

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd March 2014 at 7.30pm in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

Present: George Sparks (Chairman), David Lancaster (Vice-Chairman), Andy Othen, Janet Willis, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, Keith Taylor and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Kent County Councillor Mike Angel, PCSO Gary Carr, Andy Ansley (Chairman of the HDSLAs) and two members of the public.

- 1. Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Vince Watkins (working) and Mike Wady (away); those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies from Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and Peter Davison and Community Warden Chris Banyard were also received.

- 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 (HDSLAs).

- 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2014: 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 Planning Meeting held on Monday 17th February 2014: Janet Willis proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman of the meeting; Mags Wellsted-Boorman seconded this proposal

- 4. Matters Arising:**

Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct: The Chairman and Clerk attended a training session at ABC concerning the Code of Conduct. During the session the following had been highlighted:

- i) If a member had a pecuniary (financial) interest in a subject being discussed they have to declare an interest and withdraw from the meeting. It is a criminal offence not to.
- ii) A 'Other Significant Interest' has to be declared. This is a matter which may affect you or associated persons or if a reasonable member of the public would think your judgment affected. The member may speak before withdrawing (if public are allowed to speak)
- iii) 'Other Interest': should be declared but there is no need to withdraw from the meeting and you can take part in discussion. Examples of other interest provided during the training session were: a councillor is a parent of a school age child and discussions are taking place regarding the provision of school buses in the area or a councillor is an active member of Greenpeace and the council is engaged in discussions concerning a site to test for shale gas fracking.

Casual Vacancy: The Chairman highlighted that two residents had come forward and declared an interest in the existing casual vacancy. They were introduced to those present. During discussion it was agreed that they contact the Clerk via email/letter explaining why they wished to join the Parish Council; a vote would then be taken as to whom to co-opt on to the Parish Council.

5. **Planning: ‘Plan It Workshops/Parish Plan’; Update & Applications Received**

Plan It Workshop/Parish Plan An informal meeting was held (prior this one) with Katy Wiseman, a Policy Planner from ABC. During which it was noted that Ashford Borough Council are reviewing the Core Strategy. This being the main planning document which sets out how the borough will develop in the future for the period up to 2030. More houses are needed to accommodate existing residents of the borough as people are living longer, children leaving home, divorces etc. In 2013 ABC asked landowners to put forward sites that would be suitable for development. These sites have not yet been examined so it is not known if they are suitable.

A number of possible sites located in Hamstreet had been put forward. The views of residents about these were invited.

During discussion it was agreed that an exhibition be held on Monday 7th April from 3pm in the Pavilion in conjunction with ABC who would supply plans showing plots of land that had been put forward for possible development in the Parish. Comments from residents would be welcomed.

It was agreed that a questionnaire be drawn up, this would be hand delivered to residents and would also advertise the exhibition.

During discussion it was noted that the members were generally against any further development within Hamstreet.

Update:

14/00069 18 Dukes Meadow, Hamstreet
Proposal Single storey rear extension.
Decision Proposed development would be lawful

13/01458 Saw Joinery, Hamstreet.
Proposal Change of use from A1 Retail to A3 café/tea room
Decision Permit

13/00104 1&2 Prospect Cottages, Warehorne Road, Hamstreet
Proposal (re-submission of lapsed application) 2 storey extension to rear of property with a pitched roof and detached double garage.
Decision Permit

6. **Report from KCC Community Warden Chris Banyard & PCSO Gary Carr:**

PCSO Gary Carr: reported

- A lollypop person was required for afternoon sessions at the primary school. He and Chris (the community warden) were continuing to conduct regular foot patrols and were trying to educate drivers about responsible parking.
- Since the last meeting there had been two reported crimes in the ward. A canvas sided container was damaged at the Kent Woodsman Rifle Range (off Bourne Lane) and a Y reg Land Rover was stolen from Lancaster Close. Investigations are ongoing.
- No anti-social behaviour calls had been received.
- He had been approached by local residents regarding un-taxed vehicles, pot hole and flooding in the area. He had passed these queries on to the organizations responsible.
- The Police Contact Point will be in the Victory Hall Car Park between 5pm and 6pm on 16th and 30th March for local residents to attend and speak about any incidents.

(Gary Carr left the meeting)

7. **County Councillor/Borough Councillors’ Reports:**

Kent County Councillor Mike Angel: reported that he had attended a meeting regarding flooding with Highways during which he had expressed the importance of keeping drains clear. He had spoken

to Highways about HGVs coming through Hamstreet and the damage that was occurring to roads and verges. Changes were being made at the cross roads at Bilsington which will make it difficult for large vehicles to access. *Cllr Mike Adel left the meeting.*

8. **HDSLAs:** Mags reported

- The Charity had been successful in obtaining a grant of £2,000.
- The agreement between HDSLAs and OPC had still not been decided. During discussion it was agreed that representatives from the HDSLAs and OPC would meet on Wednesday 5th March to go over and approve the agreement so that it could be signed.

9. **Members Reports:**

Johnsons Memorial: Vince reported via email:

- The flowerbeds had all been dug over and were ready for weed suppressant.
- He would be ordering white stones and hopefully laying them on the weekend of 16th March.
- The flagpole was now straight.

Memorial Service:

- He was hoping to organize the air cadet band and a bugler.
- Attendees should be Mayor of Ashford and his wife, 3 visitors from US, 4 from 447th Bomber group and around 20-25 veterans plus members of the Parish Council and the community.
- Rev Michael Homewood ex Padre RAF will deliver the service with Rod Whatley attending after his Palm Sunday service.
- The Royal British Legion will supply a wreath and it will be laid by someone from the US it is hoped that one will be laid from the village.

During a brief discussion members agreed that the Parish Council would fund the cost of cups, saucers, cutlery, plates, tea-pots for the service. These would then be stored in the pavilion's kitchen for future use of theirs. The Chairman is making arrangements to have the flagpole dropped and the flag put up. The Clerk was asked to contact the gardener and ask him to tidy up the area in readiness of the service.

Highways: Keith reported that he continued to report potholes and street lighting, there was an issue concerning the lack of street light by the old Chocolate Box (the existing owners did not seem to want one outside the property at the present time). The blocked drain in this area had been reported numerous times and he would be speaking to Highways about it again as it had been noted incorrectly that the work had been completed.

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

- Letter from the HDSLAs requesting funding towards maintenance/grass cutting. It was noted that £600 has been earmarked for this. Those present agreed to provide this funding as usual.
- Letter from KCC informing the Parish Council that implementation of phase 2 of the safe and sensible street lighting – part night lighting is now taking place. This involves installing a sensor in each street light that will switch them off at midnight and then back on again at 5.30am. Details of the street lights to be converted will be posted on their website at www.kent.gov.uk/streetlights
- Letter from the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) inviting the Parish Council to renew their annual subscription. It was noted that this would be £29; those present agreed to renew the subscription.
- Letter from the HDSLAs requesting funding towards maintenance/grass cutting. £600 has been earmarked for this.
- Notes from the Parish Forum meeting held on 22nd January
- Notice from the Society of Local Council Clerks noting that legislative reform to repeal the statutory requirement for 2 elected members to sign cheques and other orders for payment will

shortly be taking place. The removal of this legal requirement will enable councils to take advantage of modern technology including internet banking

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

An up to date budget was circulated to members.

12. **Annual Assembly:** To be held on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm. It was agreed that the exhibition be held in the entrance lobby of the pavilion. The Clerk was asked to invite representatives from the community.

13. Any Other Business Approved by the Chairman:

McColls: The problem of the lighted sign had been resolved; it had been set to go off fifteen minutes after the shop was closed.

Lancaster Close: Development work had commenced for phase 2. It had been noted that the roads were being kept clean.

14. **Date of Next Meeting:** Parish Council Annual Assembly: Mon 7th April 2014 at 7.30pm
Planning Meeting: Monday 17th March 2014 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.25pm

Chairman's Signature

