

# ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

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

**Also Present:** Kent County Councillor David Robey, Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger and a member of the public.

**Public Comments & Observations:** *This being an opportunity for parishioners to speak or ask questions.* The member of the public present introduced himself explaining that he had an allotment and the overgrowth on the bank behind it was infringing on it. He asked if the Parish Council would consider paying to have it removed. During discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would arrange for it to be cut back by the Tidyman but that this would be a one-off gesture as it was usual that all allotment holders kept their plot and the space around it tidy.

**1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Sadie Michell (prior engagement) and Basil Smith (in Ireland working). 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 & David Farrell: members of The Hamstreet Men in Sheds, Mags Wellsted-Boorman: HDSL A Member, David White: Allotment Holder.

**3 Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023: To be Authorised As Being A Correct Record:** David White proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be accepted as a correct record and signed/authorised by the Chairman of the current meeting. Mags Wellsted-Boorman seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

**4. Matters Arising From Minutes of The Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

- Speeding: At the last meeting concern was raised regarding speeding vehicles through the village.
  - i) A request was placed regarding a speed limit of 20mph being introduced. Cllr David Robey reported that a speed limit would prove unpopular with motorists and difficult to enforce.
  - ii) Kieran Doble (Highways) recommended a Speed Watch programme be undertaken. The Clerk had emailed the resident who had brought forward speeding concerns and asked if they would like to be involved in a community speed watch programme. They had responded suggesting that speed bumps may be the answer. During discussion it was noted that the problem of speeding was on the outer edges of the village and speed bumps would not be suitable for the road to the garden centre. A speed watch programme lacked the necessary volunteers. It was agreed that all options had been explored and it was hoped that the road calming measures being introduced by the new developments would help.

**5. Extension to Pounds Leas Recreation Ground: Finance & Loan Review:** Following the last meeting:

- Information regarding the cost of a specialised loan had been circulated via email to members. It was noted that if approved this could be used to purchase the land. To be affordable a loan could be taken out for up to 50 years.

- Enquiries had been made to ABC regarding a possible increase to the Precept which would provide an extra income to pay the loan off. ABC had responded saying an increase of £8,000 a year; which would cover the cost of the loan, equated to a £1 a month rise on a band B property rising to £2 a month to a band H property.

During discussion it was noted:

- The need to consult with residents regarding the proposal was one of the conditions of the loan. To fulfil this requirement, a letter would be drawn up informing residents of the proposal. This will be hand delivered to all dwellings. A draft would be circulated to members for comment before being distributed.
- It was agreed that a presentation/consultation be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November from 11am to 3pm in the Hamstreet Pavilion.
- It was agreed that the closing date for comments would be 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- It was noted that Jemma had produced a presentation to MP Damien Green which would form the basis of the presentation being held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. She will be asked if this can be printed off. It was agreed that all costs to her would be reimbursed.
- The Chairman is to add details of the proposal to the parish council's website and other social media forums would be used, so that as many residents would be reached as possible. He will also set up an online comment form.

**6. War Memorial Update:** Sid reported that Paul Hirst had completed the work and had submitted a planning application for the war memorial which was now out for consultation. He had attended the AGM of the Hamstreet Branch of the Royal British Legion who were pleased with the design.

Dave reported that the site manager at the Nightingale Development had some bricks that could be used to build the memorial and that he may be able to provide labour. He and Sid are to discuss this possibility further.

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

**Kent County Councillor David Robey:** reported that KCC were currently working on their annual budget which would be ready for approval in February 2024. Due to various financial restrictions various budgets would be cut. *Following his report David left the meeting*

**Borough Councillor Aline Hicks:** reported that ABC were promoting the recycling of electrical items with various 'drop-ins' being organised. The next being held in Tenterden on 25<sup>th</sup> October. The allocation of housing would be moving in-house with ABC assigning homes. Aline concluded by reporting that Hamstreet Doctors Surgery had recently be noted as being the best in the area and had reached no 11 in the whole country.

**Borough Councillor David Ledger:** reported that a new contractor had been appointed the waste contract and would be taking over from BIFTA in March 2024. He was pleased to highlight that planning had now employed another employee who would be joining the enforcement team. He concluded by informing those present that he had been working hard to have the case of a local resident being provided with social housing in one of the new developments in the village to be reviewed. *Aline and David left the meeting.*

**Community Warden:** It was noted that Kathy Carty had now retired and to date there had been no replacement.

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

**Mike Wady:** highlighted that there had been a number of road markings being repainted however those in Ruckinge Road continue to require 'topping up'.

**Dave Farrell:** highlighted:

- The issue of dust nuisance behind Ashford road had been rectified.
- Ashford Road was due to be closed from 21<sup>st</sup> October with various works planned including work to the paths to correct tripping hazards.
- Some 80 drains had been cleansed in Ashford Road
- The new car park on the Nightingale Development was being used and proving popular.

- He had received concerns regarding a resident living in a ‘care in the community’ home about their suitability for this home. During a short discussion it was noted that should further concerns be raised the Clerk would make enquiries.
- A number of bins in the area required emptying – the Clerk is to raise this issue with ABC.

**David White:** noted that from the 22<sup>nd</sup> September there had been a number of tankers in the village dealing with a problem with the sewage works. An email had been received notifying OPC of the problem but to date no feedback had been received. The Clerk is to ask for an update.

**Sid Gittens:** Highlighted that the two willow trees that he had been looking after that were to be planted by the pond were now ready to be planted. During a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Aspire and ask where the most suitable location would be.

**Mags Wellsted-Boorman:** highlighted:

- Poppies for November had been ordered.
- The village gates needed cleaning and repainting.
- The 30mph speed limit sign in Warehorne Road had been moved.
- Arrangements for the village firework display being held on 4<sup>th</sup> November were nearly complete.
- Johnsons Corner: it was taking the tidy man a long time to cut the grass here. During a brief discussion it was agreed that he did not need to cut all the grass but could just cut a path way and leave the rest to be ‘wild’

**Sadie Michell:** when providing her apologies had highlighted that the Old School House had a new owner called Jay who had plans for the building; she had invited him to attend a meeting of the parish council so that he could explain what he wanted to do. She had received concerns regarding the footpath that runs from the book exchanged to Carters Wood; it being uneven and unsafe for those with reduced mobility. The Clerk had reported this issue to KCC Highways.

**Basil Smith:** when providing his apologies highlighted that tanker lorries had been seen at 3.50am at the sewage works. The Clerk has reported this issue with Southern Water. Basil had noted that it appeared that the that the street light in the middle of the footpath along Warehorne Road was to be removed.

## 9. Planning Update & Review Applications Received

### Applications:

Application No: PA/2023/1850

Location: Pound Leas Sports Ground, The Street, Hamstreet

Proposal: War Memorial

### Application: PA/2023/1388

Location: 15 Carters Wood, TN26 2NN

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

### Update:

### 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 have asked if the applicant has a legal right of way

### Application No: PS/2023/1342

Location: Cotton Hill House, TN26 2HW

Proposal: Garden decking, balustrade and steps

Decision: Approved

### Application: PA/2023/1258

Location: Ashwell, Marsh Road, TN26 2JD

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

Decision: Approved: Plans were amended to be a home office not a garage.

**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.

Decision: Approved

**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.

Decision: Approved

**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

Decision: Approved

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

- Circulars and News Bulletins from various organisations had been forwarded via email to members.
- Allotments: an email received from one of the holders had requested that the Parish Council arrange for some of the shrubs to be cut back. It was noted that this had been discussed at the start of the meeting. It was agreed that the allotment agreement needed to be reviewed – the clerk is to circulate a copy to all members for comment.

**11. Remembrance Sunday:** Two wreaths have been ordered one for silent soldier and one for the church. The service will be held in Warehorne. The Chairman was unsure if he would be able to attend and asked those present to consider attending.

**12. Finance:**

**Budget Review/Update:** circulated to members prior the meeting, paper copies were made available; no questions were raised.

**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.

To	For	Amount	Cheque No
Parish Clerk	Salary for October	520.00	1800
Parish Clerk	Home as Office Expense	120.00	1800
P Hirst	War Memorial Design Service	750.00	1801
P Hirst	War Memorial Design Service	575.00	1802
ABC	Planning Fees	117.00	1802
Mags Wellsted-Boorman	Reimburse Purchase of Ink	19.49	1802
Mazars LLP	Audit: Limited Assurance Review	252.00	1803
Chairman	Reimburse Website Domain Costs	100.66	1804
Chairman	Reimburse Cost of Delivering Letter	50.00	1804

**13. Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business:** It was agreed that ‘Christmas Celebrations’ be put on the next agenda. Mags noted that Father Christmas would be visiting the village on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

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

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm