

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 6th July 2015 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

Present: George Sparks (Chairman), David Lancaster, Vicky McKissock, Stephen Shorter, Mags Wellsted-Boorman and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Borough Councillor Aline Hick, PCSO Gary Carr and eight members of the public.

1. Apologies: had been received from Mike Wady and Andy Othen (*both away*); those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from Borough Councillor Gareth Bradford and Kent County Councillor Mike Angel.

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): There were none 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): There were none made at this point from Councillors present.

Declaration of Members Other Interest (relating to items on this agenda made in order to comply with the Kent Code of Conduct). It was noted that Steven Shorter's wife is the coordinator to the Hamstreet Neighbourhood Watch Group.

The Chairman asked that agenda item 10 be brought forward due to the number of members of public present who were interested in this agenda item. Those present agreed this request.

10. Planning: Update and Applications Received.

Carters Wood: Proposed Development Survey: It was noted that Ashford Borough Council had put forward a proposal to build three 2 bedroomed wheelchair access bungalows on land to the rear of 33-36 Carters Wood. The Parish Council had not been formally notified of this proposal and members had heard about the forthcoming survey/consultation that had taken place on Friday 3rd July via Hamstreet Village Community Page on Facebook.

The day before the survey/consultation took place the Parish Clerk had received an email from ABC about it; this was circulated to members. This email had been responded to and it had been highlighted that members of the Parish Council were disappointed that consultation, however informal was undertaken without prior notification and discussion with the Parish Council who were the elected representatives for Hamstreet and a more formal consultation meeting had been requested.

An apology was received and it was recorded that offence or upset was not meant by ABC's consultation procedure. The Parish Council were informed that the proposal as it stands was sketchy and very early in the design process and at a later date following a review of the survey it would be judged what kind of meeting and arena was needed.

During discussion that followed it was noted:

- i) This was the usual procedure taken by ABC; a leaflet drop followed by assessment from the replies of a survey. There was negative feedback on the timing and place of the consultation and a more formal consultation had been requested by the Parish Council.
- ii) The area was not a designated play area but a social area/green space. In the past there had been complaints about ball games here and a request for a notice banning them.
- iii) There was a need for affordable/social housing in the village.
- iv) The size and style of the bungalows were too large for the plot.

- v) The road indicated in the draft plan and car-park was not necessary and would result in unwanted parked vehicles in front of existing houses. There was already adequate parking for the area - no more was wanted.
- vi) The area was used by local residents for play and social gatherings and its loss would be felt keenly.
- vii) Concern was expressed for the existing trees and their future.

Following discussion the members of public present left the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Minutes from Parish Council's Meeting Held on 1st June 2015: Steve Shorter proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman of the meeting; Vicky McKissock seconded this proposal.

Minutes From The Parish Council's Planning Meeting Held on 15th June 2015: Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting. Vicky McKissock seconded this proposal.

4. **Matters Arising:**

The Pensions Regulator: As required the Clerk had completed the new enrolment however she was of the understanding that a pension only had to be provided to an employee if they earned over £10,000. Further details are being awaited.

5. **Reports From PCSO Gary Carr:** PCSO Gary Carr reported that things had been fairly quiet in the area during the past month:

- Report of criminal damage to a vehicle was being investigated by police.
- The post box on the junction of Birchet Lane and Hamstreet Road had been removed; investigations are ongoing.
- An un-insured vehicle was reported to the DVLA after being parked in the layby on Ham Mill Lane and a stolen motorcycle was recovered after it was dumped on the side of Birchet Lane.
- There had been several trailer thefts in the rural area normally overnight, Gary highlighted various steps to take that could help stop this from occurring.
- Several farms in the district had been broken into, with chainsaws, quad bikes and tools being stolen.

Cary completed his report by informing those present that there were changes occurring to how PCSOs are to be deployed; he will keep the Parish Council informed. He would be attending the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting.

