

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 5th March 2018 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

Present: Andy Othen (Chairman), Mike Wady (Vice-Chairman), Sid Gittens, Tony Isted, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, Steve Shorter, David Weeks and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).

Also Present: Kent County Councillor Mike Angell, OPC's Planning Adviser Peter Davison and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** had been received from Vicky McKissock (working) it was agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and Gareth Bradford (attending another meeting) and PCSO Kate Richards.
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): None were 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): It was noted that Mags Wellsted-Boorman was a member of the HDSL A.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meetings:** Parish Council Meeting held on 5th February 2018: It was noted that under agenda item 5, in Borough Councillor Aline Hick's report it had been noted that the path by Bournewood Stores had been repaired. This was not correct and those present agreed that this be crossed through. Following the alteration on the master copy of the minutes, Mike Wady proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 5th February 2018 be accepted as a correct record signed by the Chairman; Sid Gittens seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meetings held:** *Items for discussion only; no decisions can be made under this agenda item.*
 - i) Section 106 Funding: relating to Lancaster Close phase 2 development. The Clerk had contacted both ABC and KCC and asked if any of this funding had been spent and if so what on (ref. Freedom of Information Act) KCC replied saying that they would respond by 6th March 2018. Michael Scaplehorn (S106 Technical Officer at ABC) had responded saying:
 - i) To date £0 had been spent by ABC.
 - ii) ABC had not received all the funding from the developer.
 - iii) He and officers at KCC were trying to organise a meeting to resolve the issue with the developer.
 - iv) The developer had wrongly sent contributions to KCC. ABC were seeking its return.
 - v) ABC are looking at providing forward funding for the projects. His colleagues in cultural/legal services are to draft a simple funding agreement.

During discussion Peter Davison highlighted that in a previous 106 funding agreement, funding had been promised to the primary academy this however had not been received and funding from another source had been provided instead. The Clerk is to continue to press for information.

- ii) Funding OPC to HDSL A:
The draft business plan had been returned with comments from the HDSL A. During discussion the following was noted:
 - i) The MUGA was used 6 times a week.
 - ii) The football pitch was used by two teams.
 - iii) The daily running of the pavillion was time consuming with members of the HDSL A spending their weekends and annual leave dealing with issues at the pavilion.

- iv) New members had come forward to join the HDSLAs but unfortunately only two remained and had attended two further meetings. Both were now active members (one was helping with the website and the other opened the bar Saturday lunch-times).
- v) If members from OPC wished the bar to open more regularly, then training could take place and they could take over the responsibility of opening it every Sunday.

During discussion it was noted that the draft business plan was not a success and that a further meeting to discuss issues and concerns was needed.

5. Parish Poll Update/Next Steps: During discussion the following was noted/agreed:

- Results of poll/referendum: 404 people voted against the proposed Hallam development and 36 voted in favour, 1 spoilt paper. A 35.82% turnout.
- The polling station was open for 6 hours and no postal or proxy votes were allowed. It was believed that this was a good attendance record for a cold winters evening and it gave the Parish Council a clear reason to oppose the development
- An independent environmental impact assessment on S31 would take place when the precise development proposals were known; the existing plans being a proposal only.
- Hallam had been contacted and it was requested their due diligence and various technical studies on the impact of their proposals be made available to OPC – this request had not been responded to.
- The Ashford Local Plan 2030 examination hearing would commence on 11th April and would last for 7 weeks. Site 31 and Site 57 were due to be discussed during week 6 of the examination on the morning of 30th May 2018.
- The inspector would need to know if the sites were justified and deliverable or developable within the plan period having regard to any constraints and consistent with national policy. They would look to see if there are sufficient details on form, scale, access and quantum.
- The Parish Council would employ someone to represent them at the hearing - the Clerk was asked to find a suitable candidate. When one had been found the Clerk would inform members.
- A workshop was being held in Victory Hall by the ‘Rural Means Rural’ group from 10am on Saturday 24th March.
- To highlight the Parish Council’s fight against mass development in Hamstreet Village, it was unanimously agreed that three banners be purchased to be placed around the village saying ‘Rural means Rural’. The cost of these being approximately £60 each.

6. Reports From Representatives of the Community:

PCSO For Hamstreet: South Weald have two new PCSOs Luke Jones who is currently still training and Kate Richards who had provided a report via email which noted that there had been a slight increase in burglaries in the area.

Kent County Councillor Mike Angell: Highlighted:

- Shrubs and trees had been removed on the A28 between the Mataland Roundabout and the tank roundabout in preparation for its widening.
- Work had started on Junction 10a.
- He asked if OPC would be supporting the ‘Silent Soldier’ campaign in honour of British troops who fought and died in the first world war.

During discussion following Councillor Angell’s report it was noted that the near life size silhouette of a First World War ‘Tommy’ could be fixed on buildings, gardens, fields and roundabouts was in remembrance of those in the armed forces who came home ‘silently from the war as well as those who never made it. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate the cost. It was agreed that if one was purchased it could be placed by the flagpole. *Following discussion Cllr Angell left the meeting.*

7. Members Reports/Updates including Highways:

Highways: A request for a site meeting to discuss issues with drains was responded to with the provision of a link on how to report blocked drains. Consequently the blocked drain near the Dukes Head had been reported. A schedule of works for this area had been provided and was made available to those present.

Ownership of the hedge/trees in Bournemouth was being investigated via a land registry search and the Clerk had reported the overgrown hedgerow and trees to Highways via their online portal.

Litter Bin outside 'The Quinces': had been reported to ABC as missing. ABC replied highlighting that the bin was in a deteriorated state and would not be replaced as there were sufficient bins in close proximity and prominent positions.

Mike Wady had reported the various pot holes and broken kerbs in the village to Highways.

Johnsons Corner: Two new flags had been ordered to replace the tired ones at Johnsons Corner. Charles Flisher (Treasurer of Hastings & St Leonards Veterans Association) reported that the memorial service would be held at 11am on 13th April. He had rejected one quotation for the work to improve Johnsons Corner as being too high. (OPC had promised £1,000, Councillor Mike Angel £500 and the American contingent £500). He was hoping to get the concrete donated and students from Ashford College building department may be lay the base. Wyevale garden centre in Hamstreet had donated two benches for the site and Boxtrees Nursery of Beccles had donated 150 box plants.

During a brief discussion Mike Wady and David Weeks offered to tidy up the area before the memorial service. It was not known who had the key for the padlock – the Clerk is to make enquiries. It was noted that the flag-pole needed replacing. During discussion it was agreed that the promised sponsorship of £1,000 that had been promised during the Parish Council meeting held on October 2017 be released to enable Charles Flisher to start organising the work to take place. It was highlighted that Charles had promised to return any funding not used. The Parish Clerk is to contact Charles and explain that some Parish Councillors and hopefully volunteers were happy to help with tidying up the area.

BREAK: *During the break, a short discussion was held concerning the recently held referendum. It was noted that it had resulted in a 35% turnout, which was a good number compared to the recently held police commissioner election which had a 17% turnout and the local borough elections which had a 25% turnout. It was further noted that the polling station had only be open for 5 hours compared to the usual 15 hours with no postal or proxy votes being allowed. It had resulted in a more focussed discussion on the effects of development in Hamstreet. OPC felt that it was justified in opposing the development and spending public funding to do this.*

9. Planning:

Application No: 18/00227

Location Willowdene, Marsh Road, TN26 2JD

Proposal: Conversion of existing attached garage to a habitable room.

Comment: The plans were inspected by those present. It was agreed that the application be supported.

Warehorne Road: In response to OPC's requests regarding 106 funding for the site the following points had been raised by ABC:

a) Funds for the provision of a new village hall. *Reply: this is potentially acceptable. Has a business plan has been prepared; what proportion of costs would be needed and what other sources of funding was being sought?*

It was noted that the Victory Hall Committee were to provide a copy of their draft plan to the Parish Clerk to pass to ABC for a new hall and that an estimate of £750,000 for the work would be quoted. It would be requested that maximum funding allowed be provided and that funding via grants and match-funding would be sourced.

b) Out-door gym equipment on Pound Lees. *Reply: acceptable*

c) Provision of more litter/dog bins. *Reply – who would service these?*

Notice had been received that ABC was carrying out a consultation on the issues and options for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites in Ashford.

10. Correspondence: there was no additional items of correspondence.

11. Finance:

Budget Update: a monthly budget update was circulated to those present.

During discussion it was agreed that during the Annual Assembly being held on 9th April a 30 year long service award would be given to the previous Chairman (George Sparks). The recipient for the 'Services

to the Community Award' was agreed. Mags is to organise the ordering of the awards and having them engraved.

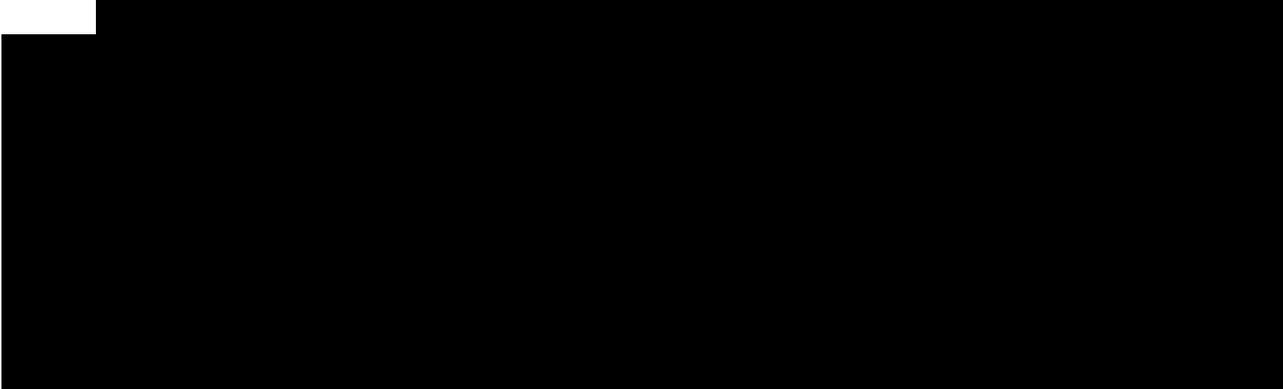
It was noted that the Annual Assembly would be held in a slightly different format and following a report from the Chairman and informal 'networking' event would take place to allow those present to mingle. Reports and pictures would be displayed.

Sponsorship to The Hamstreet Bowling Club: during discussion it was highlighted that the club had written previously to the Parish Council requesting funding for a new mower. Following discussion Sid Gittens proposed that the bowling club be provided with funding for a new mower, this was seconded by David Weeks and agreed by those present.

Discussion continued regarding funding to various groups and organisations in the parish. It was noted that the Victory Hall, St Mary's Church and the HDSL A all received an annual 'grant' and had done so for a number of years this was used for mowing expenses with the HDSL A receiving an extra increment for the sports pavilion.. Other groups approached the Parish Council for financial aid via a request put in a letter and on receipt this was discussed and either agreed or declined. It was suggested that a draft sponsorship form be drawn up so that various organisations/groups in the parish could easily apply for funding and that this 'community grant' be made known throughout the parish. *During discussion it was noted that the two hour time limit for meetings had been reached and those present unanimously agreed that the meeting continue until 10pm.*

Authorisation of Cheques: Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that the following cheques be authorized, Mike Wady seconded this proposal. It was further agreed that the Chairman could authorise cheques that required signing before the next meeting.

To	Details	Amount	Cheque No.
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12. Items For Next Agenda: *Items for discussion only, no decisions can be made under this heading.*

- Defibrillator for The Train Station
- Draft Sponsorship Agreement

14. Date of Next Meetings:

Planning Meeting:	Monday 19 th March 2018 at 7.30pm (if necessary)
Parish Council's Annual Assembly:	Monday 9 th April 2018 at 7.30pm
Parish Council AGM:	Monday 21 st May 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 10pm

Chairman's Signature: