

## ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 in The Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent.

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

**Also Present:** Borough Councillors Aline Hicks & 'Brad' Bradford, Lee Small (Chairman to Warehorne Parish Council) and Dennis Seaton Chairman to Hamstreet Branch of the Royal British Legion.

1. **Apologies:** had been received from Steve Shorter (prior engagement), those present agreed that his apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from PCSO Luke Jones.

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): Mike Wady: conflict of interest with the HDSLAs; Mags Wellsted-Boorman member of HDSLAs.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018:** Mike Wady proposed that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman; David Lancaster seconded this proposal, which was agreed by all present.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018:** *Items for discussion only; no decisions can be made under this agenda item.*

- Damaged Track by Allotments: Notice had been received that the track had been repaired.
- Salt: Had been delivered to Mountain Farm by KCC. Some of those present had arranged for the salt to be distributed to the various salt bins in the village rest. Mags noted that she was in the process of organising the rest to be moved to the Sports Pavilion where it will be stored.
- Dog Bins: There had been no reply from the dog warden regarding OPC providing another universal bin for Pound Lees to replace the missing one for ABC to empty. It was noted that it had been previously agreed that OPC would replace the one at the end of Bourne Lane with one that had a larger capacity which ABC agreed they would empty. During a short discussion it was noted that bins from Gleeson; one for the end of Bourne Lane and one to replace the missing one on Pound Lees would be ordered

**BREAK:** A short break was held no matters from members of the public present were brought forward.

5. **Casual Vacancy – Co-option:** Julian Griffiths had completed the necessary paperwork to join OPC and was welcomed onto the Parish Council by those present.

6. **Reports From Representatives of the Community:**

Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: reported that the old market gates (that had been found during development of the new cinema and travel-lodge works) had been installed on the old market site by the new cinema in Ashford Town and that the centenary service for the end of WW1 held in central Ashford had been well attended. She further reported that ABC now had a new telephone app where concerns, environmental issues, highway problems etc could be reported and payments could be made. The 'Your Ashford' app could be downloaded via:

App Store

Google Play - <http://socsi.in/zXbjw>

<http://socsi.in/yUtO>

During discussion following Aline's report it was noted that for nearly two years the centre of Hamstreet village had been in shadow at night due to the lack of working street lights. Recurring problems regarding blocked drains were also highlighted; these had been reported via the Highways reporting portal.

Borough Councillor 'Brad' Bradford: began his report by offering to help OPC with issues regarding blocked drains and street lights and it was agreed that he would be sent the relevant information via email. Cllr Bradford further reported that Aspire had cut brambles away from a dwelling by Carters Way and that the resident had complained that too much had been cut back; a request had been made that the resident be provided with fencing.

PCSO Luke Jones reported via email that crime remained low in Hamstreet however there had been a rise in burglaries in rural Ashford and there had been a number of distraction burglaries. There has also been a rise in fraud related crimes, with hoax callers saying they were from a respected company ie BT, HMRC etc during the call a request was made for personal details. He highlighted that information regarding bank accounts or debit/credit cards should never be given over the telephone or email.

**7. OPC Community Awards: Discuss – Ceremony, Nominations** During discussion it was agreed:

- i) An awards ceremony would be held in March 2019
- ii) Residents would be given the opportunity to vote for a person of their choice.
- iii) Awards: suggestions put forward
  - OPC Services to the Community Award (*Mike nominated Lewis Brockway a local photographer who did a lot of work for the community*)
  - Residents Endeavour Award
  - OPC Youth Ambassador Award
  - OPC Sports Ambassador Award
  - OPC Charity Ambassador Award
- iv) Each person winning an award would receive either a plaque or plate. A book with details of winners would be purchased as well as a wall plaque noting those who had won an award.

**8. Landscaping of Forge Gardens:** During discussion it was agreed that the clerk carry out a Land Registry check to find out who owned the boundary of Forge Gardens. It noted that the best way forward would be for the back fence and ivy to be removed and replaced with new fencing.

**9. War Memorial for Orlestone:** A permanent war memorial for Hamstreet was discussed. Sid Gittens highlighted that he had been researching into various kinds and had investigated the one at Aldington; he had spoken to David Hughes who had helped with it. He also had a list of those who had lost their lives during the first and second world war.

During discussion Dennis Seaton, Chairman to the Hamstreet Branch of the Royal British Legion was asked for his input. He thought if the suggestion of a war memorial be taken forward then it could cover all wars. During discussion it was agreed that the best way forward would be to have a War Memorial Committee so that costs, design and location could be investigated, members could consist of representatives from the Parish Council and the Hamstreet Branch of the Royal British Legion and if advertised it was hoped that members from the community would also wish to be involved. The Clerk was asked to advertise the formation of the 'Hamstreet War Memorial Committee' in the next issue of the parish magazine.

**10. Members Reports:**

Highways: Various highway faults had been reported; the following was highlighted:

- i) Lack of cycling sign from Dukes Meadow.
- ii) The one-way street along Bunkley Terrace was not being adhered to. During brief discussion it was noted that Highways would be asked to look at measures on how to stop this from occurring and that it would be highlighted as a safety concern.
- iii) Village Gates by entrances: required repainting. Mike Wady offered to paint these explaining that he would remove them, paint them and then replace them.
- iv) The poppies used to decorate the village lamp posts around remembrance Sunday were being stored by Mike Wady.

Overgrown Trees in Bourne Lane: Following receipt of a letter (from 3 residents in Bournewood) to OPC requesting help regarding trees in Bourne Lane that required cutting back and in the case of an Ash Tree; removed. ABC, Highways and Natural England had been contacted.

Following a site visit, Morgan Davies from KCC Highways contacted the Parish Clerk (3.12.18) and reported that the Ash Tree will be removed by Highways as it was in decline but the Oak Trees seemed fine and no work would be done to them, he also noted that some were not on highways land.

Mike Wady and David Weeks had met with Piers Griffin, Reserve Manager from Natural England who also said that he would arrange for the Ash Tree to be removed. Mike reported that Piers is to check on the ownership of the trees on the other side of the road. Regarding the removal of the Ash Tree those present agreed that Highways and Natural England could sort the matter out between themselves.

Defining Village Confines: Mike Wady reported that he had had attended a workshop held at ABC on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. It was noted that a draft village envelope for Hamstreet had been drawn up and comment from OPC needed to be made by 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019. ABC had asked that information be provided on OPC's website and feedback requested from residents.

During discussion ABC's map showing the village confines/village envelope was circulated. It was noted that ABC's Policy HOU3a in the draft local plan enabled development within these confines as long as all the criteria stated in policy HOU3 was met. It was further noted that in ABC's Policy HOU5 in the draft local plan allowed future windfall development on the edge or near to the village confines. Policy HOU5 being introduced in response to the National Planning Policy Framework which sought to promote sustainable development and avoid blanket restrictions on new development. It was noted that OPC had already requested that Hamstreet be omitted from both policies. Those present agreed that views would be sought from residents via posters, Hamstreet's village Facebook page and OPC's website. A response would be drafted, circulated via email and agreed before sending to ABC.

Johnsons Corner: David Weeks reported that he was regularly attending the area and highlighted that a rubbish bin would be of great advantage and that he was willing to empty it regularly. It was noted that the hedge that had been removed it had revealed a large amount of rubbish that had been laying out of view. Those present agreed that a bin be ordered for the area and that this be added to the order for the one at Bourne Lane and one for Pound Lees car park.

Silent Soldier: Mags Wellsted-Boorman reported that the Silent Soldier had been a great success and she wished to plant a small hedge to protect it and prevent people walking over it. It was suggested that a hazel or beech hedge could be planted. Those present agreed that Mags organise this and any costs be reimbursed.

## **11. Correspondence Received:**

- Luchia McGory highlighted that Orlestone WI group would be supporting their institutes Conservation Campaign known as the Green Heart Campaign; where people are encouraged to wear or make green hearts and awareness was raised regarding climate change, recycling and the danger of plastics and suitable alternatives. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February they were running a Green Hearts Day at the Victory Hall where there would be craft stalls, face painting, food and a fancy-dress competition The Hamstreet Singers (a children's choir) had agreed to sing and the Mayor had been invited to attend. and the headteacher at the Hamstreet Academy is supporting the event. During discussion members agreed that OPC would sponsor the event with £200 to help towards the cost of food and prizes for the fancy dress competition.

## **12. Planning Update, Applications Received:**

### Application 18/01652

Proposal: Proposed garage conversion to habitable room and replacement of existing garage door on front elevation with new window.

Location: Tavaite, The Street, TN26 2JH

It was noted that there had been no comments on ABC's planning portal when checked on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Following a look at the plans those present agreed that they had no objections to the application.

**13. Finance:**

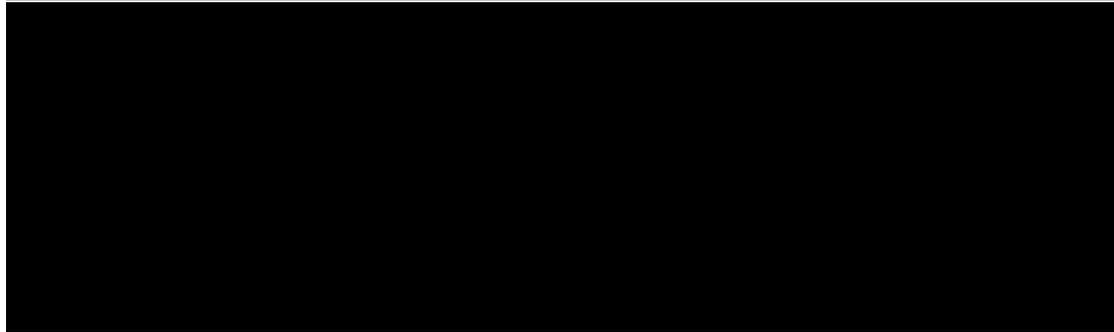
**Sponsorship:** It was noted that the Orlestone WI Group would be granted £200 for their Green Hearts Day being held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019. This would cover the cost of prizes for the fancy dress competition being held and light refreshments (soup and roll). During discussion it was noted that the over 60s club were short of £200 for their Christmas Dinner, entertainment etc. (*During the last meeting it had been agreed that £500 be granted*). By a majority of votes, it was agreed that OPC would cover this shortfall.

**Budget Update/Review:** was circulated to those present.

**Parish Precepts and Concurrent Grants 2019-2020:** It was noted that the total payments received from Ashford Borough Council for the existing financial year was £21,530 (£978 Council Tax Support Grant, £20,300 local taxpayers precepted and £280 Concurrent Functions Grant). Those present agreed that the total payments received from Ashford Borough Council be kept the same: £21,530

**Authorisation of Cheques:** Mags Wellsted-Boorman proposed that the following cheques be authorized, Sid Gittens 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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**14. Date of Next Meetings:**

Planning Meeting:

17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7.30pm (if necessary)

Parish Council Meeting:

4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded 9.15pm

Chairman's Signature: