

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

Present: Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), David Farrell, Sid Gittens, Sadie Michell, Steve Newton, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger; Andy Ansley (Chair to the HDSLAs), Mark Taylor and Jemma Thompson (HDSLAs Committee Members), Paul Hurst (PH Design Services) and one resident.

Public Comments & Observations: *This being an opportunity for parishioners to speak or ask questions.* The Chairman asked the resident present if had any comments to make. The resident highlighted concerns regarding the speed of traffic leaving the centre of the village along Ashford Road to the garden centre.

During discussion it was highlighted that this had been a concern for members for a long period of time however finding a solution was not easy, with various ideas proving to be unworkable. Kent County Councillor David Robey will be contacted and asked if it would be possible to reduce the speed limit along Ashford Road.

Memorial Plan: Sid Gittens introduced Paul Hirst to those present; the drawings/plans he had made for the proposed war memorial were presented and members present spent time viewing them, with Paul answering queries raised. Paul is to circulate copies of the plans to members via email.

Following discussion, the Chairman asked those present if the Additional Agenda Item could be brought in at this point of the meeting; this was unanimously agreed this suggestion.

Additional Agenda Item:

- 1. Development of Sports Field:** The Chairman highlighted that the Parish Council were seeking funding to purchase a small parcel of land adjacent to Pound Lees Recreation Space so that increased sporting facilities could be offered to the community this could include a cricket pitch and further football pitches. There was currently a working group consisting of representatives from the Parish Council and the Hamstreet and District Sports and Leisure Association (HDSLAs) working on the project.

During discussion the Chairman proposed that the Parish Council pursue the idea of obtaining a loan to purchase the land. This would be a specialised loan for approximately 50 years. Costs and affordability needed to be examined. If a loan could be obtained the HDSLAs would manage the extension to Pound Lees Open Space and be responsible for maintaining it and obtaining funding to do this. Members of the parish council unanimously agreed that enquiries be made into a loan. It was understood that KALC would be able to advise.

During further discussion it was noted that the working group had meet with Damien Green MP to discuss the plan and look at funding options. Gemma Thompson had produced a presentation for the meeting and it was agreed that this could be downloaded onto the parish council's website as an introduction to the idea to residents.

Following discussion Andy Ansley, Mark Taylor, Gemma Thompson and Paul Hirst left the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Basil Smith who was away working in Ireland and Mike Wady (Vice-Chairman) who was currently out of the country. Those present agreed that these apologies be accepted.

Apologies were also received from Kent County Councillor David Robey who asked to let him know if there was anything members needed him to do. He had highlighted that following a Cabinet re-shuffle he was now the Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation at KCC.

- 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 & David Farrell: members of The Hamstreet Men in Sheds, Sadie Michell: proprietor of the Cosy Kettle, Mags Wellsted-Boorman: HDSL A Member, David White: Allotment Holder.

3. **Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held on 3rd July 2023: To be Authorised As Being A Correct Record:** Dave Farrell proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 3rd July 2023 be accepted as a correct record and signed/authorised by the Chairman of the current meeting. Sid Gittens seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The AGM Held on 3rd July 2023**

- Oak Tree by 1 The Quinces Facing Ashford Road: Enquiries and a land search revealed that this tree is the responsibility of KCC who had been notified that a tree survey undertaken by ABC noted that it required work to it.

Eddie Murray, tree inspector from the soft landscape team had responded confirming that an inspection had been carried out and at the time of inspection the tree was found in good condition with no sign of major defect and no works are required to it at the present time. However, the tree will continue to be monitored as part of their programme. During a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk forward the original report which highlighted work to the tree.

- Loading Bay Outside Morrisons/McColl's: Three options had been put forward to try and alleviate the problems with delivery lorries parking in the main high street. However, none appeared workable: with all options noting that members of the public could potentially park their vehicles in the loading bay resulting in the same issues as currently experienced. During a brief discussion it was noted that many items being sold in the shop had short lifespans on them and that the shelves were half empty. Concern was expressed regarding its future.

5. **Reports/Updates Received From Representatives of the Community Including Kent County Councillor David Robey & Borough Councillors:**

Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: highlighted that parliamentary boundaries would be changing at the end of September and that Hamstreet would fall under the Weald of Kent so it was not known at the moment who would their member of parliament would be.

Borough Councillor David Ledger: Voiced his support to the purchase of land/extension to Pound Leas Recreation Space for sporting activities. He highlighted that the Stodmarsh effect was ongoing, with no answers to date. There was currently a call for building sites from ABC for the next local plan; this would involve a long consultation period. He completed his report by highlighted that he would be in the Cosy Kettle on Wednesday 13th September for his monthly surgery.

During a short discussion problem with ABC's planning department was raised during which it was noted that it appeared to be short staffed with a high turnover of staff. *Following discussion Cllrs Aline Hicks and David Ledger and the attending resident left the meeting.*

6. **War Memorial:** During discussion those present unanimously agreed that the plans drawn up by Paul Hirst be approved and that he be asked to prepare a submission for a planning application to ABC. He is to provide details of contractors who will be able to complete the building work. Sid Gittens will continue to act as the Parish Council's representative with this project.

7. **Parish Councillor Updates/Reports:**

David White: highlighted that the lamp posts near the primary academy were not matching with one being modern and the other three being of a traditional curved design. It was agreed that the Clerk contact highways and highlight this issue. David highlighted that the leak on the track in front of the allotments had been created by a stopcock that had been switched on; it had now been turned off.

Dave Farrell: highlighted that the hedges around the play areas needed cutting back as well as the hedge along the footpath to the bowls club. The Clerk is to contact Highways and put in a request to have these cut. Mags highlighted that the entrance to Lancaster Close also needed cutting back.

Sid Gittens: reported that the bins in Lancaster Close were overflowing and required emptying. The Clerk has reported this and put in a request that they be emptied. Sid further reported that there were no 'waiting' signs outside his home and that every gully along Ashford Road was blocked.

Steve Newton: expressed his frustration with the planning department at ABC. During discussion the idea of making a formal complaint was considered. It appeared that the department was short of staff, there was a high turnover of staff and the sickness levels were high. The Clerk is to make enquires to David and Aline as to what was causing these issues.

Andy Othen: had received reports that the information centre/bus shelter was not being locked, he will investigate why this was happening.

Mags Wellsted-Boorman: noted

- i) With members agreement she would order poppies for the lamp-posts to be put up in November; she would let members know how much they would cost. All present agreed that the Chairman have delegated authority to agree this expense.
- ii) The HDSLAs were busy making arrangements for a community firework display to be held in November. Mags asked if members would consider helping to collect donations; she asked that those able to help contact her.
- iii) The Charter between Therouanne and Orlestone once hung on the walls of Victory Hall, however it was no longer hanging there. During a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would ask for it so that it could be hung up at the Sports Pavilion.
- iv) Mags highlighted that she had a number of historical items relating to Hamstreet but no home for them. During a brief discussion it was agreed that Ashford Library be asked if they wanted the items.

8. Planning Update & Review Applications Received

Applications:

Application: PA/2023/1258

Location: Ashwell, Marsh Road, TN26 2JD

Proposal: Proposed detached garage with home office in roof area with dormer windows.

During discussion it was agreed that concern be expressed that the application appeared misleading. The proposed building was not a garage and had the potential to be a dwelling.

The Chairman noted that the 2-hour limit for meetings was approaching. It was agreed that if there were any issues with the following applications that the Clerk be notified and she would pass comments on to ABC.

Application: PA/2023/1388

Location: 15 Carters Wood, TN26 2NN

Proposal: Proposed vehicular crossover and change of use of council owned grass verge

Application: PA/2023/1271

Location: Capel Barn, Capel Road, TN26 2EH

Proposal: Listed building consent for proposed installation of woodburning stove, rearrangement of existing windows to form new external door, addition of bifold doors and ground floor, installation of flue and 3 conservation rooflights, formation of new floor in roof space.

Application: PS/2023/1485

Location: Capel Barn, Capel Road, TN26 2EH

Proposal: Proposed new external door, bi-fold doors and new ground floor window, installation of flue and 3 conservation rooflights.

Application: PA/2023/1392

Location: 1 Harts Cottages, Bourne Lane

Proposal: Single-storey flat roof rear extension, new roof Velux window to existing rear elevation

Updates

Application/PA/2022/2181

Location: Harts Cottages, Bourne Lane, TN26 2HH
Proposal: 3 bed dwelling with amenity space and car parking
Decision: Approved

Concerned that access had been gained via land owned by Natural England, the parish clerk had passed on details of the application to Natural England; they land agent is investigating.

Application: PA/2023/0687

Location: 5 Harts Cottages, Bourne Lane, TN26 2HH
Proposal: Construction of 2 semi-detached dwellings.
Decision: Still under consultation. OPC have noted reservations regarding the ownership of the access area and asked if the applicant had a legal right of way. It appeared that access to the proposed development was not via an adopted road but via Natural England's land.

Application: PS/2023/1131

Location: Ashtone House, Hamstreet Road, TN26 2EB
Proposal: Proposed change of roof and pitch to existing garage/store
Decision: Approved with conditions

Application: PA/2023/1009

Location: 33 Fairfield Terrace, Hamstreet TN26 2HT
Proposal: Proposed shed/outbuilding in the garden
Decision: Approved with conditions

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

- Email from ABC Planning who are looking for sites to develop on ref New Local Plan
- Dennis Seaton from Hamstreet's RBL invited members to the Battle of Britain Service which is being held on Sunday 17th September at 12.30pm following on from the Harvest Festival at Orlestone Church.
- Circulars and News Bulletins from various organisations had been forwarded via email to members.

10. **Remembrance Sunday:** To be discussed at the next meeting.

11. **Finance:**

Budget Review/Update: circulated to members prior the meeting; no questions arose.

Victory Hall: A running total of bills paid for grass cutting outside victory hall from September 2022 to 29th July 2023 (total £760) has been received from Lucy Farrance (Chair to the Victory Hall Committee). This included some window cleaning as well which totalled £40. It was agreed that a total be requested at the end of the financial year for this expense so that it could be discussed.

Authorisation of Cheques: The following cheques were authorised for signature with the Chairman having delegated authority to approve cheques if required before the next meeting.

<u>To</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Tidyman	Work From 11 th April to 20 th May	360.00	1798
Reimburse Clerk	Social At Bowls Club	86.75	1799
Reimburse Clerk	Stationery Costs	27.00	1799
Clerk	Salary for September	520.00	1799
Clerk	Expenses: Home as an Office	120.00	1799

12. **Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business:** Remembrance Sunday; Christmas Celebrations.

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

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 2nd October 2023 at 7pm
Parish Council Planning Meeting: Monday 18th September 2023 at 7pm (if required)