

Orlestone Parish Council

Meeting held at the Victory Hall on 25th July 2005

Present: Andrew MacBean (in the Chair), George Sparks, Paul Settle, Mandy Mount, Anita Hollowday, David White, Sebastian Barrow, and the Clerk.

Also present: County Councillor Mike Angell, George Weller, Adam Colton and 13 members of the public.

Apologies: Keith Taylor, Ian Kirkland and Ward Cllr Davison.

Minutes of Meeting held on 27th June 2005

These were approved.

Matters arising

(a) Larger Post Box for Bourne Wood

The Clerk had been in touch with Paul Cormack, Collection Manager of the Royal Mail. The survey had not justified a larger box, but after discussion he agreed to install a second-hand one when it came available. The Clerk would follow this up.

(b) Conservation Area

The Chairman and Clerk had suggested all the areas of the village where the Conservation Area could be extended, and a response from ABC was awaited.

(c) Rubbish in The Street

This matter has been referred to the Community Warden.

(d) General/Local Needs Housing

OPC had been informed that 50% of the Housing Association properties in the Parker Farm estate should be let to people with local connections. This was also true of other ABC properties in the village. OPC would now be keeping a list of people interested in renting one of these. Nine applications had already been received. A local needs housing survey has been requested of A.B.C.

Finance

VAT

A VAT expert is looking at the correspondence between OPC and Customs & Excise concerning the reclaiming of VAT on grants made by Sports and Leisure to OPC, free of charge.

Current Account

	Balance on 13th June	9,155.33
Less	Doug Cardno 25.00; Clerk 1,025.13; Victory Hall Hire 12.00; Bliby Plastics (bus shelter/notice board Forge Garden) 28.20.	
	Balance 13th July	8,065.00
Cheques to approve:	Forge Gardens tree felling 75.00; Doug Cardno 25.00; Hugh Blenkin (Neighbourhood Watch signs) 50.00; Victory Hall 12.00.	

Deposit Account

	Balance on 14th June`	793.06
Add	Interest July	1.46
	Balance on 14th July	794.52

Orlestone Parish Council No.2 Account

	Balance 13th June	12.50
Add	Vat Repayment (Stage 3 Payment)	1,995.00
	Wimpey Final Contribution	15,980.00
	Balance 13th July	17,987.50
£7,782.61 Stage 4 Payment MUGA (inclusive of VAT) not yet made		
Balance remaining: 2.5% retention, due in 6 months £1,687.89 incl. VAT.		

OPC Youth Club Account

Balance 1st June **4,162.38**

Quarterly Statements only from now on.

2005 Audit Process

The External Auditor had completed the audit with no comments.

Planning

Cypress House, Marsh Road. 03/779/AS.

Notice of Consent by ABC to brick colours.

Notice of Approval of amended plans by ABC of change from wood to UPVC plastic finish of doors and windows.

Police Matters

Cllr Sparks would attend the Police Parish Forum meeting in Tenterden on 10th August at 7pm in Tenterden Town Hall.

It was agreed to write to the school asking them to discourage parents from parking in St Mary's Close, Bankside and Lancaster Close when picking up their children as they were causing congestion in these areas, blocking drives, and encourage them to use the car park in Pound Leas and walk from there.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman, Hugh Blenkin had bought the new signs and would be reimbursed. The minutes of the last meeting would be circulated to councillors.

Speedwatch

This was being re-launched at a meeting on August 17th at 7pm, at the Police College in Maidstone. Cllr Sparks would attend.

Community Warden

Graeme Whittington had been seen around the village often and would be encouraged to patrol areas where anti-social behaviour had been witnessed.

Sports and Leisure

The Country Fayre had raised more money than usual owing to the very successful Saturday night event.

(i) MUGA

The courts were being used regularly, when the weather was not too warm to damage them. The football and netball teams had a regular booking from 10-12am on Sunday morning. Otherwise, booking was building up steadily. The Clerk was the first number to ring (732975); if unavailable callers would receive a message to call the Chairman (732981) or Sid Gittens (732553). Bookings cost £4 per hour per court, and run on the

hour. The tennis nets had been damaged slightly by mishandling. Repairs and improvements would be made to prevent this happening again.

(ii) Floodlighting

The installation of floodlighting was progressing.

(iii) Drainage

The works would start in September. The Chairman and Mr Gittens would be walking round with the contractor soon to discuss the process and timescale.

(iv) New Pavilion on Pound Lees

New estimates are to be sought to get an accurate figure to enable granting bodies to be approached. The fund raising group from HDSL A will deal with this matter.

Cotton Hill Sheltered Housing

Twelve members of the public attended the meeting to ask for OPC's support in objecting to the removal of the live-in warden in the Cotton Hill sheltered accommodation. OPC agreed to write letters to ABC.

Highways and Drainage

(i) New Lighting in Conservation Area

The works should go ahead within 4-6 weeks.

(ii) Benches on Ashford Road and by MUGA.

It was agreed to go ahead with the bench on Ashford Road since the drainage works might make the installation of benches by the MUGA difficult.

(iii) Adoption of Lancaster Close

This had been completed.

Administration

Pound Lees would have to be licensed to allow events to take place on it. James Hann was the ABC Licensing Officer who could advise OPC and had suggested to start the process at the beginning of 2006 in time for the summer season.

Communication

The website was now officially on line. The address is:

www.orsestonepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/ It was agreed that David White would be the only one able to edit or add to the site. He asked for any information suitable for inclusion to be sent to him regularly. The next newsletter would be at the end of September.

Victory Hall Committee

Cllr Hollowday reported the events of the last committee meeting. It was agreed that OPC should write a letter to the Chairman of the Victory Hall Committee expressing their support for the concerns of their representative, Cllr Hollowday.

Youth Club

Cllr Mount hoped to organise tennis and netball coaching using the MUGA in the summer holidays on Tuesday afternoons.

Fireworks

It was hoped this could still take place on Pound Lees, but it would depend on the drainage works. The date had been fixed for Saturday 5th November.

Allotments

The allotments were being well used and there was still a waiting list.

Kent Village of the Year

Cllr Mount reported that Eastry had won this year. She and Cllr Hollowday would attend the prize giving.

Greater Ashford Development Framework

The Chairman urged all councillors to reply to the consultation, asking that there should be no development south of Magpie Hall Lane.

Payphone, St Mary's Close

It was agreed to inform BT that OPC would prefer that this payphone become cashless rather than be removed all together.

Footpaths

Adam Colton, the Footpath Warden, gave a report of the problems with some of the footpaths in the village. He would ask for advice from Brian Lawrence, and the remaining problems would be reported by the Clerk to the KCC Public Rights of Way Officer. English Nature had agreed to improve the way marking in Hamstreet Woods.

Correspondence

- 1/ Mid-Kent Water: ban on sprinklers and unattended hosepipes – notice board
- 2/ Lydd Airport Action Group mailing - filed
- 3/ Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium Kent – consultation – Cllr Settle
- 4/ Kent Fire Rescue Service – service performance plan 2005/6 available on www.kent.fire-uk.org
- 5/ KCC Annual Plan 2005/6 – Cllr Settle
- 6/ Parish Forum Minutes - filed
- 7/ Affordable Rural Local Needs Housing – working guidelines -filed
- 8/ ABC Local Development Framework Consultation of Core Strategy.

Any Other Business

Hamstreet Road

Cllr Sparks expressed concern about the safety of the old A2070 in the light of the recent accident, which resulted in the deaths of two teenagers.

Date of next meeting: It was agreed to change the date of the August meeting to Tuesday 30th August

Meeting closed at 9.50pm