

ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from Orlestone Parish Council's Annual Assembly held on Monday 9th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

Present: Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), Mike Wady, (Vice-Chairman), Sid Gittens, David Lancaster, Vicky McKissock, Steve Shorter, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, David Weeks and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell)

Also Present: Community Warden Katherine Carter, PCSO Peter Davison (OPC's Planning Adviser), representatives from various organisations including Hamstreet Victory Hall, Hamstreet Bowling Club, Hamstreet & District Sports and Leisure Association (HDSLAs) and members of the public.

Apologies: had been received from Parish Councillor Tony Isted, Hamstreet Primary Academy, Hamstreet WI, Kent County Councillor Mike Angell and Borough Councillors Aline Hicks & Gareth Bradford.

Chairman's Annual Report for the Annual Assembly - Monday 9th April 2018

Thank you for attending the OPC Annual Assembly, it is a chance for us to share with you what we have been doing over the past year, and a great opportunity for the wide and various organisations within the Parish to meet, discuss and generally "network" as they say nowadays. We have approached this year's Annual Assembly slightly differently and requested those who usually provide a verbal report to provide a written one with photographs (if possible). These can be found displayed around the room and include a power point display from Hamstreet Primary Academy which can be viewed on the screen at the back of the room. Once this address is complete, an informal session will be held when questions and information can be sought from the representatives of the various organisations present.

I am happy to say that we currently have a full complement of Parish councillors. We welcome David Weeks to the team and we welcome back Sid Gittens who many years ago sat on the Parish Council.

At this point it would be fitting to recognise a member of OPC who recently retired. George Sparks served on the council for 30 years. George was inspirational as chairman and was a driving force, getting things done and ensuring the parish was not "taken for a ride!" I feel fortunate to have served on the council with George and I learned a great deal from him. As appreciation of his many years and unfaltering service, we would like to present George with a 30 years' service award from OPC.

They say "Behind every great man there's a great woman" and in George's case I am sure he will agree. Ros-Sparks has also worked tirelessly for the community, serving the HDSLAs and assisting OPC with the various events we have held over the years. In recognition to Ros's commitment to the community we would like to present this gift to her sons which they will pass on to her. Unfortunately Ros was unable to attend this evening.

It has not been an easy year, I am sure everyone is aware of proposed developments within the confines of the parish. Now is not the time to debate the issues, but I was encouraged to see a healthy turnout at our Parish Poll and overwhelming objection to the development. I can announce that we have identified someone to professionally represent us at the examination of the local plan which will be held in late May.

During the past year, the Parish Council was pleased to continue its support to The Victory Hall, The Friends of St Marys and The Sports & Leisure Association by providing them with an annual grant which helps with their mowing costs. We also made a donation for Johnson's Corner for its improvement which will include a new flag pole and two benches; we have purchased a community defibrillator which can be

found on the external wall of the Sports Pavilion and we have promised funding to the Hamstreet Bowls Club so that they can purchase a new mower, We are now in the process of developing a simple sponsorship form so that other organisations in the parish can apply for a one off ‘small’ grant during each financial year.

With regards to play parks, the 106 money allocated to the Victory Hall for renewal of facilities is now moving positively. We look forward to seeing better facilities in the village for our younger generations to enjoy.

We have maintained close contact with our County Councillor, Mike Angell and our Borough Councillors, Aline Hicks and “Brad” Bradford. They have attended our meetings whenever possible and I take this opportunity to express our thanks to them for their assistance throughout the year.

The success of providing a defibrillator has resulted in the aim to have another provided in the northern part of the village. We have undertaken a project to renew many of the benches in the parish, work has continued to identify and report the many potholes, faulty lampposts, blocked walkways and overgrown hedgerow.

Members of Orlestone Parish Council, do not receive a wage, are elected ‘volunteers’ and provide a voice for those living in the Parish. Like many organisations in the village we give up our time for the community to make it a better and pleasant place to live. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parish councillors for their time. I could go on and embarrass my colleagues individually by telling you all what each has done but I won’t bore you with their many good deeds but I am aware that without their dedication there would not be a parish council.

In Hamstreet we are lucky to have a number of people who are willing to give up their time freely to ensure the community is provided with excellent services.

We have the HDSLAs who run events, open the pavilion bar and last year took over the running and responsibility of the annual Hamstreet Firework Display; we have the village hall committee who manage Victory hall, ensure it is maintained and ready for use, the many sports clubs, children’s clubs - far too many to mention without upsetting someone. I personally would like to thank everyone individually if I could however I would like to highlight one team of volunteers, the leaders of the local scouting organisations. I remember being a cub scout a couple of years ago and have great memories of cooking sausages on a camp fire. When speaking to young people about the scouting movement, you hear a couple of names time and time again, fantastic leaders, giving their time freely, always willing to help, and always attending events. With this in mind, the OPC award for services to the community was clear. It would have to be shared by these two inspirational leaders but I am sure they will not mind, so on behalf of OPC, and from the many members of the scouting organisation that you have helped during your many years as leaders, it gives me great pleasure to give this award to Tim and Lesley Brisley, who unfortunately were not able to attend this evening but the vice-chairman (Mike Wady) and myself were able to present this award to them prior the meeting.

I look forward to another constructive year with the Parish Council and thank you all again for coming along this evening. Please look at the photographs and reports provided and enjoy a drink at the bar and some refreshments.

Andy Othen (Chairman)

Speech Concluded 8pm

Chairman’s Signature:



Mike Angell Annual report 2017/18

This has been an exciting and interesting year for me.

I was selected to be the Vice Chairman of the County Council with a strong possibility of becoming the Chairman on 17th May 2018.

However, life has to go on in which has involved me in continuing to scrutinise the local NHS and their plans for the future. This includes examining the recovery plan for the South East Coast Ambulance Service to help the service come out of special measures.

In addition, I have been working to study the plans for the future of the stroke service which is undertaking a complete overhaul which is badly needed. As a matter of interest I have met with a number of stroke survivors who welcome the possibilities of a future plan.

In my role as Vice Chairman there have been occasions where I have attended civic duties on behalf of the Chairman such as citizenship ceremonies which are held twice per week. Here those people from other countries all over the world have applied to the Home Office and reached the final stage of certification which are presented by the County Council Chairman or Vice Chairman at a ceremony at the Archbishop's Palace. I have also visited voluntary organisations and charities in all parts of Kent and sometimes Medway on behalf of the Chairman.

Recently I attended a conference of Early Years Education for children with Special Needs and Learning Difficulties which was initiated by Hamstreet School.

This in addition to the normal help and support that I give to my constituents.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS REPORT 2018

FROM COUNCILLOR ALINE HICKS FOR WEALD SOUTH WARD

Over the past year I have been a member of the following committees: Planning, Overview and Scrutiny, Standards, Ashford Water Group and the Interstructure Group. I also try to attend all of the Planning Policy Task Group meetings, the Chilmington Green Stakeholders and Ashford Strategic Delivery Board.

In addition I represent Ashford on the River Stour Internal Drainage Board, Citizens Advice Bureau and Marshlink. Last December I resigned as a director of Kingsnorth Primary School, now an academy run by the Church's Aquila Group. However, I am back on Kingsnorth Parish Council.

You will all know about the plans for your area brought forward to the Planning Committee. At this meeting one has to keep an open mind and bear in mind the greater good as well as village aspirations.

At the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny, the committee reviewed the youth provision within the Borough whilst acknowledging that there are other clubs (eg church youth groups) that are not included. There was also a presentation on transformation plans for the William Harvey Hospital and Local Care Arrangements. They have also looked at the doctors' surgeries in Kingsnorth and ways in which the projected increase in population can be accommodated. Most members have also completed the Online Safe-Guarding Course – which I passed with 100%.

Over the past year I have been particularly concerned about surface water drainage and how new estates will discharge this into the river systems. In this respect I have spent a lot of time reviewing the Chilmington Site. At this Site there is also a major obstacle to development – sewerage. At a high level meeting with Southern Water Services we were assured that a new drainage system will take effluent directly to the Bybrook Plant.

In **Hamstreet** I was pleased to help bring forward the safe crossing over the railway line at the station. Also, I would like to pay tribute to all the voluntary groups who do so much for the community and to the Parish Council who try to represent the views of all residents.

In **Shadoxhurst** there are two new developments near the Kings Head, both approved by the Planning Committee. But driving past these sites at the moment is most depressing with mud everywhere. We have heard of other developers keen to put up more housing in this rural area. A great deal of community spirit has been energised by the newly formed forum and I commend everyone for their efforts with this enterprise and especially the Parish Council for the enlightened approach.

In **Woodchurch** I was able, along with lots of letters from residents, to prevent land in the centre of the village (off Lower Road) from being included in the Local Plan. Much work went into the Local Plan with, I believe a successful result for the village and I hope the Inspector will agree. I am a keen supporter of the Information Centre and the desire for it to become a hub for the village. Also Woodchurch has many clubs and 'drop-in' coffee/tea events which cater for a wide variety of interests.

The main event in **Warehorne** has been the proposed development beside the railway line almost in Hamstreet. This proposal brings many questions, not least the conundrum of traffic under the railway bridge.

April 2018

Katherine Carter: KCC Community Warden

Work over the last year

On a weekly basis I go into 3 different primary schools to listen to children read if work allows. I also have held a surgery once a week at Woodchurch Info Bureau but due to flooding I have not been there for the last few weeks.

On a monthly basis I attend coffee clubs and the Rural Coffee Bus when in the area as it is surprising the many people that you meet there that live in the area that you don't know. Hopefully it will be visiting Kenardington in May. I also help regularly at a CARM meeting.

The Youth Bus came out to High Halden and Bethersden last year on a Tuesday evening where youngsters got to meet up to do art, crafts and sport. On the last visit the youngsters did a litter pick around the Rec and were rewarded with a barbecue afterwards.

Other events I have helped out with are Safety in Action which involves all year 6 pupils from primary schools in the Ashford Area, Summer Schools, Transition Days, Activity Days with Children Centre Staff, Road Safety Talks, Xmas fetes, Prize Givings and visible presence at large funerals.

I have been on training in the last few months for domestic violence, mental health first aid, safeguarding and social media awareness.

It goes without saying that any issue I cannot deal with myself is referred to relevant agency.

Kind regards

Kathy Carter

Community Warden

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