

# ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

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

**Also Present:** Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger

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

**1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from David Farrell (out of the country), those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. It was noted that Basil Smith was running late due to Victory Hall Committee holding their AGM. Apologies were also received from Kent County Councillor David Robey (prior engagement) and Rural South Beat Officer Darren Laker (not on shift).

**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 member of The Hamstreet Men in Sheds, Mags Wellsted-Boorman: HDSL A Member, David White: Allotment Holder.

**3 Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023: To be Authorised As Being A Correct Record:** David White proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 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 Meeting Held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

- Willow Trees – Pond Area (near Cotton Hill House): The Clerk had contacted Aspire and asked where it would be best to plant the two trees. They had passed this query on to ABC – no further news had been received. Sid highlighted that the Cotton Hill House had been approached and asked where the best place would be to put the trees in and they are investigating.
- Sewage Works in Village – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023: The Clerk had contacted the water board asking for an update but to date had not received a response.

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

- Letters outlining the proposal for the extension for Pound Leas Recreation Space had been hand delivered to those living in Hamstreet. Copies of the letter had been posted on the parish council's Facebook page and website and on the Hamstreet Community Facebook Page. Copies had also been put up in the Cosy Kettle and McColl's.
- An information/presentation/consultation event had been held the previous day. During which a steady trickle of residents had attended. One of the main comments was the need for additional parking on the site. All who had attended had been positive about the proposal of buying the land.
- Feedback had been received via paper slips, emails and on line
- The closing date for comments is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**Next Steps:** The Clerk is to complete the loan application form and circulate to members of the working group. Before the form is sent off.

During discussion it was noted that initial feedback showed that the majority of residents supported the idea. There had been one negative comment via email and one via the questionnaire. It was unanimously agreed that at the next Parish Council meeting the Precept be raised by £8,000 to help cover the future costs of the project and loan repayments.

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

**Kent County Councillor David Robey:** had reported via email highlighting that the main issue at KCC was the ongoing problem with the budget. There is an overspend forecast of approximately £35m. Balancing the books will put pressure on all services. He and Cllr Neil Baker are focussing on potholes and the uncoordinated way that utilities conduct roadworks and trying to prevent HGVs using unsuitable roads.

**Borough Councillor Aline Hicks:** Highlighted that postal voting regulations had now changed and those wishing to do a postal vote now needed to list their NI number. To date there was no remedy in sight with the Stodmarsh problem. Aline concluded by noting that ABC will be moving to Charter House and vacating the Civic Centre.

**Borough Councillor David Ledger:** Noted that the Scrutiny Committee were meeting the following week and South East Water will be attending. They will be asked questions regarding their supply and problems that had been occurring in the area.

During discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would be proactive regarding complaints with South East Water and if made aware of any issues would put forward complaints. The Clerk was asked again to put forward a complaint regarding the number of tankers visiting the works in Warehorne Road and ask if there is a solution i.e., perhaps an extension to the facility.

**Rural South Beat Officer: Darren Laker** Had emailed the parish clerk and introduced himself. The Clerk has informed him of when meetings are held and he had promised to attend when possible. During a brief discussion in which problems with youths hanging around the bus shelter in Ruckinge Road and leaving it dirty and using the area as a toilet was highlighted, it was agreed that the Clerk will ask Darren to patrol the bus shelter/information centre when he is in the area.

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

**Mike Wady:** noted

- i) Johnsons Corner had received a good clean, including the flag pole for those who wished to visit the area over Remembrance weekend.
- ii) He highlighted that there were a number of vehicles going the wrong way into Ruckinge Road. The Clerk is to put in a request for better signage.
- iii) There is a blocked drain outside 1 Dukes Meadow. The Clerk is to report this to Highways.
- iv) The bus shelter was being locked regularly by a resident. It was agreed that a thank you present would be given the resident at Christmas.

During a brief discussion it was noted that youths were still using the bus shelter to hang around in and at times using it as a toilet.

**Steve Newton:** thanked Cllr David Ledger for the help he provided recently with the enforcement team at ABC.

**David White:** highlighted that the overgrown shrubs at the allotment site had begun to be cleared.

**Sid Gittens:** noted that he and his wife were continuing to keep Forge Gardens tidy. He highlighted that the War Memorial application was still under consultation and that to date there had been one comment from the Public Rights of Way & Access who had no objections.

**Basil Smith:** highlighted that tankers continued to visit the sewage works in Warehorne Road at all hours. The Clerk is to contact South East Water and ask if an extension to the plant is likely. Basil further noted that the lamp post continued to be in the middle of the footpath creating a hazard. The Clerk to request an update of its planned removal.

**Sadie Mitchell:** Noted that the school crossing remained unfinished after the road had been closed for two weeks. During a brief discussion it was highlighted there had been a rumour that the allocation of housing association units had been increased at the Nightingale Development. The Clerk was asked if she could get an update on this and the allocation of a nursing home at the site.

**Mags Wellsted-Boorman:** reported that she had 46 poppies to go up in the village; it was agreed that those that could help would meet at the top of the high-street on Thursday at 10am. Due to bad weather the community firework display had been postponed and would now be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Mags concluded by highlighting that the HDSLAs had held their AGM, during which Andy Ansley had stood down from Chairman and Mike Taylor had agreed to step up to Vice-Chair.

**8. Planning Update & Review Applications Received**

**Appeal: Application: 22/00884**

Location: Orlestone Rise, Ruckinge Road.

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

Decision: Appeal Dismissed

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

- Circulars and News Bulletins from various organisations had been forwarded via email to members.

**10. Christmas: Parish Competition, Christmas Tree & Other Considerations:** During discussion it was noted:

- Mike would purchase a Christmas tree and make arrangements for putting this up at Forge Gardens.
- Father Christmas was visiting the village on 17<sup>th</sup> December.
- Members agreed that they would individually go round the village and take note of the best Christmas light displays. Voting would take place via online and there would be three prizes of gift cards; one for the best display and 2 for the runners up.
- It was agreed that the next meeting have a shortened agenda and that Christmas drinks follow it. The Clerk was asked to invite representatives from various organisations to the drinks.
- It was agreed that a Christmas Card and Hamstreet Wine be sent to Therouanne.

**11. Finance:**

**Budget Review/Update:** had been 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. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the fireworks for the village display would be covered and donations received would offset this expenditure.

To	For	Amount	Cheque No
Parish Clerk	Salary for November '23	520.00	1805
Parish Clerk	Use of Home as an Office	120.00	1805

**12. Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business:** no items were brought forward.

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

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7pm

Meeting Concluded 8.32pm

Chairman's Signature: