work referred to above.

- The online booking system for Kent Household Waste Recycling Centres will become permanent and will soon include the ability to make same day bookings, which has been trialled in two of the centres and will now be rolled out to the rest. This is in response to the Public Consultation, in which same day booking was the biggest improvement that people wanted, by a huge margin. Overall, the new system has resulted in a service that is better for residents, more cost effective for KCC, better for road safety, since queuing is eliminated, better for KCC staff, who have more time to help residents, as well as increasing the amount of material that is being recycled.

- The latest round of the Early Help Grant has resulted in £54k being allocated to a number of organisations across the Borough. Following final checks, letters will go out to the successful applicants on 14th February.

- We need to have a look at what can be done about parking & related issues in the centre of Ham Street and a walkaround with relevant parties seems like a good place to start.