6. **County Councillor/Borough Councillors' Reports:**

Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: reported that she had put in a request for the bins blocking footpaths to be moved. A short discussion was held concerning the proposals for Carters Wood. *Borough Councillor Aline Hicks left the meeting and a member of the public arrived.*

7. **Members Reports:**

Johnsons Corner: Tom Body had asked if there was a petrol mower he could use. During a short discussion it was noted that Vince Watkins was holding the Parish Council's petrol mower; the Clerk was asked to contact him so that arrangements could be made for Tom to take possession of it.

Highways: It was noted that Church Lane had a large number of pot-holes that required work to them.

8. **Play Areas in Hamstreet: Ref 106 Funding & Questionnaire/Survey**

Previously: A committee had been set up with representatives from Victory Hall, HDSL A and Orlestone Parish Council sitting on it. This committee had held meetings during 2014 to discuss 106 funding. During the last meeting it had been agreed that a survey/questionnaire be completed so that it

could be seen what areas were important to residents and where the funding that had been earmarked for play areas could be spent. During discussions the idea of the Parish Council adopting the green area/play area in Lancaster Close had been put forward.

Stuart Pettit had offered to do the questionnaire and had met with SallyAnne Logan and Christine Fuller at ABC to discuss its content in January 2015.

Update: The survey/questionnaire had not been completed as further discussions/meetings were required by Redrow and ABC to discuss the area.

The Chairman advised that due to costs the Parish Council should not look at adopting the green space/play area in Lancaster Close.

A letter had been received from the Hamstreet Victory Hall Management Committee who were concerned that there had been no updates/news since January. They were in the process of looking at removing their climbing frame due to health and safety concerns. They did not wish to spend money on repairs when hopefully they would be able to replace it with new and updated equipment.

Conclusion: The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Ashford Borough Council to discuss the 106 funding.

***BREAK:** a short break was taken from proceedings during which discussion was held concerning future development in Hamstreet. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Simon Cole at ABC and ask if there was any updates regarding allocations on site submissions in Hamstreet and if it had been agreed how many houses/dwellings had been allocated for the area.*

9. Correspondence: The following items had been received:

- A tree works schedule has been completed for Pound Lees; this has been circulated via email to members. It was noted that:
 - i) All were in an adequate condition with a note that they be examined in one year with the exception of tree 68; it was recommended that this be felled to ground level, the cost indicated as being £395.
 - ii) The trees around the car park; t75 to 81 have low crowns and it is recommended that the Crowns be lifted to 3 m above ground level. Cost indicated £45.
 - iii) Tree 82 to 100: low canopies over car parking bays and one dead tree. Unable to inspect the base of these trees due to large amount of vegetation which if cut back would allow clearer access. To crown lift over parking bays to 4 m and fell dead tree. Remove any torn hanging branches. Cost indicated £250.During discussion those present agreed that the Clerk contact F A Bartlett Tree Experts and have the costs confirmed; once these had been confirmed the work would be agreed and a plan for the tree sited would be requested.
- Oast to Coast Magazine

10. Finance: Update, Authorisation of Cheques:

Budget Update: Circulated to those present. It was noted that there was just under £6,000 in the Recycling Credit Budget. During discussion it was agreed that funding be provided for two more benches on Pound Lees. Mags is to make enquiries into the provision and cost for these. Those present agreed that the Chairman have discretionary power to authorise payment for the provision of the benches.

Authorisation of Cheques: Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed the following cheques be authorised for signature; Steve Shorter seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

To	Details	Amount	Cheque no
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11. Any Other Business Approved by the Chairman:

- The Chairman highlighted that the village entrance gate/fence by the primary school required cleaning. The Clerk/Chairman will ask Dave Collins if he can do this.
- Help was needed for the welcome home celebration for the HURT group. The Chairman will help put up flags. *After the meeting the Chairman circulated an invitation to all members to the celebrations taking place on Saturday 11th July.*
- Travellers had been reported in the area and it was noted that Pound Lees needed to be secure at all times.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Planning Meeting: Monday 20th July 2015 at 7.30pm (if necessary)
Parish Council: Monday 7th September 2015 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.09pm

Chairman's Signature