

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 7th September 2015 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

Present: George Sparks (Chairman), Michael Wady (Vice-Chairman), Vicky McKissock, Stephen Shorter and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: County Councillor Mike Angel and Peter Davison.

1. **Apologies:** had been received from David Lancaster (unwell), Andy Othen (prior engagement) and Mags Wellsted-Boorman (prior engagement), those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from Borough Councillor Aline Hicks.

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. Vicky McKissock noted that she was the Treasurer of the Hamstreet sub-branch of the Royal British Legion.

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

Minutes from Parish Council's Meeting Held on Monday 6th July 2015: Vicky McKissock proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman of the meeting; Steven Shorter seconded this proposal.

4. **Matters Arising From These Minutes (6th July 2015)**

- As requested the Clerk had contacted Simon Cole (ABC) regarding allocations on site submissions in Hamstreet (ref The Local Plan) and if it had been agreed how many houses/dwellings had been allocated for the area. Simon Cole responded via email saying '*There is nothing to report to you yet on this. We are still assessing the shortlisted site options across the Borough with a view to recommending a set of proposed site allocations to Members in September/October. As I think I've said previously, there is no predetermined number of dwellings we are looking to allocate in any location – we are focusing primarily on finding the best sites rather than aiming for a specific number anywhere.*'
- Pound Lees: Tree Maintenance: The application for the relevant permission to carry out tree works was submitted on 22nd July by Bartlet Tree Experts and a reply is being awaited from ABC.

5. **Reports From PCSO Gary Carr:** via email

I have been informed by Kent Police that I am remaining as your local officer for Hamstreet, Shadoxhurst and Woodchurch. Due to reorganisation within the police I have further been given wards including the villages of Wittersham, Rolvenden, Stone in Oxney, Appledore and Kennardington. As you are aware this is a massive area for one officer to cover so my plan will be to write a monthly report covering all the villages in regards to crime and anti-social behaviour trends. Individual parish councils will then be able to take relevant information. I shall try to attend pc meetings but this may not be possible due to many pc's having the same meetings on the same dates.

Report for August 2015. There have been several incidents of sheds, garages and vehicles being broken into throughout the area. In most cases either the doors were unlocked or valuable items were on display and easily accessible. Kent Police can offer crime prevention advice to residents if they call 101.

There are several websites which give advice on how to secure your property. www.securedbydesign.com, www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com. Kent Police have received reports concerning bogus door to door salesmen and information has been passed to local authorities regarding this issue. All persons trying to sell door to door must at the very least have a valid Council license which should be produced on request. Kent Police have also been running extra patrols in the district after an increase in burglaries to properties and out buildings in previous months.

Crime remains low in the area however a breakdown of neighborhood attended crimes is as follows.

Rolvenden- theft from an unlocked shed, Criminal damage to an isolated rural property, 2 incidents of unlocked garage doors being found open but nothing taken, theft from an unlocked motor vehicle and parkland damaged by arson.

Shadoxhurst-several incidents of criminal damage to stock fencing reported.

Appledore- Trailer stolen overnight from property

Hamstreet- Theft from a locked vehicle

Woodchurch- Farm machinery destroyed by arson, a report of vehicle interference.

6. **County Councillor/Borough Councillors' Reports:** County Councillor Mike Angel: reported that the Treasury Department's financial review would not be available until the end of November; this would then be analyzed and its effects on KCC's budget realized. There were discussions on how to improve 'Operation Stack' issues.
7. **Members Reports:** Highways: Mike Wady highlighted that he had reported the pot-holes in Bourne Lane and Church Lane; within forty-eight hours officers had visited the areas and marked them with white paint which indicated that work would be commencing.
During a brief discussion it was highlighted the need for the drains in the village to be maintained and checked before the bad weather started rather than wait until a problem occurred which was not happening. Cllr Mike Angel with pass on the Parish Council's concerns.
Forge Gardens/General Work: Dave Collins had cleaned all the 'village gate-ways' to Hamstreet. The Chairman explained that Dave Collins wished to improve the soil at Forge Garden. It was unanimously agreed that he would be reimbursed the cost of any soil purchased and that funding would be made available for new plants.
Neighbourhood Watch: Steve Shorter reported that the next meeting was scheduled for October.
8. **Play Areas in Hamstreet: Ref 106 Funding:** It was noted that an informal meeting was held on 1st September to discuss the 106 funding. George Sparks and David Lancaster attended on behalf of the Parish Council and SallyAnne Logan and Michelle Byrne attended on behalf of ABC.
The main outcome of the meeting being that ABC wish the 106 funding that had been earmarked for play areas/green space to be spent on one area only. They want a public consultation undertaken so that the views of those living and using the existing play areas in the village could be taken into account when deciding which area the funding should be spent. This consultation would contain images of how each of the areas could be enhanced with the funding.
 - i) Ashford Borough Council want the agreement of the Parish Council and then through the Parish Council the agreement of the HDSLAs and Victory Hall to this approach.
 - ii) Once agreement from the parties involved is received an independent play consultant will be asked to bring forward site plans for the proposed consultation.
 - iii) Consultation will follow in the form of a questionnaire and a couple of sessions at the school/Victory Hall to enable the community to ask questions and raise concerns.
 - iv) The results of the consultation will then be examined.

Adoption of Play Area in Lancaster Close: It was indicated during the meeting that the Parish Council would be willing to adopt the play area in Lancaster Close. The area is made up of two parts – one being under the control of Redrow the other by ABC.

Allotments: It was asked at the meeting if funding could be provided from the 106 to improve the existing allotments in Hamstreet, it was advised that funding be sought via a grant rather than using 106 funding.

During discussion notes from the meeting held on 1st September, SallyAnne Logan's follow up email and an email received from Parish Councillor Mags Wellsted-Boorman were circulated.

Concern was expressed by those present that ABC wished funding set aside for the provision of, improvements to and maintenance of informal/natural green space and funding set aside for the provision of, improvement to and maintenance of childrens and young people play space to be put together and spent on one site.

It was questioned as to why some of the 106 funding allocated for allotments could not be used to enhance the existing Parish Council allotments. The Chairman is to investigate the possibility of there being land that could be used for allotments at the Hamstreet Garden Centre.

The possible adoption of the Play Area in Lancaster Close by the Parish Council was left undecided; the Chairman highlighted that a decision could not be made until the results of the proposed consultation on 106 funding had been received.

It was agreed that the Chairman would draft a letter to be sent to ABC raising concern that they wished funding to be spent on one site rather than spread out for the benefit of the village. This draft would be circulated to members for comment before sending.

It was further agreed that the Clerk send a copy of the notes of the meeting held on 1st September and SallyAnne's email to the HDSL A and Victory Hall Committee and inform them that the Parish Council were not happy with the outcome of the meeting and were in the process of writing to them indicating this. *(During this agenda item Peter Davison arrived).*

Kent County Councillor Mike Angel left the meeting.

9. **Parish Councillor Vacancies:** It was noted that there were two vacancies on the Parish Council, members present were asked to be pro-active in trying to get these filled. The vacancies will be advertised in the Parish Magazine and on the noticeboards.

10. **Correspondence:** The following items had been received:

- Letter from ABC concerning the Community Governance Review of Ashford Borough: Draft Recommendations. It notes '*Whilst no submission has been made by the Parish Council the Borough Council is aware that the current boundary with Warehorne has caused confusion at recent elections when electors have visited the wrong polling station because they believe they are part of the Hamstreet community which falls within Orlestone Parish. An amendment to the boundary has been made and suggests the railway line as the new boundary. 54 properties and 99 electors would move from Warehorne Parish to Orlestone Parish. 4 properties and 6 electors would move from Orlestone Parish to Warehorne Parish.*' The plans are available on www.ashford.gov.uk/community-governance-review. During a brief discussion the Clerk was asked to contact ABC asking that it be noted that the Parish Council were in favour of the boundary change but to point out that the A2070 would form a more natural boundary line.
- Copy of a media release concerning the Community Governance Review in which it noted that an open evening is to be held on Monday 28th September between 4pm and 8pm in the council offices for residents to attend and find out more information.
- A letter had been received from the Hamstreet Sub-branch of the Royal British Legion. They highlighted that they are solely dependent on donations from the public. They requested a contribution towards their activities and extended an open ended invitation to join them at their meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Sports Pavilion. They are in the process of forming a full branch. Vicky McKissock declared an interest explaining that she acted as the group's Treasurer. During discussion (in which Vicky did not partake in) the Chairman suggested £250 donation, Michael Wady seconded this proposal and Steve Shorter agreed.

- An email had been received from KCC Highways inviting a representative from the Parish Council to attend their next seminar being held on 29th October in the Ditton Community Centre in Aylesford. The email was passed to Mike Wady for information.
- Notes of the last Parish & Urban Forum held on 22nd July were made available. The Chairman highlighted that this was the new name for the Parish Forum.
- A request had been made from the HDSLAs for funding towards the cost of maintaining/mowing at Pound Lees. It was noted that £750 had been set aside for this expenditure when budget making. Those present agreed that these funds be released.
- The 'Countryside Voice' & 'Oast to Coast' magazines were made available to those present.

11. Planning: Update Applications Received:

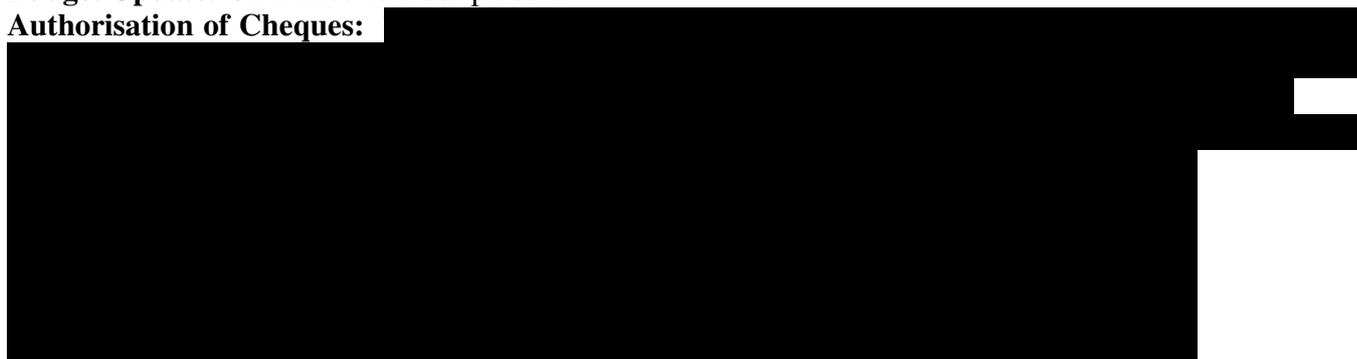
Proposed Development At Carters Wood: ABC (Giles Holloway) reported via email that consultation with Highways and Planning was still being undertaken. He provided the latest drawings and a summary of points which came out of the consultation with local residents. During discussion it was noted that the plans had been modified, the parking greater improved. The Clerk was asked to respond by asking that the Parish Council be kept in the loop and advised when further consultation was due to take place.

Invicta House, Warehorne Road: Notice had been received that a planning application is to be submitted regarding Invicta House in Warehorne Road, Hamstreet.

12. Finance: Update, Authorisation of Cheques:

Budget Update: Circulated to those present.

Authorisation of Cheques:



13. Any Other Business Approved by the Chairman:

Carters Wood: Steve Shorter highlighted that in the existing 'Carters Wood' plan the bungalows were no longer listed as being disabled accommodation.

War Memorial Johnsons Corner: The Chairman asked members to think about having the war memorial at Johnsons Corner brought into the village and placed by the flag pole. This would be more central and safer for visitors.

Flower Bed by Flag Pole: The Chairman asked if members would be happy if Dave Collins put a small flower border by the flag pole, this could be a remembrance site and used for Remembrance Sunday, he understood that the Vicar would be happy to bless the area. Those present agreed to this proposal. The Chairman is to speak to Dave Collins about the work.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Planning Meeting: Monday 21st September 2015 at 7.30pm (if necessary)
Parish Council: Monday 5th October 2015 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.32pm

Chairman's Signature