

## ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

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

Also Present: Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and Gareth Bradford, seven members of the public including former Borough Councillor Peter Davison.

The Chairman noted that an additional agenda item had been added to the agenda; this would be added at a mutually convenient time during the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** had been received from David Lancaster and Mike Wady (prior engagement), those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from PCSO Gary Carr and Community Warden Kathy Carter both of whom had provided reports.

### 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). None were made at this point from Councillors present.

### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September):

Minutes from Parish Council's Meeting Held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015: Vicky McKissock proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman of the meeting; Steve Shorter seconded this proposal.

### 4. Matters Arising From These Minutes:

- Pound Lees: Tree Maintenance: Bartlet Tree Experts had completed the work to the trees at Pound Lees. It was noted that the Cherry Tree had not been removed but cut back. It was not known if the damage/dying tree on Pound Lees Recreation Ground had been felled. This will be investigated.
- Proposed Changes to the Current Boundaries between Hamstreet & Warehorne: Following the last meeting when those present agreed to ABC's proposed changes to the boundaries between Warehorne Parish Council and Orlestone Parish Council. An informal meeting had been held between Maggie Keenan (Chair of Warehorne PC) and George Sparks (Chair to OPC) with the respective Clerks present.

It was noted that Warehorne Parish Council are concerned about the proposed boundary changes that are due to take place in 2019; if they go ahead approximately one third of their precept paying inhabitants will be lost to Orlestone leading to concerns about the future viability of Warehorne Parish Council.

The Chairman had highlighted that OPC thought that the change in boundary made sense especially in instances where those living in Bank Side would now be living in one parish. He noted that OPC had suggested to ABC that the A2070 be used as a boundary line rather than the railway line. He put forward the idea that perhaps the two parishes could form one Parish Council ie Orlestone & Warehorne PC similar to Aldington & Bonnington PC; at this early stage the Chair of Warehorne PC did not want to commit Warehorne to this proposal.

During a brief discussion following this update it was noted that this proposal had been raised by ABC a number of times over the years. Mags Wellsted-Boorman noted that it would be sad if Warehorne lost their individuality and those present agreed.

#### 5. **Reports From KCC Community Warden & PCSO:**

**PCSO Gary Carr** provided a report via email which noted that he would be undertaking speed checks in the area. His report covered all the areas he worked in but nothing was noted for Hamstreet. The report was made available to those present.

Andy Othen reported that since this report had been received there had been a number of burglaries but there had to date been no outcome from investigations. It was noted that the police and traffic wardens were doing regular patrols in the village.

**Community Warden Kathy Carter:** sent her apologies and provided reports back dating to May 2015 (attached). Her report for September being:

*Flytipping: all flytipping that I know of has been reported to ABC.*

*Highways: all problems that I have been made aware of have been reported to Highways.*

*Issues: All issues have been reported to police and or ABC.*

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

**Borough Councillor Aline Hicks:** reported

- ABC were in the process of redrafting their five year plan.
- Proposal for three bungalows on land at Carters Wood: following consultation the plans had been redrafted. No application was going through yet but when it did everyone would have an opportunity to comment.
- Tests to street lights had been undertaken in Ashford and 19 within the borough had been disabled (including 5 in Hamstreet) due to safety issues.
- Section 106 Funding: ABC were waiting to hear from the Parish Council concerning proposals put forward.
- Marshlink: would be meeting and discussion was due to take place regarding the Station Garden in Hamstreet. It was hoped that the Parish Council would be willing to sponsor a bench for the garden.

Following Cllr Hicks report the Chairman highlighted that the 'antique' black lamp posts that had been 'necked' (disabled) had been purchased by the Parish Council; he believed that the Parish Council owned these and asked if they could be returned. It was noted that there were now dark areas in the village due to them being disabled. Cllr Hicks is to make enquiries about the return of the lamp posts and if they are to be replaced.

The Chairman highlighted that he was in the process of drawing up a letter to ABC regarding the 106 funding allocated to Hamstreet, he is to raise concerns that members had put forward regarding how ABC wished the funding to be allocated. During discussion it was noted that prior any decision on how the funding would be spent consultation would take place.

**Borough Councillor Gareth Bradford:** The Chairman welcomed 'Brad' to the meeting. Cllr Bradford explained that he had been settling in and attending training sessions. He explained that he could not always make meetings as he run a Scout Group and this clashed with Parish Council meetings however he could always be emailed or rung for help/advice.

Cllr Bradford highlighted that there had been concerns about rural roads and heavy vehicles travelling through villages. Cllr Martin is putting forward a planning proposal to have this discussed properly and could be contacted via ABC's website. *(During this agenda item Peter Davison arrived)*

#### 7. **Members Reports:**

**Firework Committee:** Mags Wellsted-Boorman highlighted that the event was planned for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November, with the evening starting with a barbecue at 6pm and a firework display at 7pm. A meeting to discuss arrangements would be held the following evening (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October). As donations were to be

collected it had been noted that a 'Street License' was required; she was in the process of applying for this. Viking Fireworks would be providing the fireworks and coordinating the display. The Parish Council's insurance company had been informed about the display as had ABC. She asked that those who wished to help during the event contact her.

Highways: The Chairman highlighted that he had noted that work had commenced to drains in Ashford Road however he was concerned about the drains in the main street as they did not seem to be working properly. He will email County Councillor Mike Angel about these concerns. It was noted that at the crossroads there was no illumination or signage for drivers.

*It was agreed that the Additional Agenda Item be brought in at this point.*

**Additional Agenda Item:**

1. **Carters Wood: Proposed Development – Consultation to Orlestone Parish Council:** The Chairman invited members of the public to speak. During discussion the following was noted:
  - Concern was expressed that members of the Parish Council had known about the proposed development of three bungalows at Carters Wood prior ABC's consultation and that members had lied about not being aware of the area being put forward for development.
  - Former Borough Councillor Peter Davison explained that while a Borough Councillor he had been approached a number of times about the provision in the village for low cost housing, this had led him to contact ABC asking if it could be provided. This had resulted in discussion about where such housing could be provided. ABC only owned a limited amount of land within Hamstreet and following investigation the only suitable plot had been at Carters Wood. He had spoken to the Chairman of the Parish Council in confidence about the proposal - this was not made public as nothing was certain at this stage. Following confirmation that funding for the project was available he asked the Chairman to bring it to the attention of the Parish Council and ask for their opinion.
  - George Sparks (Chairman) explained to those present that he had not realized that the proposal was no longer confidential and consequently had not spoken to members about the proposal. He apologised for the misunderstanding.
  - It was highlighted that the first members of the Parish Council had heard about the public consultation about the proposed development at Carters Wood was via the Hamstreet Community Page on Facebook.
  - The Parish Council had not made any comment about the proposal and would not do so until a planning application was submitted.

*Following discussion members of the public present with the exception of Peter Davison left the meeting.*

8. **Play Areas in Hamstreet: Ref 106 Funding:** During the last meeting it was agreed that George 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.

An email has been received from SallyAnne Logan who has suggested changes to the notes taken during a meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September to discuss the 106 funding. These were made available to those present. *Borough Councillor Aline Hicks and Gareth Bradford left the meeting.*

9. **Parish Councillor Vacancies:** The vacancies have been advertised in the Parish Magazine on the Parish Council noticeboards and website. To date no enquiries have been received.

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

- An email from Mr Haden Kingsland highlighting that he had contacted Highways about the state of the pavement running from the entrance to Lancaster Close to the station slope which is overgrown with trees and narrowed by a large amount of dirt and tree debris. The Clerk was asked to contact him and thank him for the information.

**11. Planning: Update Applications Received:**

Application No: 15/01229  
Proposal: Conversion of roof space incorporating front and rear dormer windows.  
Location: 44 Bournewood, TN26 2HL

Application No: 15/01260  
Proposal: Single storey side and rear extensions; rear dormer and enlarged second floor window to side elevation.  
Location: 1 Woodside Villas, Ashford Road, TN26 2DT

It was agreed that these applications would be discussed at a planning meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.30pm in the Hamstreet Sports Pavilion.

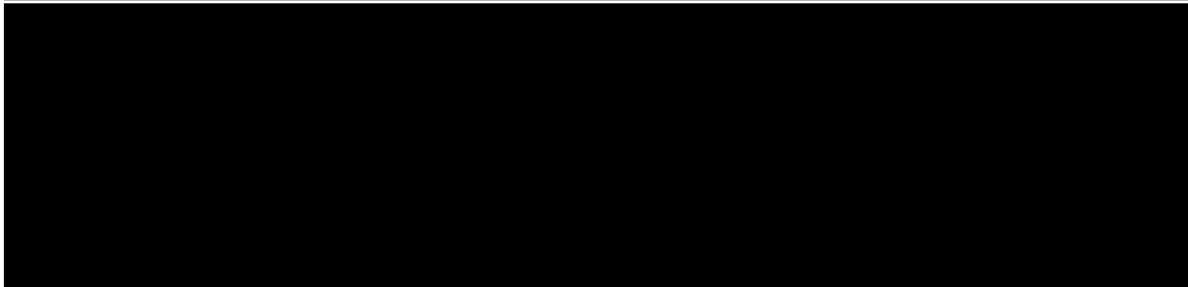
**12. Finance: Update, Authorisation of Cheques:**

**Update:** A report has been received from the External Auditor (PKF Accountants & Business Advisers) who have provided a certificate; they note *‘on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.’*

**Budget Review:** Circulated to those present.

**Authorisation of Cheques:** Andy Othen proposed the following cheques be authorised for signature; Vicky McKissock seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

To	Details	Amount	Cheque No.
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**13. Any Other Business Approved by the Chairman:**

Vicky McKissock: highlighted the dangers of Ashford Road during school opening and closing times when the road became congested. Her son had recently escaped being seriously hurt when a lorry had backed into him on the road. During a brief discussion it was agreed that thought needed to be given to improving the road.

Andy Othen: noted that the ‘lollipop lady’ no longer existed as the last person doing this had retired. The reintroduction of a crossing patrol may help with traffic congestion and he will bring it to the attention of the school.

Mags Wellsted-Boorman: highlighted that a hedge by Fairview Terrace was growing into the street lighting and needed to be cut back. The Clerk was asked to highlight this to ABC.

Victory Hall Green: It was highlighted that motorized trikes were being driving around the Victory Hall Green and complaints had been received. The Clerk was asked to highlight this issue to the Victory Hall Committee.

Neighbourhood Watch Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. During a brief discussion it was suggested that the group could put their ‘Neighbourhood Watch Area’ signs up on the entrance gates to the village.

**14. Date of Next Meeting:** Planning Meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.30pm  
Parish Council: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.37pm

Chairman’s Signature