

## ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 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, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

**Also Present:** Borough Councillors George Sparks & David Ledger; Dennis Seton (representing the Hamstreet Branch of the RBL)

**Public Comments & Observations:** *This being an opportunity for parishioners to speak or ask questions.* Dennis Seton from the Hamstreet Branch of the Royal British Legion, highlighted that a memorial service was to be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 10.45am at Johnsons Corner. An email had been received from David Harris their secretary that had provided various details. Dennis further reported that a Battle of Britain service would hopefully be organised in September.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Kent County Councillor David Robey.

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, Sadie Michell: proprietor of the Cosy Kettle, Mags Wellsted-Boorman: HDLSA Member, David White: Allotment Holder.

3. **Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023: To be Authorised As Being A Correct Record:** Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, be accepted as a correct record and signed/authorised by the Chairman. Mike Wady seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The Meeting Held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

- Empty Bungalow by Cotton Hill House: The clerk had made some enquiries regarding the length of time the bungalow had been empty and had been informed by the current warden that discussions were ongoing regarding what to do with it.
- Section 106 Funding Relating to Lancaster Close Phase 2: There is funding of £9,645 for open space improvements and maintenance. To obtain this funding quotations for work are required as soon as possible so that the appropriate form can be completed and then sent to ABC for review. Closing date being the end of March. Mark Taylor is to provide the Clerk with quotations for a tractor and trailer. S106 Funding relating to Allotments: The Clerk had been informed that there was no time restraint of this funding and she is to make enquiries into having this funding set aside for purchasing land.
- Highways Improvement Plan: An email has been received from McColl's/Morrisons customer services department in reply to OPC's letter highlighting issues around the parking of their delivery lorries. It noted: *After a full investigation, a re-visit of the delivery point by our Driver Risk Assessor and discussions with the Store Manager at 1070; the outcome is **current parking location is moving further up the road opposite the Pub where the road is a little wider until the council decide to put in a loading bay.***

*There is not an option to park at the rear of the Store it is too narrow for our vehicles to reverse, the manager of the store has also said the residents are parking their cars in the store car park which they are not supposed to, so even if we could get in, we would not be able to park.*

*Therefore, at the present time the delivery point has been changed as the safest as there are no other options, I will keep in contact with the Manager of 1070 to ensure all ok with the deliveries and our drivers are following the new direction.*

*I hope that the council will find these arrangements satisfactory, DHL have said they will keep in contact with the store to ensure all ok.*

Kieran Doble from KCC Highways had been contacted and asked what the next steps should be relating to the provision of a loading/unloading bay. He has replied saying that he needs confirmation of the length of McColl's delivery lorries and that they are ok with the possibility of a loading/unloading bay being positioned across the entrance of their car park. The Clerk had contacted McColl's with these questions and is waiting for a reply.

**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:** report had been circulated.

**Borough Councillor George Sparks:** Highlighted that planning permission had been granted to have a holiday home on land that sat opposite Johnsons Corner. A further holiday let had been agreed at Court Lodge Farm. Unfortunately, he had been unable to help a resident who lived in one of the dwellings by the garden centre who is to be made homeless due to the redevelopment of the area. The hedge that should have been put in on the boundary of the new development along Warehorne Road had not been put in. Warehorne Parish Council is in the process of highlighting this to the planning department.

George further reported that he had now spent all his community grant and had been happy to provide funding to the Highways Nursery for a new shelter, The Childrens' Flower Club and the church for a new circuit board. George concluded by highlighting that it had been agreed that Council Tax would be increasing by 5%.

**Borough Councillor David Ledger:** began his report by highlighting issues around the Council Tax setting and noted that he also had now spent all of his community grant; some of which had been given to the Highways Nursery.

**6. Parish Councillor Updates/Reports**

**Mike Wady:** Highlighted that the leak on the road outside Cotton Hill House had reappeared (The Clerk is to report this to KCC Highways). The area around the pond desperately needed tidying up. Mike concluded asking if he could be reimbursed the cost of paint for Johnsons Corner; work was required to make it tidy for the service in April. Those present agreed that he would be reimbursed costs.

**Sid Gittens:** raised the issue of litter picking. During a brief discussion it was agreed that a community litter pick be held at the end of April – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April and all organisations would be invited to take part.

**Basil Smith:** Reported that the drains along Warehorne Road had now been partially cleared however one continued to be blocked and he believed that this was most probably due to it being damaged.

**David Farrell:** Highlighted that the new manhole covers in Ashford Road outside the Nightingale Development, rattled a lot when vehicles drove over them. The clerk was asked to report this to KCC Highways.

**Steve Newton:** Thanked members for the trees that were unsuitable for Pound Leas, these and ones he had ordered had now been planted. He highlighted that during the past month 2 deer had been knocked over by vehicles and asked if warning signage could be erected. The Clerk is to contact KCC Highways and put in a request for signage. During a brief discussion the dirt and grey silt on the sides of the road through the village was highlighted.

**Chairman:** reported that he had attended the last Hamstreet Royal British Legion Meeting and that he would try and attend their monthly meetings and represent the parish council at them. They are held on the last Thursday of each month in the pavilion. He highlighted that some local ladies were trying to set up a local netball team and would be approaching the parish council for a grant. Regarding the possible land purchase, Halletts & Co were acting as the Parish Council's legal representative and would be contacting the land owner accepting the price of the land.

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

**Update:**

**22/00185** Court Lodge Farm, Church Lane, TN26 2EU

Details: Removal/variation of conditions from existing i.e., to be used as tourist accommodation.

Decision: Refused by ABC on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**2022/2181** Harts Cottages, Bourne Lane, TN26 2HH

Proposal: Proposed 3 bed dwelling with amenity space and car parking.

Decision: Not yet made

Natural England and OPC had both highlighted that an opening of a new access through the existing hedge onto Natural England land had taken place involving the removal and coppicing of Ash trees and hedgerows that make up the boundary. It was noted that the applicant was making a false statement saying that this access already existed when in reality it was created without permission prior to the submission of this statement.

**22/00884** Orlestone Rise, Ruckinge Road, TN26 2NW

Proposal: Construction of a single detached dwelling with associated parking and amenity space.

Decision: Refused by ABC

NB: It has been noted by a resident that soil samples are being taken and it is believed that an appeal is to be made. To date none has been made and OPC cannot comment until there is one.

8. **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. These included: information regarding community litter picks. It was noted if these are registered with ABC, arrangements can be made with their contractor to schedule the collection of bags.

**9. Finance:**

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

**Review Grant Application Form:** A draft application form had been circulated to members prior the meeting and further copies were made available. A few alterations were made and typos were noted. It was agreed that this application form be made available to those who had received an annual grant with an explanation that funding now had to be applied for.

**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 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Parish Clerk | Salary For March                  | 420.00 | 1775      |
| Parish Clerk | Use of Home as an Office Expenses | 120.00 | 1775      |

10. **Annual Assembly Arrangements:** It was noted that the Annual Assembly would be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. Those who were to receive a community award were agreed and the clerk is to buy 2 bunches of flowers for the recipients. The Clerk was asked to invite representatives from local organisations.

11. **Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business:** During discussion it was noted that new 'No Smoking Signs' were required at the bus shelter. The Clerk is to order these and have them sent to Mike. It was noted that improvement work was taking place in Lancaster Close play area.

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

Parish Council Annual Assembly:

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 7pm

Parish Council Planning Meeting:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm (if required)

AGM

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm