

# ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026 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, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

**Also Present:** Borough Councillor David Ledger and Jemma Thompson (Chair to the HDSLAs)

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Sadi Michell and Steve Newton both having prior engagements. Those present agreed these apologies be accepted. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor Aline Hicks who was attending another meeting. .

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): Mags Wellsted-Boorman: member/Trustee of the HDSLAs

3. **Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026: To Be Authorised as Being A Correct Record:** David White proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed/authorised by the chairman. Mags Wellsted-Boorman seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The Meeting Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026:**

- i) No further correspondence had been received from Southern Water regarding OPC's request that the track alongside Hamstreet allotments be made good. Reference: their vehicles had created deep ruts. The Clerk is to continue pressurising them.
- ii) Renewal of Lease For Bus Shelter: No response had been received from Hallet & Co to OPC's reply to their letter regarding the renewal of the lease. OPC had commented that they were happy to proceed with renewing the lease with Mrs Jean Brown and had asked if Hallet & Co could prepare the renewal lease and advise OPC what costs would be involved.
- iii) Following the last meeting the Hamstreet & Ruckinge Conservation Group had contacted the parish council asking for funding towards the cost of a leaflet that they wished to circulate to residents highlighting the Mountain Farm planning application for development. During online discussion it was agreed that £50 be provided to help towards this cost.

5. **Reports/Updates From Representatives of the Community Including Kent County Councillor Bill Barrett, & Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger**

**Borough Councillor David Ledger:** highlighted that UK Power Networks would be installing electricity cables from Kenardington to Ruckinge which would affect the village. Details were made available to those present. It was noted that the work was likely to take some eighteen months.

**Borough Councillor Aline Hicks:** when sending her apologies noted that residents are concerned about the discharges from Southern Water WWTP. She had been advised by a colleague that Southern Water now report on discharges at each site publicly and that this information was available at Rivers and Seas Watch.

There had been a community engagement event with Southern Water on Friday, during which they talked about infrastructure investment and being made to reduce the discharges. It was suggested to her that perhaps OPC would like to hold a community event with them so that Hamstreet residents can see how much investment is being made locally.

During a brief discussion it was noted that a site visit to the waste water works in Warehorne Road in 2025 had revealed that the site was large enough to be expanded and capacity increased. Basil highlighted that there were currently 3 tankers visiting the works every day. The Clerk is to contact Southern Water and ask if there are plans to for this site to be made

larger and what investment is planned for the area. She will also make enquiries as to whether they would be willing to hold a community information event in Hamstreet. *Cllr David Ledger left the meeting*

## 6. Pound Leas Recreation Ground: Update

**Agreements:** A draft agreement between OPC and HDSL A for Pound Leas Recreation Ground (lower field) had been received from the Parish Council's solicitor. This had been circulated to members. The parish council's solicitor had suggested that a lease would provide the HDSL A long term security and would perhaps better enable them to secure funding.

During discussion it was agreed that a meeting be requested with the solicitor; it was questioned a lease rather than an agreement would be more suitable due to the funding process with the FA. *Following discussion Jemma Thompson left the meeting*

7. **Highways:** an update of all issues had been circulated prior the meeting. Regarding complaints regarding various blocked drains/gullies the Clerk had received 'circular' emails which noted that regular maintenance of cleansing drains and gullies took place and no extra work was required. Mags Wellsted-Boorman reported that from 10<sup>th</sup> March works would be carried out to the potholes in Ruckinge Road. It was noted that there was a large pothole outside The Quinces in the high street; the clerk is to report this issue.

Mike Wady reported:

- He had tried to find out where the excess water, that was travelling along the track that run between Hillside Cottage and Rosedale was coming from but had not been successful.
- He highlighted that the footpath in Bourne Lane was muddy and required clearing; the clerk is to report this issue to Piers Griffin from Natural England.
- Kieran Doble (Highways Community Engagement Officer) had now left his position.  
The Clerk was asked to contact his replacement asking if there was any further progress to Kieran's enquiries regarding the height of the kerb stones in the centre of the village (he was making enquiries into have their height increased to help prevent vehicles parking on the footpaths)
- He questioned the information received from Highways regarding a drainage pipe that run from Victory Hall's playing field and under the road in Cock Lane, that this was the responsibility of Victory Hall. During the next walkaround he is to highlight the issue again.

**HGV Parking:** There was a continuing problem of a large HGV regularly parking opposite Pound Leas Car Park. Following enquiries regarding signage prohibiting large vehicles parking there, the Clerk had been requested that this be put on the parish council's HIP, it had been noted by Highways that such a sign would not be enforceable.

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

**Basil Smith:** highlighted that the play area by Victory Hall was inspected twice a year at a cost of £620 each time. They had received quotes for repairs and plumbing work. Unfortunately, the rubber surface was breaking up and required replacing. It was agreed that in future planning applications 106 funding be requested for maintenance and upgrading of the play area.

**Mags Wellsted-Boorman:** reported that some postal boxes were being replaced and that the existing one would be sealed. She asked if this was to happen in Hamstreet, the Parish Council make enquiries asking to adopt them. Those present agreed with this suggestion.

Mags highlighted that the noticeboard at the bus shelter was allowing water in. Sid and Mike are to investigate and repair it.

She was in the process of ordering 6 wreaths to be used at various memorials during the year, this would prove easier and cheaper than obtaining them from the Hamstreet Branch of RBL. The clerk had received notice from the Hamstreet Branch of the RBL that OPC owed them £90 for the wreaths they had provided during 2025.

**Mike Wady:** highlighted that he is to replace the flag at Johnsons Corner and the gardener had recently attended and completed a quick tidy up. A short service was to be held at 11am on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

## 9. Planning: Applications Received & Updates:

**PA/2026/02972** Rectory Walk, Cock Lane, Hamstreet, TN26 2HU

**Proposal:** Variation of Conditions 2, 3 and 4 of planning permission PA/2024/2248 for detached open cart lodge to replace temporary 'Clarke' garage, to allow for Variations during construction of the garage, required for adequate support of the structure.

**Comment:** Those present had no problems with the application.

### Updates:

**No: 2025/2106**

**Proposal** 8 Romney Road, Hamstreet, Ashford, TN26 2JB – Two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension with fenestration changes to front porch including relocation of front door, following demolition of existing garage

**Decision** Approved with conditions by ABC

**No: 2024/2382 & ENF/2025/0359 Orlestone Grange**

Building Consent Granted For Single Storey Garden Room

**Complaint:** Breach of planning.

**Action:** The owner has been requested by ABC to put in retrospective planning

**Update:** The Enforcement Team as ABC had informed that Clerk that retrospective planning was to made by 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**No: 2026/0034 44 Orlestone View, Hamstreet, TN26 2LB**

**Proposal** Widening of access with gates

**Comment** No objections were raised.

**Decision:** Still under consultation

**NOT/2025/2322 Wyevale Garden Centre, Marsh Road, TN26 2JZ**

**Proposal:** Reserved matters application pursuant to planning permission 22/00792/AS for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the construction of 7 two-storey dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and drainage.

**Decision:** Still under consultation

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

- Various circulars, bulletins and fraud notices had been circulated to members via email.
- Letter from UK Power Networks regarding the installation of electricity cables from Kenardington to Ruckinge; details circulated via email to members.
- An email had been received from the S106 Team at ABC which highlighted that there was a surplus of S106 funding for allotments from another parish council. Consequently, there was £5,000 funding available for allotments. OPC had been asked if they had any projects this could be spent on. The clerk had replied asking if this funding could be used to improve the track that run alongside the allotments. She had been reminded that there was £17,406.40 that could be used for this (has to be spend by March 2028).

During a brief discussion it was agreed that this was the responsibility of Southern Water and the Clerk should chase again for them to repair the track as it was their vehicles that had caused the damage.

## 11. Finance:

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

**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
Lloyds Bank	Service Charge	4.25	PAY 10.2.26
CC Print Services	Contribution Towards Leaflet	£ 55.00	FPO
Parish Clerk	Salary for March	£ 589.33	SO
Parish Clerk	March: Home as Office Expenses	£ 120.00	SO
M.Wady	Reimburse Costs For Refreshments	£ 11.65	FPO
A.Seton Hamstreet RBL	Wreaths Provided in 2025	£ 90.00	FPO
Clerk	Reimburse Cost of Wreaths for 2026	£ 134.94	FPO
B E Ames Ltd	St Mary's Church: Refurbishment	£9,531.60	FPO
Clerk	Reimburse Cost: Stationary	£ 43.77	FPO
Lloyds Bank	Service Charge	£ 4.25	PAY 23.3.26
Greenspace Gardeners	Work in Village	£ 170.00	FPO
M. Wellsted-Boorman	Reimburse Stationary Costs	£ 17.99	FPO

12. **Plans for Annual Assembly to Be Held In April 2026:** During discussion it was agreed that the Annual Assembly be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Those present agreed that a short meeting would be held prior the Annual Assembly which would commence at 7.30pm. Mags is to make arrangements for the refreshments. During a short discussion the recipient of the Community Award was agreed; Mags offered to make arrangements for a suitable gift.

13. **Date & Time of Next Meetings:** Monthly Meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 6.30pm  
Annual Assembly 7.30pm;  
AGM 11<sup>th</sup> May AGM at 7pm

Meeting Concluded at 9.01pm

Chairman's Signature: