

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 5th September 2016 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

Present: George Sparks (Chairman), Michael Wady (Vice-Chairman), David Lancaster, Vicky McKissock, Andy Othen, Tony Isteed, Mags Wellsted-Boorman and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Borough Councillor Aline Hicks and fourteen members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** had been received from Steven Shorter; those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from Kent County Councillor Mike Angell and Borough Councillor Gareth Bradford.
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 the secretary for the HDSL A.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meetings:**
Parish Council Meeting held on 4th July 2016: Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, David Lancaster seconded this proposal.
Planning Meeting held on 18th July 2016: David Lancaster 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 From The Minutes Of The Meetings Held on 4th July & 18th July 2016:**
Items for discussion only; no decisions can be made under this agenda item. No items brought forward.

Members agreed that agenda item 8 be brought forward for discussion.

8. **Section 106 Funding:** The Chairman explained to members of the public present, that during the last two years, meetings had been held with representatives from Ashford Borough Council to discuss 106 funding raised from the building of Lancaster Close phase 2. During the first discussions it was highlighted that all the 106 funding had been reserved except funding for play areas, green space, sports fields and allotments. The Parish Council were of the understanding that this funding would be used throughout the village enhancing various areas and they were asked to provide a wish list of areas that required funding and invite representatives who run Victory Hall and the Sports Pavilion to attend meetings and discuss what they wanted/needed.

Following these initial meetings Ashford Borough Council stated that the funding for play areas should only be spent in one area and if this was not Lancaster Close they would gradually decommission it.

It was agreed that a survey would be created so that it could be seen which play area was used by whom and what the usage of each area was and if there was a preferred one. This would enable a decision to be made on what the best area would be to receive the funding. Two draft surveys put forward were rejected; ABC then produced the one that had been circulated. The Chairman highlighted his concern that Lancaster Close could prove unsustainable to Ashford Borough Council and if the funding was spent on the Lancaster Close play area when it had gone, they would be unable to afford it and it would then be decommissioned.

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public present.

Public Debate: Summary

- i) Previous surveys drawn up by a resident had been rejected by ABC.
- ii) The results of the survey received through the letter box of the Sports Pavilion showed that 59 had voted for the play area in Lancaster Close and 124 had voted for the play area in Victory Hall. It was understood that this was not the final figure as others had been sent to ABC.
- iii) Members of public present asked that the survey be disregarded as it was flawed; it had not been delivered to every household; it assumed that the reader knew about 106 funding and issues around it and what had been discussed between the Parish Council and ABC.
- iv) It would be a misuse of Section 106 funding, if used to correct the neglect of Lancaster Close Play Area.
- v) The two play areas in the village were much wanted amenities and the idea that one would be decommissioned if funding was not provided was unacceptable.
- vi) It had created a divide in the village.
- vii) ABC should hold a public meeting to discuss the issue.
- viii) The Parish Council should not have discussed this funding with ABC, instead a public meeting should have been held. The Parish Council were criticized for not engaging with members of the public and communicating with residents.
- ix) It was noted that the Parish Council minutes could be found on their website and summaries of meetings could be found in the Round & About Column in the Kentish Express and in the Parish magazine.
- x) Another survey was requested that would go to every household in the parish with clearer questions.

Conclusion: The Parish Council would write to ABC and request that the survey be disregarded. ABC would be asked to hold a public meeting/consultation to discuss the issue. A new survey would be put together with the help of a resident who was experienced in these matters and circulated to every household in the parish via volunteers. The results of the new survey would be passed to ABC. An allotment holder present would consult the other allotment holders and draw up a wish list that would be passed to the Parish Clerk so that funding allocated under allotments (£1,7820) could be used. A request would be made to detail what funding had already been spent under this 106 funding.

9. Reports From Representatives of the Community:

KCC Community Warden Kathy Carter & PCSO Andrew Hoodless: An email had been received from PCSO Andrew Hoodless who informed the Parish that he had been appointed a new line manager - Police Sergeant Jasmine Bloomfield 9179; who had advised him that from now on he could not send monthly police reports or attend meetings. The Parish Council were advised to get crime data for their area by using the website link: <https://www.police.uk/> However Andrew would be available to provide crime prevention advice and support when necessary.

On 4th September using the website address provided, it was noted that 4 crimes had been committed in the area in June 2016: one incidence of violence & nosexual offence on Ashford Road; one incidence of anti social behavior in Willow Drive and two incidences of criminal damage and arson on Appledore Road near the B2067

During a brief discussion it was agreed that the Parish Clerk write to Inspector Judd outlining the Parish Council's disappointment with this decision and asking what was the point of having PCSOs if they were not supporting the community they worked in by attending meetings.

Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: reported that if agreed, changes to ward boundaries would be taking place with each ward member having some 2000 people to represent, this would mean another ward being introduced in the area. Aline further reported that the Draft Local Plan had received many objections including the issue of sites not being included in it. Further consultation is due to take place regarding sites that had been omitted. The final decision for the introduction of Junction 10a will be undertaken by the Secretary of State.

BREAK: A break was taken to allow questions from members of the public present. Spencer Goddard acting as Chairman of Governors to the Hamstreet Primary Academy expressed his disappointment to the Parish Council's letter to Ashford Borough Council regarding the Draft Local Plan which objected to Site 31; this had been sent prior an informal meeting held with representatives from the Academy and the Parish Council. He believed that there were factual inaccuracies in the letter; he will email the Parish Clerk highlighting these so that they could be addressed. Spencer Goddard further explained that representatives from the Academy had been in talks with the proposed developer of Site 31 to enable the best plan be put forward for the benefit of the village and school. During this discussion the Parish Council were criticized for failing to hold meetings with the proposed developer for Site 31.

The Chairman explained that until Site 31 was put in the Local Plan, discussion for proposals for Site 31 were purely speculative.

Conclusion: It was agreed that the Parish Council's Facebook Information Page would be overhauled as would their website. It was noted that the Parish Council did not use facebook community pages to make comments. Information/news/update could be found on their website/facebook information page/Parish Magazine/Round & About Column in the Kentish Express.

10. Community Defibrillator: Andy Othen had obtained a quotation for a defibrillator from the Community Heartbeat Trust in July which he had circulated to members. Those present agreed that he carry on with arrangements in the provision of the defibrillator and to investigate funding for it.

11. Members Reports:

Telephone Kiosk by Bournewood Stores: this had now been handed over to the Parish Council. Funds to renovate it into a lending library had been put aside.

Firework Committee: The Firework Display would be held on Saturday 5th November. The necessary paperwork including a lengthy Safety Management Plan was being completed by Mags Wellsted-Boorman. It was highlighted that lots of helpers were needed and a meeting to discuss arrangements would be held on Wednesday 14th September at 8pm in the sports pavilion.

HDSLAs: Mark Taylor had been passed emails concerning 106 funding for sports fields. The new bar area in the pavilion had been completed and was up and running.

Christmas Tree Trail: Mags put forward the idea of holding a Christmas Tree Trail similar to the Scarecrow Trail. Those present agreed that this idea would be workable.

12. Planning: Applications Received:

No: 16/01307 Proposed roof extensions incorporating dormer windows to front and rear elevations at Woodlands, Bourne Lane, TN26 2HH

To be discussed at the next planning meeting.

Update:

No: 16/00662 Proposed single storey front extension and garage conversion at 5 Bunkley Meadow, TN26 2HQ

Decision: Permitted by ABC

No: 16/00946 Proposed two storey side extension (revision to approved materials on previous application) at 11 Bunkley Meadow, TN26 2HQ

Decision: Permitted by ABC

13. Correspondence: The following items had been received:

- An email from Graham Woodcock as Vice Chair of the HDSLAs which had been circulated via email to members.

Graham requested that the Parish Council consider contributing more to the up keep of the Pavilion on a rolling annual basis. He highlighted that despite running the Sports Bar and lounge for private parties and fund raising evenings which was run by the same 2/3 people, their financial

standing had remained static. They are unable to pay for cleaning or maintenance and they had no funds for upkeep such as decorating and repairs. The pressure of running the pavilion remained with the same 2/3 people and there appeared to be little interest from the village to take on any part of being involved with their activities.

The Clerk was asked to organize a meeting with Graham so that this could be discussed further.

- A reply had been received from the Victory Hall Committee regarding a representative of the Parish Council to sit on their committee meetings. Due to the various bookings in the hall the only time they can meet is on the fourth Monday of every month (except August and December) at 5.30pm. They will next meet on 26th September. David Lancaster offered to act as the Parish Council's representative, the Clerk will attend when he can not.
- A letter from the Friends of St Mary's Church providing an update on their Flower Festival during which over £2,300 funds had been raised. This had helped pay for a new wrought iron arch and a new oak fence. A folk evening held on 30th July raised £262.
- A letter from Roger Wilkins the Chairman of the Romney Marsh Partnership. He asks if Cartherine Igoa (Co-ordinator) and Cllr Mick Burgess who represents the parishes of Aldington & Bonnington, Appledore, Bilsington, Kenardington, Newenden, Orlestone, Ruckinge, Stone, Warehorne and Wittersham on the Romney Marsh Partnership could attend a meetings and relay information about their plans and their work. The Clerk was asked to in them to the next meeting.
- Various magazines/journals: Clerks & Councils Direct, Countryside Voice

14. Finance: Update, Authorisation of Cheques:

Budget Review: was circulated to those present.

Computer: The Clerk had purchased a new desktop computer at a cost of £575.01 (plus VAT), a further £160 (plus VAT) was spent on a Microsoft Office programme, antivirus software, set up and a one year storage facility on 'Cloud'. The computer will remain in her office and she will bring to meetings a laptop for the taking of minutes etc. It was agreed that the old laptop be passed to Andy Othen.

Audit: The Parish Council's external audit has been approved. It was noted that the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. It was recommended that the Council should ensure that it has regard to the level of reserves held when considering future precept requests.

Authorisation of Cheques: A request has been made from the HDSLAs for their annual funding towards mowing/maintenance. The Chairman highlighted that in during the last financial year the HDSLAs would receive £750 towards the upkeep of Pound Lees and a further £500 towards the upkeep of the sports Pavilion.

Those present agreed that the following cheques be authorized.

To	Details	Amount	Cheque No.
[REDACTED]			

15. Any Other Business Approved by the Chairman:

Items for discussion only' no decisions can be made under this heading. It was highlighted that the Sperring Brook was partially blocked due to grass cuttings; the Clerk was asked to report this.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Planning Meeting: Monday 19th September 2016 at 7.30pm
 Parish Council: Monday 3rd October 2016 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.32pm

Chairman: