

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

Present: Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), Mike Wady (Vice-Chairman) David Farrell, Sid Gittens, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Kent County Councillor David Robey, Borough Councillor David Ledger and Andy Ansley (Chairman of the HDSLAs)

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 Basil Smith (working), Steve Newton and Sadie Michell (prior engagements). 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: Sid Gittens: Hamstreet Men in Sheds, Chairman: Involvement with the Hamstreet Junior FC, Mike Wady conflict of interest with the HDLSA, Mags Wellsted-Boorman: HDSLAs Member, David White: Allotment Holder.

3 **Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held on 5th December 2022: To be Authorised As Being A Correct Record:** Mike Wady proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 5th December 2022, be accepted as a correct record and be signed/authorised by the Chairman. Dave Farrell seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The Meeting Held on 5th December 2022.**

- Parking in the High Street: Following the last meeting residents living in the main high street were contacted and asked if they would be in favour of having a parking permit (if possible) so that they could park in Pound Lees Car Park instead of along the High Street. Three replies had been received: one reported that they already used this car-park but if a parking permit was free, they would be in favour. The other two were not in favour. One highlighted that due to disabilities they need to park outside their home and the other highlighted safety issues i.e., walking from the car park in the dark and crossing a dangerous road. These responses had been circulated to members via email and it had been agreed that this idea would not be pursued any further.
- Highways Improvement Plan: A virtual meeting had been held on Tuesday 17th January with representatives from Highways. Following the meeting an update and new HIP had been circulated to members. The main aim being to engage with Morrisons (formerly McColl's) and discuss further the provision of a loading bay. A letter had been sent to Morrison's head office and a copy to the manager of the shop in Hamstreet highlighting issues with their delivery lorries and asking if a representative would be willing to meet with the parish council to discuss the problem. To date no reply had been received.

5. **Discuss Possibility of New Grounds To Provide Community/Sport Space:** Andy Ansley (Chairman of the HDSLAs) reported that there had been discussions regarding the purchasing of a parcel of land in Hamstreet for recreational use. A formal letter had been received agreeing to sell the land. Discussions regarding funding for the purchase of the land were ongoing with Kent Community Sports. It was noted if successful the land would have a 25-year clause on it against any development. If successful the land would be owned by the parish council and managed by HDSLAs.

During discussion it was agreed unanimously that this project had the full support of the Parish Council and discussions regarding funding would continue. It was noted that a development plan would be drawn up by Mark Taylor (HDSLAs). A working committee consisting of representatives from the HDSLAs, OPC and the Hamstreet Junior FC would be formed with each representative reporting back to their respective group to keep everyone updated.

It was noted that S106 Funding relating to the Warehorne Road Development could potentially be used for this project. Funds had been set aside but within the current terms it could not be spent on this parcel of land as it had been set aside for Pound Leas. Those present unanimously agreed that a Deed of Variation would be pursued and the Parish Clerk was asked to contact ABC for advice. *During this agenda item Borough Councillor David Ledger arrived. Following discussion Andy Ansley left the meeting.*

6. 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: reported that KCC had been busy with their budget. Difficult decisions had been made resulting in the loss of some services. Sessions House in Maidstone required renovation and plans were underway to improve it.

David highlighted that he was involved in a project to get Dungeness re-opened and the Ashford Land Commission Project had been completed.

Borough Councillor David Ledger: reported that ABC had also been working on their budget which after a lot of work now balanced. The planning department had been having a purge week and were trying to clear as many outstanding applications as possible. He had provided an update on 2 Quince Orchard via email to members prior the meeting and it now looked as if it would have a tenant moving in by June.

During discussion it was noted that there was a 3 bedroomed property that the warden at Cotton Hill House once lived in that was currently empty. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries as to why no-one was living in it.

7. Parish Councillor Updates/Reports

Chairman: highlighted that elections would be taking place in May and that the Parish Council needed to be neutral in politics and could not be seen to publicly support a political party. During a brief discussion it was agreed for this reason individual parish councillors would not be seen to support anyone in the forthcoming Borough Council elections.

During discussions it was agreed that the Annual Assembly would be held on Monday 3rd April and due to the impending elections, bank holidays and meeting room availability the AGM would not be held until Wednesday 17th May 2023. Two names were put forward for the Parish Council's Community Awards. As in previous years the Cosy Kettle and HDSLAs would be asked to provide the refreshments for the Annual Assembly.

Mike Wady: highlighted that during a recent walkaround improvements to the footpath by the pond to the top end of Carters Wood would be explored; no further news had been received. It was also noted that the trees at the top end of Carters Wood were overgrown and hanging over parked cars. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries into the improvement of the footpath and put in a request to have the overgrown trees cut back.

Sid Gittens: reported that he was still investigating a suitable design for the planned War Memorial for the village.

David White: highlighted that he was aware that funding (£21,590) was available under the S106 agreement from the Lancaster Close phase 2 development. However, he did not believe that the provision of water should be pursued due to various issues that could arise. He suggested that ABC be asked if this funding could be used to purchase allotment land. The Clerk is to make enquiries regarding this possibility.

David Farrell: reported that he had attended an online Food Warden Meeting with Mike Wady. They had followed this by having a walk around the village looking at the water ways. They were both concerned about problems that could rise from the Nightingale Developments.

Mags Wellsted-Boorman: highlighted various issues including trees that needed to be cut back in the village. She highlighted that the internal lighting in the pavilion was to be changed so that

LED lights be used. This would be more cost effective. It was agreed that OPC would pay for this work and the HDSLAs would provide a donation towards the costs. A new main entrance door had been ordered which would be double glazed. She asked if OPC would be willing to purchase a noticeboard for Pound Lea so that events could be advertised on it. The HDSLAs would provide a donation towards its cost. The majority of those present agreed this proposal.

8. **King Charles III Coronation: Discuss Possible Plans For Celebration:** During discussion it was noted that The Coronation Big Lunch was being advocated to be held on Sunday 7th May with street parties and garden get-togethers. It was agreed that the Parish Council would have a funding grant for those wishing to hold street parties and needed help. The Chairman had already put the idea of forming a village working group to organize some type of celebration. He put forward this idea on the Parish Council's Facebook page and the Hamstreet Facebook Page: to date no-one had come forward.

9. **Planning Update & Review Applications Received:** Since the last meeting concern was raised regarding water being dispersed in Ashford Road from the Nightingale Development. This had been reported to ABC and KCC Highways with both promising to investigate.

ENF 2022/1655: An update had been received from a resident at St Mary's Close regarding a site meeting held to discuss concerns regarding the height of the fences between the back gardens of the dwellings in St Mary's Close and the new Nightingale development. Simon Taylor (ABC Planning Enforcement Officer) attended; he felt that the difference of 2 metres in height to the fences was acceptable. There is concern from residents regarding water drainage. The developer is not using storm drains but are using French drains to slow the flow of water. The resident felt that the planned retention pond on the south-east side of the site will not protect the gardens in St Mary's Close from flooding. The Parish Council had offered support to those living in St Mary's and asked to let them know if there is anything they can do.

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 an inspection had been held and it was believed that nothing untoward had been found.

Application No 22/00792/AS: Wyevale Garden Centre:

Proposal: Hybrid application seeking full planning permission for the demolition of greenhouse and other works at Wyevale Garden Centre and outline consent for the erection of up to 7 dwellings.

Decision: Approved by ABC on 6th February 2023 with conditions (Notice was made available to those present).

Application No PS/2022/2980: Land West of Viaduct Terrace, Warehorne Road.

Proposal: Variation of condition 5 on planning permission 19/00776/AS retrospectively amend materials of walls and driveway.

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.

- The Clerk highlighted that Section 106 Funding Relating to Lancaster Close was still available with the cut of date being 4th April 2023. Prior this date quotations are required and forms to be completed to obtain funding. There was funding of £9,645 for open space improvements and maintenance of. Details had been passed to the HDSLAs.
- An email had been received from a resident who had fallen on ice during a recent cold spell asking who was responsible for the salt bins and putting down salt.

Following enquiries, it was found that ABC had supplied the salt bins located at Carters Wood (by the garages at the back) and by Cotton Hill House. A request had been made to replace the one by Cotton Hill House. Salt from these bins can be requested however it is not the responsibility of ABC to spread salt from these bins onto footpaths but up to individuals.

- Following reports regarding an individual walking along Ashford Road between Hamstreet and Ashford in the dark and concerns that they may cause an accident. This had been highlighted to the individual who was now wearing illuminated strips on their coat to make them more visible.

11. Finance:

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

Review Grant Provision & Procedure: The Clerk had contacted all 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. Details received were circulated to those present. During discussion it was agreed that in the future, grants would need to be applied for and would no longer be automatically provided. A draft grant application form was circulated and those present agreed that this be looked at by members and discussed at the next meeting.

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

<u>To</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Parish Clerk	Salary For February	420.00	1775
Parish Clerk	Use of Home as an Office Expenses	120.00	1775

12. **Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business:** It was agreed arrangements for the Annual Assembly be discussed further.

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

Parish Council: Monday 6th March 2023 at 7pm

Parish Council Planning Meeting: Monday 20th February 2023 at 7pm (if required)

Meeting Concluded 9.13pm

Chairman's Signature: