

# ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), Mike Wady (Vice-Chairman), Dave Farrell, Sid Gittens, Basil Smith, Mags Wellsted-Boorman and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

**Also Present:** Kent County Councillor Bill Barrett, Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger.

**Public Comments & Observations:** None brought forward.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from David White, Steve Newton and Sadie Michell; all had prior engagements. Those present agreed 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): None were made at this point of the meeting
3. **Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025: To Be Authorised as Being A Correct Record:** Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed/authorised by the chairman. Sid Gittens seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.
4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The Meeting Held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025:**
  - Ashford Borough Council Local Plan 2041: Consultation had now closed. Comments from OPC had been logged following online discussions.
  - The Clerk will be sending out the annual allotment agreements in the next few days; as agreed at the last meeting the annual fee will be increased to £7.50.
5. **Reports/Updates From Representatives of the Community Including Kent County Councillor Bill Barrett, & Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger**

**Kent County Councillor Bill Barrett:** Introduced himself to those present and apologised for his lack of attendance to meetings. Following a rocky start and health issues he was now able to fully engage and provide support.

Bill explained that Reform came into KCC with a cost cutting agenda with mainly non statutory services being looked at for savings. He completed his report by highlighting that he had a funding budget and could be approached for funding help.

During a brief discussion, Bill was thanked for attending the meeting and it was agreed that a walk-around Hamstreet be organised during the last week in October, various problem issues were highlighted with parking in the main high street being a major safety problem.

**Borough Councillor Aline Hicks:** Aline began her report also expressing concern regarding the ongoing parking issues in Hamstreet.

  - She had attended and spoken at the Hallam Public Inquiry (*Ref Planning Application 2024/1908: Land between Hillside and Carter House, South of Hamstreet Road for the construction of up to 140 new homes*) but was not aware when the inspector's decision would be made.
  - She had recently attended ABC's Community Awards ceremony and former Ashford MP Damian Green was given the Freedom of the Borough, and she collected a posthumous award for Mick Burgess in recognition of his long service.
  - ABC are providing SWALE Borough Council with CCTV cameras. To enhance public safety and crime prevention efforts. Some of Ashford's CCTV system will be deployed to SWALE's town centres and places where a need has been identified.

- A recently held Cabinet Meeting detailed how affordable homes were calculated and could be viewed on their website which also contained discussion on how affordable housing could be delivered.

**Borough Councillor David Ledger:** Thanked the parish council for copying him in to their response to the Local Plan 2041 and highlighted that the Task Group would be meeting at the end of the month.

## 6. Pound Leas Recreation Ground: Update

**Agreements:** A meeting is to be arranged in November between representatives of the HDSLAs and OPC. This would enable the draft agreements for the Upper and Lower Fields of Pound Leas Recreation Ground that had been drawn up and circulated to be agreed and signed.

### **Pound Leas Recreation Ground (Lower Field):**

- \* The six-month rolling agreement for Clive Langridge to use this part of the field to graze sheep was due for renewal on 20<sup>th</sup> November. The Chair of the HDSLAs was happy for this to continue and members present agreed.
- \* KCC are arranging for the ditch that runs alongside Pound Leas Recreation Ground and the Ashford Road to be cleared. Spoil from this will be placed on the field. They highlighted it is the responsibility of OPC that the ditch that runs through the field is cleansed, as this is above the outlet from the culvert across the entrance and will hold water back. This will need to be carried out after they have carried out work to the ditch as there will be no change in the flow of water from the gullies until this has been completed.

Mags reported that the HDSLAs had made arrangements for this ditch to be cleansed following the works by KCC.

### **Report From Jemma Thompson – Chair to the HDSLAs (sent via email)**

#### **‘Pound Leas Project**

- Meeting held with the Football Foundation (FF) – they remain supportive of the project.
- As the funding request is over £1 million, the project will need to go before their national panel for approval.
- That process will now begin and FF forms have been received and require agreements from OPC and HDSLAs confirming joint delivery of the project.
- Andy and I will review and complete the forms this week (or as much of the forms as we can at this stage)
- Formal agreements (lease) is also required- so need to set up a meeting with OPC and HDSLAs in November (or at a time most people can attend).

#### **Container Pads & Grant**

- Concrete pads for 5 new containers now complete.
- Grant funding confirmed to cover both groundwork and containers.
- Our 25% of funding has been paid, we are now waiting for the FF to pay the remaining in order for us to have a delivery date for the containers.

#### **Car Park Extension / Solar Power Resin**

- Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in securing the solar power resin grant.
- Meeting scheduled in November with the Leisure Contract Manager at ABC to explore alternative funding options and provide a Pound Leas Project update.

#### **Accounts**

- Full accounts will be shared after our AGM on 11th November.’

**Car Park:** The Chairman reported that CCTV cameras had been reset in the container area and a 16 port had been provided which meant it would be possible to have an additional camera for the car park.

7. **Highways:** An updated list of reported issues had been circulated to members prior the meeting. The majority of outstanding issues related to street lights not working but were logged as having

works scheduled to them. It was noted that works to various potholes in Warehorne Road had been scheduled to take place as had worn road markings in Warehorne Road.

During a brief discussion Cllr Barrett noted that to bring all roads up to a safe standard KCC would need in the region of £600 million which they did not have. Their current action being to react as best they could to problems.

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP): Kieran Doble the Community Engagement Office had agreed to meet with representatives of OPC on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 1pm.

During a brief discussion it was agreed that the meeting be held in the Sports Pavilion and that Cllr Barrett would attend.

## **8. Reports/Updates Received From Parish Councillors:**

**Mags Wellsted-Boorman:** reported

- Overgrown hedging and foliage in The Alley which sat between Bunkley Meadow and Ruckinge Road was causing an obstruction. *Reported to KCC Highways after the meeting: ref no 906795.*
- The oak tree by the corner of Pound Leas Car Park had been cut back.
- A dog bin on Pound Leas Recreation Ground (top field) had been removed by ABC and a new multipurpose bin had been supplied by the car park.
- A lorry cab that was parking opposite Pound Leas Car Park which was causing an obstruction had been reported to the DVLA as it had no road tax.
- 2 benches located on Pound Leas Recreation Ground (top field) had been removed as they were no longer fit for purpose.

**Andy Othen:** reported that The Hamstreet Girls FC would be renting the football pitch at The Nightingales temporarily.

**Dave Farrell:** reported that the path that led from Ashford Road to the Pippins was now completed and had been well done.

**Basil Smith:** highlighted that Victory Hall had been subject to vandalism, with windows being smashed. The committee were disappointed with the lack of police interest. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the Victory Hall Committee be provided with details of someone who could help with police liaison.

**Sid Gittens:**

- Circulated details of a cabinet for the map for Greensand Way. It was agreed that Cllr Barrett be asked to help with funding for this. It was agreed that Sid be given delegated authority to agree the most suitable cabinet.
- He highlighted that the hedging by the Old Bakery and Eastside was obstructing the footpath.

During a brief discussion it was noted that this issue had been reported to KCC Highways who had responded saying that the hedges in question did leave enough space on the footpaths for pedestrians. It was agreed that this be viewed during the walkaround with Cllr Barrett.

- He highlighted that the brick path leading from the main Highstreet to Bunkley Meadow was a tripping hazard. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the clerk raise this safety issue to KCC Highways. *Issue reported to KCC who informed OPC that this footpath was the responsibility of the Public Rights of Way Team. Issue reported to PROW reference number 251050665..*

## **9. Planning: Applications Received & Updates:** No new planning applications had been received.

- Consultation had commenced regarding development for 76 dwellings at the site that housed Windsor Food Machinery. It was agreed that the agent be invited to the next meeting.

- Concern had been raised that a garden room at Orlestone Grange in Church Lane (ref planning application no 2024/2382) was to be used to house a business. On making enquiries to the business, the Clerk had been informed that the owner was to put in an application for change of use.

**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.

**Section 106 Funding to the Friends of St Mary's Church:** It was noted that the parish council were currently holding on to £21,232.80 for the following works, excluding VAT:

- i) Gutter and rainwater pipe repair
- ii) Replacement of 2 rainwater tanks and associated works.
- iii) Vegetation clearance to the East Boundary of the graveyard to allow access.

There is an expected shortfall of some £200 for this, which the Friends of St Mary's are to cover. Funds of £12,975.60 to cover the cost of maintenance for the above projects had already been passed on to the Friends of St Mary's. The Chair (Angela Bromfield) had reported that to date work for the project had not yet been scheduled due to the work commitments of the contractors.

**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.

To	For	Amount	Pay Details
Greenspace Gardeners	Work in September	90.00	FPO 2.10.25
Parish Clerk	Salary for October	589.33	SO
Parish Clerk	Home as Office Expenses October	120.00	SO
Bank Charge	Service Charge	4.24	PAY 9.9.25

**12. Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business:** None brought forward.

**13. Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 at 7pm

Meeting Concluded at 9.30pm

Chairman's Signature: