

# ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

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

**Also Present:** Borough Councillor David Ledger, Jemma Thompson - Chair to the Hamstreet and District Sports & Leisure Association (HDSLA), Alex Milward From the Pound Leas Recreation Ground Project Group and PC Darren Laker.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Mags Wellsted-Boorman, Sadie Michell and Steve Newton who had prior engagements and Basil Smith who was unwell. Those present agreed these apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from Borough Councillor Aline Hicks who was on holiday.
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): None were made at this point of the meeting
3. **Minutes From OPC's AGM Held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025: To Be Authorised as Being A Correct Record:** Sid Gittens proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed/authorised by the chairman. David White seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.
4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The AGM Held On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.** No matters arising were brought forward at this point of the meeting.
5. **Reports/Updates From Representatives of the Community Including Kent County Councillor Bill Barrett, & Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger**  
**David Ledger:** highlighted that consultation on the Local Plan 2041 should begin in July and would run for 8 weeks. He would be meeting with representatives from Southern Water to discuss the Waste Water Works in Warehorne Road.  
**Beat Officer Darren Laker:** Darren reported that there were no major issues in the area at the moment. He had held surgeries in the Cosy Kettle and would continue to do so and could be approached if there were any local problems.  
During a brief discussion the problem of human waste in the car park was highlighted. The Chairman is to investigate into the provision of CCTV. It was highlighted that sensor lighting may help. The street light at the edge of the car park was still not working and the Clerk is to report the issue again. A request was made that when Darren was in the area, especially in the evenings he visits the carpark.
6. **Pound Leas Recreation Ground: Update – Jemma Thompson (Chair of the HDSLA):** had circulated a plan showing the draft proposals/vision for Pound Leas Recreation Ground with a report regarding discussions that had been held regarding the proposals based around the possibility of having 3G pitches or not. (Attached)  
During discussion it was noted that the community would be consulted regarding the proposals via:
  - i) A consultation leaflet inviting a response. This would provide information regarding the project and would be delivered to every household in the parish.
  - ii) Social media
  - iii) HDSLA website

A Funday that would be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 11am on Pound Leas Recreation Ground where residents could view the plans, ask questions and make comments. No decision would be made until the consultation period ended and comments received could be reviewed.

It was agreed that Simon Cole would be contacted and asked if S106 funding in future developments could be set aside for the project. It was noted that Jemma had put in a request to ABC, seeking information on current S106 commitment that had not yet been spent with a view of having this 'freed up' for this project. It was further reported that:

- i) Arrangements had been made for the bottom half of Pound Leas Recreation Ground to be temporarily rented out for the use of grazing sheep and/or hay making.
- ii) There was funding available under S106 from The Pippins development (Planning Application No 18/0056). According to the email from ABC there was some £117,149 for capital expenditure and £24,034.34 for maintenance costs relating to the provision of outdoor gym equipment and play provision on Pound Leas Recreation Ground. ABC had confirmed that the funding under play provision could cover costs relating to a pump track. The funding will be available until 28<sup>th</sup> June 2034.
- iii) The parish council's solicitor had been emailed with a request that he review, amend if necessary, and approve two agreements between OPC and HDSL A. One being an updated agreement between HDSL A and OPC for top half of Pound Leas Recreation Ground and the other for the bottom half of Pound Leas Recreation Ground. No response had been received to date. During a brief discussion it was agreed that if no response had been received by the Parish Council's solicitor, before the next meeting, the existing agreements that had been sent to him would be reviewed at the next meeting with the possibility of them being adopted,
- iv) **Insurance:** The parish council's annual insurance premium had now been paid. While reviewing the schedule, it had been noted that cover was being provided for playgrounds. Following investigation, it had been noted that cover was being provided and paid for by the Parish Council for the MUGA (which came under 'playground' cover)  
During a brief discussion the question was raised as to whether the parish council should continue to pay for this cover as the MUGA was run, maintained and managed by the HDSL A who received an income from it for renting it out. It was jointly agreed between Jemma and the Chair plus members present that the HDSL A would take on the necessary insurance cover for the MUGA.

*Following discussion, Jemma Thompson, Alex Milward and Cllr David Ledger left the meeting.*

7. **Greensand Way: Information Point** Information regarding the Greensand Way was provided to Sid who will put this up at Forge Gardens. It was agreed that the Chairman and Sid would investigate into having a permanent marker placed at Forge Gardens.
8. **Reports/Updates Received From Parish Councillors Including Highways Update:**  
**Mike Wady:** highlighted that the entrance to Hamstreet Garden Centre flooded when it rained and that this water went across the road. The Clerk is to contact the garden centre to highlight this issue to them. Mike also highlighted the water leak on the side of the road by the doctor's surgery. During a brief discussion it was agreed that those present would help compile a list of highways issues that needed addressing this would be used as a starting point to address problems,  
**Sid Gittens:** raised concern regarding the state of the footpaths in the village, many of which were a tripping hazard. The Clerk is to contact the new Kent County Councillor and ask if he could attend an informal site meeting so that issues could be highlighted.  
**David White:** reported that the new allotment holder had been working hard to improve his plot.  
**Dave Farrell:** reported that the track that run between the houses in Ashford Road to the footpath to The Pippins had now been completed. During discussion it was highlighted that there was a lack of speed signs following the development of The Pippins and The Nightingales. The Clerk is to raise these issues with KCC Highways – missing 30mph signs by the primary academy, by Bank, on Ashford Road by the turning into Warehorne Road and by the shop in the village centre.

**Chairman:** highlighted that on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July a community bowls afternoon would be held starting at 2pm.

**Mags Wellsted-Boorman:** in her absence the Clerk highlighted that the Firework Committee held a meeting which had been advertised via posters and on Hamstreet's Facebook page. During the meeting it was agreed that no further displays would be held in Hamstreet. This decision had been made due to various safety concerns. The committee had agreed that funds in their bank account would be used to promote sports and leisure activities in the area.

#### 9. Planning: Applications Received & Updates

No 2025/0954 Orlestone Grange, Church Lane, TN26 2EN  
Proposal: Removal of variation of conditions regarding planning application no 2024/2345 to allow repositioning and enlargement of the garage and annexe including changes to the position of windows.  
Comments: No objection was made.

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

- Various circulars, bulletins and fraud notices had been circulated to members via email.

#### 11. Finance:

**Budget Review:** had been circulated to members prior the meeting. Paper copies were made available to those present.

**Update:** Online banking was now possible for the parish clerk and she could now authorise payment of bills and print up-to-date bank statements. However, she could not add more people to the list of signatories or add people to allow them access to the online bank accounts. Only the parish clerk and the Chairman currently had access. For transparency reasons, the Parish Clerk is to print of bank statements on the day of parish council meetings so that all income and expenditure could be viewed.

**Insurance:** As noted earlier in the meeting, payment had been made for the Parish Council's Annual Insurance Premium.

**Authorisation of Payments:** The following payments were noted. It was agreed that the Chairman had delegated authority to approve payments if required before the next meeting. An up-to-date bank statement was made available to those present. The Clerk highlighted that bank charges had recently become applicable to the parish councils current bank account.

#### Payments Made

To	For	Amount	Pay Details	Date
[REDACTED]				

(FPO: Faster Payment Order)

#### Income Received

From	For	Amount	Date
Clive & Denise Thompson	6 Month Use of Lower Field Pound Leas	£ 1.00	23.5.25
HMRC	VAT Reimbursed	£2,960.44	2.6.25

#### 12. Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business: Officially invite KCC Councillor Bill Barrett to the meeting; members to provide the Clerk with a list of outstanding items relating to Highways.

#### 13. Date & Time of Next Meeting: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm

Meeting Concluded at 9.15pm

Chairman's Signature: