

Orlestone Parish Council

Meeting held at the Victory Hall on 23rd May 2005 after A.G.M.

Present: Andrew MacBean (in the Chair), George Sparks, Paul Settle, Mandy Mount, Anita Hollowday, David White, Keith Taylor, Ian Kirkland and the Clerk.

Also present: Four members of the public.

Apologies: Sebastian Barrow, Brian Lawrence and Ward Cllr Davison.

Minutes of Meeting held on 25th April 2005

These were approved.

Councillors' Interests

None were declared for any of the items on the agenda.

Matters arising

(a) Larger Post Box for Bourne Wood

A survey of usage had been done by Royal Mail to establish whether a new box was warranted; the decision was awaited.

(b) Railway Services

It had been announced that there was likely to be a through service to Brighton from Ashford which would stop at Hamstreet. This would lead to an overall improvement to the existing service since at peak times the trains would run every half hour rather than every hour. The weekend service would also be improved. If approved, these changes would take place in December. It was agreed to write to Matt Ball supporting these changes.

Finance

It was agreed to move £1000 into the deposit account to get the higher rate of interest.

Recycling payment

OPC had received £2,062 recycling credits (1,200 glass, 862 paper), a great increase on previous years.

Current Account

	Balance on 13th April	4,127.50
Add	Ashford Borough Council Precept 6,123.93; Twinning Charges 621.00	
Less	Doug Cardno (new rate) 25.00; Church Hall Hire 10.00; Allianz Cornhill Insurance 917.70; Printing@ New Romney (Newsletter) 134.00; Flowers for Mrs J. Brown 50.00; ABC Annual License Fee 31.00; Scotland & Bates (Twinning Transport) 710.00	

Balance 13th May 6,744.93 – 2,226.05 = **8,646.28**

Cheques outstanding: Ruckinge & Hamstreet Scouts & Guides £1,000; E. Neighbour 18.95; Lewis Brockway (Twinning gift) 40.00.

Payment in 18/05/05 outstanding: Recycling Credits: 2,062.22

Cheques to approve: Doug Cardno 25.00; Colin Howland (Tidyman) 19/11/04-22/05/05 432.22; Church Hall Hire 12.00; Friends of St Mary's Corporate Membership £25.

The twinning expenses of £40 for the gift and £710 for the coach travel were also approved.

Deposit Account

	Balance on 14th April	9,160.65
Add	Interest May	17.47
	Balance on 14th May	9,177.59

Orlestone Parish Council No.2 Account

Current Balance **5,007.50**

[MUGA Wimpey 3rd Contribution £16,000 due on completion; Balance to pay on MUGA £22,865.50 (possible VAT left to reclaim = 6,398)]

OPC Youth Club Account

	Balance 1st March	2,965.46
	Balance 1st April	3,726.83
	Balance 3rd May	4,164.15

2005 Audit Process

The internal audit had been completed by Clare Vinson. The Annual Return was completed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. It would be sent off to the external auditor before the end of the month deadline.

VAT

HM Revenue & Customs had again stated that the VAT on the HDSL A contribution to the MUGA could not be reclaimed. A VAT expert would be consulted.

Planning

03/779/AS Cypress House, Marsh Road. Approval by ABC of details of re-piping of watercourse.

Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans

ABC would be producing these for all conservation areas in the borough over the next five years. OPC would be asked to comment on the draft appraisal for Hamstreet.

Police Matters

Neighbourhood Watch

The AGM would be taking place in two weeks. Paul Brosnan would attend.

Community Rural Warden

The warden Graham Whittington had just started work and would attend the next OPC meeting. He had already met with the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Taylor.

Sports and Leisure

(i) MUGA

The MUGA should be ready in time for the Country Fair during which there would be a Lawn Tennis Association coach giving Hamstreet children tennis lessons.

(ii) Drainage

Four quotes had been received and a preferred one had been selected which was approved by OPC. The work would be ordered by OPC when the funds had been organised.

Highways and Drainage

(i) New Lighting in Conservation Area

The pricing for the new lights in the conservation area had been received. Each replacement would cost £365. It was agreed to order ten, with the decision of exactly which ones to replace to be made at the next meeting. It was agreed that this was the beginning of an ongoing programme to improve the appearance of the village.

(ii) Bench on Ashford Road

The Chairman was awaiting a quote.

(iii) Adoption of Lancaster Close

This was proceeding and should be complete by late summer.

(iv) Hamstreet Woods NNR

A letter had been received from Becky Sapsford of English Nature agreeing to site a bench in the entrance of the reserve after the works to the entrance had been completed. A sign would also be placed on the notice board asking dog owners to pick up after their dogs and use the bin at the entrance.

(v) Cock Lane

This should be resurfaced in the current financial year.

(vi) County Lengthsmen scheme

Cllr Taylor had been nominated as the Parish Council Lengthsmen Co-ordinator.

Administration

Cllr Settle recommended that OPC did not try to become a Quality Parish Council. The risk assessment of the MUGA would have to be carried out as soon as it was completed.

Communication

Cllr White had produced a website using the virtually free KCC package. It was favourably received. The address would be publicised when the site was ready.

Victory Hall Committee

Cllr Hollowday reported that there were no changes to the committee following the AGM the previous week. Bookings had gone up over the past year. The Chairman had thanked OPC in her report for the contribution to the roundabout. The new architect had produced drawings of the extension and would be acting as project manager, obtaining quotes for the works. It had been established that the Victory Hall and the village green were owned by the Official Custodian for the Charity Commissioners the decision to transfer the land was taken by the Parish Council in 1950.

Youth Club

Cllr Mount reported that the Kent Community Foundation had given a £1000 grant which would be used to replace the broken pool tables.

Fireworks

Cllr Mount asked whether the insurance situation would change if the event were to be held on a different field this year. The Clerk to check.

Planning

05/758/AS Wyevale Garden Centre, Marsh Road. Extension to garden centre. It was agreed to support this application and to comment that the cladding of the new building should be in a sympathetic colour to the current cladding.

Twinning

This had been a very successful event which had included a celebration of the 60th anniversary of VE Day. 36 people from Hamstreet had taken part.

SAPP

This group had sent a letter to ABC agreeing to the current option for Ashford's Future to allow the process to continue which would allow more consultation to take place.

Allotments

These had been inspected and appropriate action would be taken.

Correspondence

Local Council Review; KAPC Mailing; ABC Statement of Community Involvement; Minutes of Victory Hall Committee Meetings; KCC PROW Committee re. improving footpath network – copy to A. Colton; Agenda and minutes of Standards Committee; KAPC Ashford Area Committee agenda; ABC Licensing Act document; CPRE Mailing; Forward Plan of Key Decisions; Friend's of St Mary's AGM minutes and Chairman's report; Kent Energy Centre Newsletter; KCC reports on Gypsy sites and Rail Services; KCC Minerals & Waste Discussion pack; Special Constabulary recruitment; Make Kent GM Free Campaign.

Any Other Business

Tree Warden Report

Brian Lawrence had sent in the following report: "There are now eight personal memorial trees planted in the village, a ninth is planned, as well as one dedicated to the Over 60's club and the walnut tree awarded to the village last year. These are all doing well and are regularly inspected.

"Last winter the village was given ten 'wayfarers' trees and ten 'wild service' trees by Ashford Borough Council. These were planted in and around the village in such places as the school, St. Mary's churchyard, Carters Wood estate, doctors surgery, Court Lodge Farm and Johnson's Memorial garden. If the offer is available again this year I shall approach farmers with fields in the village to provide sites in hedgerows etc."

Cllr White suggested that when the adoption process of Lancaster Close was complete additional tree planting could be considered there.

Date of next meeting : Monday 27th June 2005 at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall.

Meeting closed at 10.40pm