

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from Orlestone Parish Council's Annual Assembly held on Monday 3rd April 2017 at 7.30pm in the Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

Present: Parish Councillors: George Sparks (Chairman), Mike Wady, (Vice-Chairman), Tony Isted, David Lancaster, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, Mike Wady and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell)

Also Present: Kent County Councillor Mike Angell; Borough Councillor Gareth Bradford, Borough Councillor Aline Hicks; Joan Monsen (WI representative), Community Warden Katherine Carter, Peter Davison (OPC's Planning Adviser) and members of the public.

Apologies: Angela Bromfield (Victory Hall & St Mary's Church), Andy Ansley and Graham Woodcock (HDSLA), PCSO Dan Smith and Parish Councillors Andy Othen, Steve Shorter and Vicky McKissock.

1. **Welcome by Chairman & Parish Council's Annual Report:** George Sparks welcomed those in attendance. (*Full report attached*)

2. **Annual Reports From Representatives of the Community:**

Kent County Councillor Mike Angell: highlighted that in his role as County Councillor he served on the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee; the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee; the Planning Applications Committee; the Select Committee Commissioning. He was also served on the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority. He had been involved in issues regarding rural roads and had put pressure on to improve traffic conditions. Cllr Angell noted that Council Tax had been increased by 4% with 2% to be spent on Social Care. (*Full Report Attached*)

Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: began her report by saying how pleased she was to see the new developing footbridge at Hamstreet Station which will make the crossing over the railway line a much safer procedure. Cllr Hicks explained that her ward covered Woodchurch, Warehorne, Hamstreet and Orlestone, Shadoxhurst and Stubbs Cross. During the past year she had been involved with the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Planning issues and ground water management. She explained that each year she received a member's grant and that year had £3,000 and had already received three applications for funding.

Borough Councillor Gareth 'Brad' Bradford: reported that he had had an interesting two years as a Borough Councillor and that last year he had been made a cabinet member. He was involved with Highways and Health & Wellbeing; with the vast majority of his work being taken up as a cabinet member. He had been involved in the new 'One You' shop in Park Mall in Ashford town and explained that free advice on offer included: stop smoking support, healthy weight advice, blood pressure checks, weigh-in service plus support and advice on a range of lifestyle issue. He explained that although he could not always make meetings he could be contacted via email or telephone.

Community Warden Kathy Carter: introduced herself to those present. Kathy explained that she also covered five other villages but tried to get to Hamstreet twice a week and was available for help and advice.

The Chairman highlighted that PCSO Dan Smith had been unable to attend but had sent a report which was made available to those present (*attached*)

3. **Annual Reports From Local Clubs and Organisations:**

Orlestone WI: Joan Monsen reported that the main purpose of the WI was to enable women who were interested in issues associated with rural life including arts, crafts, science, health and social welfare to advance their education. In 2016 they had celebrated their 50th anniversary and were pleased to continue to flourish. They had 37 full members.

During the past year they had enjoyed various visits including trips to various gardens and the Stevenson Rocking Horse Factory. They had held two litter picking exercises and supported the 'alleviating loneliness programme'. They backed the idea of a community defibrillator

Following Joan's report the Parish Council Chairman highlighted that the Parish Council were in the process of raising funds for a community defibrillator.

The Chairman highlighted that reports had been provided from the Hamstreet Victory Hall Committee and the Friends of St Marys Church, these were made available to those present (*full reports attached*)

Conclusion:

The Chairman thanked all for attending Orlestone Parish Council's Annual Assembly and highlighted that the issue with the cropped lamp posts continued to be ongoing with ABC now investigating the issue.

He explained that the Parish Council had introduced a Community Award in 2015 and that a plaque was presented every year to a person who was involved in the community of Hamstreet making it a better place. After much discussion it had been agreed that this year it be presented to someone who had lived in the village for over fifty years and had worked tirelessly for the Over 60s Club; helping to organise their holidays and various events. Someone who had been active at Cotton Hill House, organising their Christmas Dinner and various social events and been an active member in the local Woman's Institute and Ladies Social Club. The Chairman explained that this person was Joan McKay. A short presentation took place; the meeting then concluded.

Chairman's Signature:

Meeting Concluded at 8.10pm

Orlestone Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report – 3rd April 2017

For the Council this has been a very busy year and very much dominated by future planning for the village. I will return to this matter later in my report.

Once again the Council has maintained tight financial control and we were pleased to once again provide grants to The Victory Hall, St. Marys Church and Sports & Leisure at a slightly increased level and we will be making those grants once again next year. A one off additional grant was given to Sports & Leisure to assist with some set up costs for preparation of the ground. The Council has made other donations to village organisations.

We are pleased to be able to maintain our precept at the same level for the forthcoming year which has resulted in a 5.6 % fall in the Council Tax element paid to Orlestone Parish Council for each home in the Parish.

Following completion of the Lancaster Close, Phase 2, development a sum of almost £110,000 is due to the village for provision of new children's play equipment. Following 2 votes, or was it 3? It was decided that a new playground should be provided on the Victory Hall Green.

Following a recent meeting between Ashford Borough Council, The Victory Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council it has been decided that a new play area will be sited in the south west corner of the green, nearer to Village Way. A survey of the views and wishes of the young people of the village will be conducted by the Councils. This will involve the school, Mothers & Toddlers Group and users of the Victory Hall. It has been agreed that ABC will carry out the works and it is hoped the new play park will be ready by Easter next year. ABC will continue responsibility for the Lancaster Close play area.

Firework night saw a record attendance last year causing concerns over public safety. The firework Sub Committee is still to decide whether there will be a display this year.

It was with much regret that a decision was made to discontinue the Festival of Transport. We thank Mike and Mags for the many years of hard work they have put into running a very popular and successful show. The show has been taken on by a private company, which will continue to provide funding for the over 60's Christmas Lunch. The Festival of Transport subcommittee has now become the Hamstreet Music Festival Committee and will now operate under the umbrella of the Sports & Leisure Committee. All existing funds and future profits will be used to provide funding for local community groups.

Most of you will be aware of the Ashford Local Plan, a draught of which was issued in June last year. Following a referendum of every property in the Parish the public decision, by a majority of 5/1, was to object to any development on the field opposite the school known as site S31 or later St Marys Green. This remains the view of the Parish Council and we will continue to object to any development of this site. Later another site came forward as an omission site in the area north of Warehorne Road and west of Ashford Road. All of the house building on this site is in the Parish of Warehorne.

The Parish Council takes the view that the village is expanding far too quickly. We calculate the rate of growth at 270% over the last 55 years and would prefer that no further new development should take place for some years. However as Hamstreet is one of the 3 key villages in the Borough, because of the railway station, it is almost inevitable that some new development will occur in Hamstreet. The Council continues a

dialogue with ABC and the developers and will always attempt to achieve the best outcome for the village. We understand that the final issue of the Ashford Local Plan will be published in June/July this year. This will be followed by a further 6 week consultation before submission to a Government Inspector for final acceptance. There are no proposals to hold another referendum.

We have maintained contact with our County Councillor and 2 Ward Members for the Borough. They have attended our meetings whenever possible and we are grateful for the support we have received from them

Dan Smith, the PCSO regularly attends our meetings and we are pleased to note that Hamstreet remains a low crime area.

I take this opportunity to express our thanks to Peter Davison, who has been assisting the Council as a Consultant on planning issues. We also thank Colin Howland, who early every Sunday morning can be found litter picking around the village, David Collins who maintains Forge Gardens and the beds around the village sign, Keith Taylor who cuts the grass at the entrance to Pound Lees, by the flagpole and on the opposite side of the road and Sid and Linda Gittens who continue to maintain the bed by the flagpole.

It should be remembered that your Parish Council is the lowest level of governance and is the elected representation for the Parish of Orlestone. Parish Councillors give their time freely and receive no remuneration for their service and should be treated with respect. Sadly following events during the year we felt it necessary to amend our standing orders in respect of public consultation with the Council.

I take this opportunity on your behalf to thank all of the Parish Councillors for their diligence and service to the community and personally for the support they have given to me over the past year. There remains a vacancy for one more Councillor.

In conclusion I take this opportunity on your behalf and all of the Councillors to thank our Clerk, Sue Stiffell for her hard work and the support that she has given to us all throughout what has been a very busy period.

George Sparks
Chairman

Kent County Councillor – Mike Angell

Saving have been achieved by restructuring the County Council, entering into commissioning contracts for services which have reduced overheads and still get value for money and which have not affected the delivery of front line services. All this includes balancing the budget for this financial year.

The levy from the public wrapped inside the 2 per cent increase on Council Tax for Social Care has helped and indeed another 24 million from central government has also helped but not completely covered the cost of care for the elderly.

Before you ask the money that was invested in Iceland has now been recovered not only by KCC but also the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service plus interest (over 1 million pounds)

I am engaged as follows at County Council:

Chairman of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which involves the monitoring of improvement and future plans, and a direct contact with the Care Quality Commission. Commissioning Advisory Board, Planning Committee, Chairman of the General Purposes Fire Authority Committee, Fire Authority Board, Sussex Community Rail Partnership Strategic Board, Joint Transportation Board, Ashford Chairman Youth Advisory Group and Local Children's Board to do with specialist childrens services.

These keep me pretty bust as well as constituency matters which are growing with the housing developments. Most of my enquiries deal with Highways matters, apparent lack of infrastructure and no doubt there will be school appeals to come to my attention. There are issues which concern me in that the pressure is now on our rural roads and infrastructure or lack of. I am glad to say that Parish Councils and have continuing meetings with officers with regard to traffic management, traffic calming and the like.

There are now regular discussions about traffic calming as a result of the very soon to start of building at Chilmington green. This include the upgrading of the A28 between the tank roundabout and the Matalan roundabout. Work is also going on in design and finance seeking for an extension to the dual carriageway on the Great Chart bypass. In addition I am informed that the work on the Junction 10A will commence next year. The JTB has been pressing Highways England for the Barry rod entrance to be redesigned with a roundabout. We await their agreement.

Among other things I am pressing the NHS for a health centre in Chilmington Green with facilities for minor injuries, X-ray and consultant clinics in order to reduce the need for patients having to visit the William Harvey. Progress is being made in this respect as have been involved in a number of various discussions with the Clinical Commissioning Groups.

.....

Police Feedback for Ham street AGM 03/04/17

I have now covered the village of Hamstreet since Nov 2016, It is one of my 11 villages so I have split my time well covering my villages being able to target current problems within the village that are having an effect on the local residents. I have attended as many Parish Council meetings as possible to feedback regular reports to the Parish Council and meet with any local resident present.

An issue brought to my attention from the local residents & Parish Council was the speeding on the main road outside of the school. Since November I have conducted several speed checks at the location on both sides of the road, on different days and times to be seen by as many people as possible. I have noticed the speed has improved, but I will continue to monitor.

Linked to the above, residents have also made me aware of the issue of the parking outside of the school. This is a difficult issue as there is no other place the vehicles can park other than the main road. I have spent time outside of the school correcting the bad parking and we have visited the school as part of Operation EYE, linked with all the other schools in the Ashford Borough targeting bad parking working with Ashford Borough Council civil enforcement officers.

Anti-Social Behaviour remains low in the area, I have had reports of persons congregating in the layby outside of the garden centre, an incident I was informed about unknown persons have thrown some brick/rocks at passing vehicles,

this could cause great harm to the occupants within the vehicle and damage, if this is seen please call the Police immediately. If Anti-Social Behaviour is seen in the village please contact the Police and report it.

Police Contact Number-

101- Non-emergency number

999- Emergency Number

56800@kent.pnn.police.uk – PCSO Dan SMITH local officer

Hamstreet Victory Hall Report
Parish Assembly 2016/2017
Chairman's Report

It is always a delight to start my report on a high note and being successful with the 106 funding was just that.

To enable us to refurbish and replace our very tired play equipment will be a great improvement for the younger children to enjoy.

We give a huge vote of thanks to the residents who supported us.

Our bookings go from strength to strength and the Friday morning coffee club is attended by fifty to sixty residents weekly. We promote our monthly calendar in the Parish Magazine and from this you can see we have very few spaces. Only last month we had a new booking for Yoga and I am sure the local doctors must be pleased that my physical events are helping to keep the residents fit.

One success that we are unable to continue is our annual 'Grand Jumble' known as the best in Kent and bringing in over £3,000.

Sadly it became too big and we are physically not able to manage it. But still collect Jumble, Brick-a-brac, furniture etc to sell in the hall weekly and at our monthly boot fairs.

We have on many occasions spoken of the importance of the many events held in the hall. Brining in hundreds of people a month, we are indeed the hub of the village and long may it continue.

We would not have the success that we do have without the very supportive and active committee who between them have a wealth of skills.

We very much value the financial support given to us by Orlestone Parish Council for our grass cutting and maintenance. Also the advisory role from ABC, KCC and Borough Councillors. Who we know will always give financial support if possible.

We very much appreciate the support given to us by local residents who help us in so many ways, not only by hiring the hall but by also donating jumble, china and raffle prizes, and of course supporting events held in the hall.

Again we can congratulate ourselves on yet another successful year and if we are successful in having a new village hall it would be the icing on the cake

A Bromfield Chairman
2017

Friends of St Mary's Parish Assembly Report 2017

St Mary's is our Parish Church, set in a beautiful spot and admired by many who visit and compliment us on and the beauty of the Church how well the Churchyard is maintained.

We, as the Friends, are very dedicated in maintaining both the outside and inside of the Church, therefore enabling us to hold regular services. In order to achieve this we have to raise funds, with our main fundraisers being our biannual flower festival, annual valuation afternoon and folk evening.

The Christmas Tree Festival was an extra special event last December and proved to be a great success, enjoyed by over three hundred people. We received so many wonderful compliments on how beautiful the Church looked. As a result of the success, the Church of the Good Shepherd is holding a Tree Festival this year and we hope each year, one of the Saxon Shoreline churches will take a turn.

We thank Orlestone Parish Council for their financial help towards the grass cutting and value the small team who maintain the Churchyard.

One of our challenges is to encourage more people to attend services and just to see our beautiful Church. When we are no longer able to look after St Mary's we hope these people will carry on our work.

We thank everyone who supports St Mary's and look forward to seeing you at our next fundraising events.

Angela Bromfield
Chairman
Tel: 01233 732833
