

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

Present: Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), Mike Wady (Vice-Chairman) David Farrell, Sid Gittens, Sadie Michell, Steve Newton, Basil Smith, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Borough Councillor George Sparks and one member of the public.

Public Comments & Observations: *This being an opportunity for parishioners to speak or ask questions.* No issues/questions were brought forward.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Mags Wellsted-Boorman (prior engagement); those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies were also received from Kent County Councillor David Robey & Borough Councillor David Ledger.

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: Sid Gittens: Hamstreet Men in Sheds, Chairman: Involvement with the Hamstreet Junior FC, Sadie Michell proprietor of The Cosy Kettle; Mike Wady conflict of interest with the HDLSA, David White: Allotment Holder.

- 3 **Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held on 7th November 2022: To be Authorised As Being A Correct Record:** Mike Wady proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 7th November 2022, be accepted as a correct record and be signed/authorised by the Chairman. David Farrell seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The Meeting Held on 3rd October 2022.**

- Ref: Planning Application No 21/00845 – a complaint has been lodged with ABC regarding breaches to the decision notice for a lawful development certificate for the stationing of a caravan as temporary living space at The Coopers. It had been confirmed by ABC that this is being investigated. During a brief discussion it was noted that OPC would do what they could to ensure that any breaches were properly investigated.
- Trees: The Queens Green Canopy – the trees are due to be delivered around 19th December. Mark Taylor from the HDLSA will be asked for help regarding the planting of these. *Following the meeting discussion was held with Mark; it was noted that for various reasons the trees were not wanted on Pound Lees. On delivery they were given to Parish Councillor Steve Newton. The 2 willow trees were passed to Parish Councillor Sid Gittens for safe keeping; they will eventually be planted in the pond area.*
- Highways Improvement Plan: Kieran Doble (Community Engagement Officer) provided a new format form for the Highways Improvement Plan to be completed. This had been completed using the 'wish' list that was drawn up last year. Kieran is happy to meet virtually to discuss this and a virtual meeting is to be held on Tuesday 17th January. Details for this meeting will be passed to members via email.
- Flower Boxes: Ann Prebble had retracted her application for funding for paint for the boxes saying that she has now been donated some.

5. **Reports/Updates Received From Representatives of the Community Including Kent County Councillor David Robey, Borough Councillors and PSCO Katherine Richards:**

Kent County Councillor David Robey: had provided a report which had been circulated to members; paper copies were made available.

Borough Councillor George Sparks: reported

- He had supported the application for the extension to Hamstreet Nursery but was not keen on the proposed 7 houses and noted that the application did not attract S106 funding. He advised members to consider asking the applicant if allotments could be provided.
- Concern had been raised regarding ground levels behind dwellings in St Mary's Close from the edge of the Nightingale Development. He would be meeting with residents and the developers and had highlighted the concern to ABC.
- He had objected to an application near Viaduct Terrace for a 2-storey garage.
- ABC's allocation of houses from central government looked as if this would not be met; mainly due to the Stodmarsh affect.

6. Parish Councillor Updates/Reports

Mike Wady: reported:

- The water leak outside Cotton Hill House had been repaired. Following the repairs, the road markings had now disappeared. The Clerk is to highlight this issue to Highways.
- Refurbishment of the bus shelter in Ruckinge Road was now complete courtesy of the Shed Men and the noticeboard had been improved.
- The Christmas Tree was to be erected in Forge Gardens during the next few days.
- The pedestrian walkway in Bourne Lane was none existent and a large pothole was making it difficult to walk along safely while cars were using it. Dave is to speak to Piers from Natural England about these concerns and the possibility of have a 'dead' hedge installed to stop unwanted parking.
- The large 'bags' by the pond had still not been moved; the clerk was asked to contact ABC regarding their removal.

Basil Smith: reported that the blocked drains in Warehorne Road continued to be a problem. The Clerk is to chase for a reply to this issue that was reported in November to Highways

Sadie Mitchell: reported that a car had crashed into the houses opposite the shop and parking continued to be an ongoing problem. During discussion it was agreed that enquiries be made into whether those living opposite the shop could be provided with parking permits for Pound Leas Car Park. This would help empty the main high street of cars. It was agreed that Morrisons be asked if a smaller vehicle could make their deliveries to prevent the problems of obstructions in the main high street. Sadie is to provide photographs of parked lorries to the clerk to show how the lorries were causing a problem.

It was noted that Sadie had agreed to act as the parish council's Community and Business Liaison Officer.

Sid Gittens: reported that he was working on the provision of a designer for the war memorial.

7 Planning Update & Review Applications Received:

Application No: PA/2022/2827: The Cottage Court Lodge Farm, Church Lane, TN26 2EU

Proposal: Change of use of existing 2 bed holiday cottage to independent residential dwelling utilising existing access arrangements:

The planning statement noted 'This is a change of use application and no external, or internal, alterations are proposed to the site or its existing parking area. The only change to take place will be the use from the current restriction as holiday accommodation only to an independent dwelling (unrestricted C3 use). The intention is to enable Mrs Gotke, the mother, to move out of the farmhouse and occupy the cottage and live independently of the farm house which would be lived in by one of her sons, Peter. He would own the farmhouse and be further involved in the running of the farm. There is no intention to subdivide the cottage or sell it separately' During discussion it was agreed that there were no objections to the application.

10. Correspondence Received: not covered under other agenda items. The Clerk had circulated via email to members various notices from Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council

11. Finance:

Budget Review: circulated to members prior the meeting further copies were made available.

Grants: Following the last meeting during which the Bowls Club had requested funding this had now been promised to them from the HDSLAs. The Clerk had contacted all those who receive an annual grant from OPC asking for a breakdown/details on what they had spent the last grant on and what they intended to spend the next grant on. The friends of St Mary's Church had provided details and a breakdown of costs for work that was required this included some £18,000 for new guttering.

Precept Proposal: A proposal had been circulated to members which would keep the precept to the same level: £20,272. Those present unanimously agreed that the Precept be kept at this amount.

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

To	For	Amount	Cheque No
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12. **Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business:** During discussion it was noted that the pavements in the village were very uneven and were tripping hazards. It was agreed that the Clerk arrange a site visit with the Kent County Councillor and a KCC representative. It was noted that on 17th January a virtual meeting would be held with KCC Highways to discuss OPC's Highways Improvement Plan.

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

Parish Council: Monday 13th February 2023 at 7pm

Parish Council Planning Meeting: Monday 19th December 2022 at 7pm (if required)

Meeting Concluded 8.02 pm

Chairman's Signature:

Report From Kent County Councillor David Robey: December 2022

The big issue at KCC now, is the fact that we have a large projected overspend for the current financial year, due to all the various national economic pressures. This is not a problem that is restricted only to KCC in Local Government, or even only to Local Government. Balancing the budget will require some very difficult decisions, but ones that are necessary to ensure that the Authority remains solvent and able to operate.

- Similarly, we have a gap in our budget for 2023/2024, and we are considering how to deal with this, in parallel with the work on the numbers for this financial year. Extra funding for Adult Social Care was announced in the Autumn Statement from the Government, and this will help.
- Roger Gough, the KCC Leader, has written a joint letter with the Leader of Hampshire County Council, to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Levelling - Up, Housing & Communities, about the crisis that we face in Local Government Finance, and informally, we understand that the letter has been received sympathetically.

- I have put in train the work on the Bus Stop in Ruckinge Road, as previously discussed.
- I have chased the Loading Bay, and will do so again