

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 1st December 2014 at 7.30pm in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

Present: George Sparks (Chairman), Mags Wellsted-Boorman, Mike Wady, Andy Othen, Stephen Shorter, Keith Taylor and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and Peter Davison and one member of the public (Mr Leslie Parris)

1. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from David Lancaster those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from Kent County Councillor Mike Angel, Borough Councillor Peter Davison and PCSO Gary Carr. *Belated apologies were received from Vicky McKissock following the meeting.*

The Clerk was asked to pass on the Parish Council's condolences to David Lancaster following the loss of his mother. It was agreed that flowers would be provided for her funeral on behalf of the Parish Council/village.

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 Mags Wellsted-Boorman was a member and Trustee of the Hamstreet & District Sports & Leisure Association (HDSLA) and that Andy Othen was taking part in the 'Three Peak Challenge'.

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

Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2014: Mike Wady's name was crossed out from those being present; following this alteration Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman of the meeting; Andy Othen seconded this proposal.

Minutes from the Parish Council's Firework Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th November 2014: Keith Taylor proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman of the meeting; Mike Wady seconded this proposal.

4. **Matters Arising:**

Recycling Banks: Mags reported that she had received a call Julian Sharp from the Salvation Army who was aware of the Parish Council's concerns regarding fly-tipped items that remaining recycling banks could cause. During a brief discussion during which it was noted that the Salvation Army were prepared to pay a fee to keep their bank on Pound and put a notice up saying that they were working in partnership with the parish council. It was agreed that the bank could stay on a three month trial basis and that any fee received would be returned to them.

The Clerk was asked to contact those responsible for the shoe bank and request that they remove it and if not removed the Parish Council would make arrangements to have it removed. It was highlighted that Ashford Borough Council had promised to do this.

5. **Parish Council Vacancy – Possible Co-option:** It was noted that two residents had voiced an interest in the vacancy – Steven Shorter and Leslie Parris both of whom had given a short presentation

during previous meetings. Following the Firework Committee meeting the Chairman had reminded Parish Councillors to provide the Clerk with their votes on the matter.

The Chairman reported that the result of the vote was that Steven Shorter had won by a majority. He asked if those present were happy with this result and that Steven be asked to join the Parish Council. Those present agreed and Steven was asked to join the table.

The Chairman thanked Leslie for his interest and highlighted that it seemed possible that there would be another vacancy; details were being awaited from Ashford Borough Council. Leslie responded saying that his interest in the Parish Council continued and that he would be seeking a place during the election period in 2015.

6. **Reports From KCC Community Warden Chris Banyard & PCSO Gary Carr:** Mags reported that Community Warden Chris Banyard would not be returning due to ill-health issues. The Clerk was asked to send him the Parish Council's good wishes and thank him for his work in the village.

PCSO Gary Carr reported via email: *'There has only been one incident reported of theft in the parish to date this month. A charity collector reported a white van (no vrn) taking full charity bags from outside properties in the area. When challenged, the driver said he worked for a particular charity but this was not the case.*

I have continued to patrol the village during daylight and after dark. I have visited the local shops in the area, and also attended a suspicious event at Ham Lease Farm where safety fencing was unlocked. There is a temporary KCC Warden who is covering Hamstreet as well as her main patch of Hothfield and Bethersden. She can be contacted on 07813 711940 but obviously she is dealing with a very large area at the moment.

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.

The Chairman highlighted that since this report there had been a burglary in the village and asked members to be vigilant.

7. County Councillor/Borough Councillors' Reports:

Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: reported that following the last meeting she had visited Quince Orchard and noted the rubbish bins obstructing the footpath. This had been reported. Following discussions on the possible electrification of the railway line through Hamstreet; KCC is to look at intentions but any electrification was a long way off. She noted the Parish Council's response to the rural sites short list.

The Chairman highlighted that he had a meeting with Simon Cole on 11th December to discuss the rural sites shortlist and was extremely concerned about the inclusion of WS30. This site have received a 100% negative feedback during consultation held in April and he believed it should not have been included.

8. Members Reports:

Hamstreet Master Plan Committee: An email has been received from Mike Grant, Cultural Strategic Planning Co-ordinator at Ashford Borough Council:

'I am not sure if you have heard already but if not I shall tell you now I am actually leaving Ashford Borough Council to pursue a career in Children Services in Lewisham, my last day is actually Friday (28th November) and therefore I am trying to fulfil my duties and actions remaining.

One of these was to set up a meeting for the Parish Council to discuss the potential adoption of Lancaster Close as a piece of open space. The next time I can get all the relevant officers together at the same time is Wednesday 28th January at 2pm in the Board room at the Civic Centre; would this be suitable for George and whoever else will wish to attend?

I am in the process of handing over my work to various people and obviously Christina Fuller is up to speed with what is happening so if you have any concerns or require any advice after Friday please contact Christina. Also Christine Harrison is up to date as well so may be able to handle any enquiries as well.

If I don't hear from you before good luck with everything, I know the s106 money will be invested wisely and benefit the local people of Hamstreet.'

The Chairman highlighted that he and David would attend this meeting and report back at the following Parish Council meeting. It was noted that the on-line consultation regarding play provision in the village was in the process of being drawn up.

HDSL A Update: Mags reported that the Pavilion's hire continued to increase with 'Marsh Millions' recently using it. On Christmas Eve a family evening was to be held.

The Chairman highlighted that under the conditions of the agreement between the HDSL A and the Parish Council that from midnight on 24th December for 24 hours it was for the exclusive use of the Parish Council only.

Extract from the Agreement to use Pound Lees between OPC and the HDSL A: '1.3 The License Period – means an annual term from the date of signing. This agreement will be rolled forward on an annual basis on agreement from THE CHARITY and PARISH COUNCIL. The agreement period excludes a 24 hour period from midnight on 24th December to midnight on 25th December in each year, as well as any other day(s) that may be mutually agreed with THE CHARITY during which Pound Lees shall be exclusively available to PARISH COUNCIL. The agreement period shall be rolled forwards annually but only by mutual agreement.'

Johnsons Corner: Mags had purchased two new flags for Johnsons Corner; the Chairman is to put one up. Mr Collins had cut the grass; it was noted that he had driven the mower to Johnsons Corner. During a brief discussion it was agreed that a trailer needed to be purchased. Mr Wady is to make enquiries about the provision of this.

Highways: Keith Taylor reported that various non-working street lights had been reported to highways. The road surface on the junction of Cock Lane/Marsh Road was waiting to be either fixed up or hopefully resurfaced. It was noted that one of the pot-holes in Pound Lees car park had been filled.

Website: Andy Othen reported that he was in the process of revamping it and it would be re-launched.

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

- A briefing note from the leader of ABC concerning Ashford Towns vitality (email had been circulated to members).
- An email (circulated to members) from Clive Steward, Site Manager concerning the Woodland Trust woodland called Packing Wood. The management plan for this wood had been revised and comments from the Parish Council can be made.
- A thank you letter from the Victory Hall Committee for the donation of £600 towards their mowing costs.
- Notice that the next Parish Forum meeting will be held at ABC on 28th January 2015.
- Magazines (various) – CPRE Field Work; The Clerk Magazine; CPRE Kent Voice; CPRE Countryside Voice; Clerks & Councils Direct.

10. **Planning: Update and Applications Received.**

Borough Councillor Peter Davison had arranged a meeting with Simon Cole (ABC) to discuss the shortlisted sites in Hamstreet for proposed development appearing in the draft Local Plan 2030.

11. **Finance: Update including Budget Review, Precept Considerations, Authorisation of Cheques:**

Budget Review: An up to date budget was circulated to members.

Precept Considerations: A draft budget for the next financial year was circulated to those present for consideration. During discussion it was noted that the Precept had been increased last year to cover the loss of recycling credits. It was agreed that mowing sponsorship be increased and that each group

would now receive £730. It was noted that the Concurrent Grant was to be reduced by £90. Following the study of figures it was agreed that the Precept be kept to £19,750. Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that this figure be put forward to ABC and Andy Othen seconded this proposal.

Adding signatures to Bank Account: During discussion it was agreed that Mike Wady and Mags Wellsted-Boorman be added as signatories to the Parish Council's bank account. The necessary paper work was passed to them for completion.

Authorisation of Cheques: Andy Othen proposed that the following cheques be authorised, this proposal was seconded by Mike Wady. The Chairman proposed that Mr Collins be paid an extra £20 for cutting the grass at Johnsons Corner.

To	Details	Amount	Cheque no

Borough Councillor Peter Davison arrived apologizing for his late arrival.

12. Any Other Business Approved by the Chairman:

Borough Councillor Peter Davison: reported that Hamstreet Primary School had completed their three teaching units. He had been campaigning about the need for additional low cost housing in the area and would be attending the meeting with the Chairman to talk to Simon Cole about the local plan.

Advertising: It was noted that the 'boiler man' adverts had gone.

Playground Inspection Course: after receiving details concerning the course Mags and the Clerk agreed that the course was too intensive and not suitable and would no longer be attending.

Sponsorship: The Three Peak Challenge group had asked if they could borrow the barbecue for a welcome home party. Those present agreed to this. It was noted that the group required sponsorship for shirts. This is to be discussed fully at the next meeting but those present agreed to the principle of sponsorship and that £1000 be set aside for this.

Drainage: Concern had been raised from a resident about possible damage to the Sperringbrook and bank erosion. Keith will arrange for the Environment Agency to check it.

Andy reported that the drainage pipe by the duck pond had been blocked – he had cleared it as best he could. Keith is to report the issue to ABC.

Speed Sign: It was noted that the temporary speed sign provided by Highways was still up.

Train Station: It was noted that it now had a disabled toilet and that tickets could be purchased from both platforms.

- 13. Date of Next Meeting:** Parish Council Meeting: Monday 2nd February 2015
Planning Meeting: Monday 15th December at 7.30pm (if necessary)