ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

Present: Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), Mike Wady (Vice-Chairman), Dave Farrell, Sid Gittens, Sadie Michell, Mags Wellsted-Boorman and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).
Also Present: Borough Councillor David Ledger and Kent County Councillor David Robey

Public Comments & Observations: *None brought forward.*

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Basil Smith (working away), David White (on holiday) and Steve Newton (prior engagement) those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor Aline Hicks

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): The following declarations of interest were received: Mags Wellsted-Boorman: HDSLA Member, Andy Othen member of the Hamstreet Youth FC.

3 **Minutes From OPC's AGM Held on 13th May 2024: To Be Authorised As Being A Correct Record:** It was noted that the Parish Council's representative on the Hamstreet Branch of the Royal British Legion would be Michael Wady not Andy Othen. The top copy of the minutes were changed to note this. Sid Gittens proposed that the minutes from the AGM held on 13th May 2024 be accepted as a correct record and signed/authorised by the Chairman of the current meeting. Mike Wady seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The Meeting Held on 13th May 2024.**
   - Map of Parish Boundary: Copies had been provided to members who had voiced an interest in having a map and one had been placed in the pavilion's meeting room.
   - Track By Allotment: No further news had been received from Southern Water regarding them 'making good' the damage to the track. The Clerk had contacted John Mealey (Stakeholder Engagement Manager) asking again, to have the track 'made good'.
   - Closure of Ashford Road: The Parish Clerk had reported the constant closure of the road outside the primary academy to KCC Highways. Public formal notifications were not being received and signage was being left up saying that the road was closed when it was not. Kent County Councillor David Robey is to chase for a comment.
   - Parish Councillor Representatives on Outside Bodies: David Farrell offered to act as the Parish Council's representative with Hamstreet Woods (Natural England)

5. **Reports/Updates From Representatives of the Community Including Kent County Councillor David Robey & Borough Councillors**
   Kent County Councillor David Robey: During discussion he noted that KCC were now going through the budget for the next financial year. Highways were seeking further funding to help them deal with potholes. *Following a brief discussion David Robey left the meeting.*

   Borough Councillor David Ledger: Highlighted
   * Issues with rubbish collections were trying to be remedied.
   * Noel Ovenden had been re-elected as the Leader of the Council.
   * He had been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and the Local Plan Task Group.
   * Consultation explaining the process for the Local Plan 2042 were to be held from July 2024. He recommended that the Parish Council look at what would be acceptable for the village.

   Following a short discussion David Ledger left the meeting.

6. **Extension to Pound Leas Recreation Ground: Update** An email had been received confirming the purchase price of the field (£200,000), however confirmation that all owners of the land were willing to sell it the Parish Council had still not been received.

7. **War Memorial Project: Update & Finance:** Sid reported that he had found a small team that were willing to build the war memorial and would not charge for labour. He and Dave Farrell were sourcing materials for the project.

8. **Reports/Updates Received From Parish Councillors:**

Mike Wady: noted that he had reported a water leak on Ruckinge Road near the doctors surgery; which was still there; turf had been laid in the alley way by the bowls club which had helped with the drainage issue.

During discussion it was noted that there were various hedges in the village that had not been cut back by their owners and were consequently causing an obstruction on the footpaths. A request on OPC's Facebook page had reminded residents of their duty to cut their hedges. Sid is to chat to one household and Angela Hurst Estate Agents will be contacted and asked if they could arrange for a hedge to be cut back in a property that they were letting out.

Mags Wellsted-Boorman: reported that there had been evidence of drug taking and selling in the Pound Leas Car Park. She and Jemma (Chairman of the HDSLA) would be meeting with Beat Officer Darren Laker to discuss the issue and a request for more regular patrols had been made.

Dave Farrell: had spoken to a KCC Roads Manager and highlighted that a 30mph flashing sign noted in the plans for the Nightingale development had not yet been installed.

Andy Othen: noted that a wreath would be laid by the village flag on D-Day; Mike Wady agreed to do this on behalf of OPC.

Basil Smith: had reported via email, that he had received two complaints relating to noise being omitted from the road bumps that were located outside the Hamstreet Primary Academy. The main issue being when large vehicles travelled over them in the early hours of the morning. The Clerk had reported this issue to the Environment Team at ABC. Who had asked her to refer this to KCC Highways; which had been done.

During discussion it was noted that part of the problem was large vehicles were travelling through the village and not adhering to their route but using Hamstreet as a quicker solution. The main culprits being lorries which were believed to be from a site in Rye. The Clerk is to contact Kent County Councillor David Robey and ask him if there was something he could do.

9. **Planning Update & Review Applications Received:**

ABC's Local Plan 2042: It was noted that Ashford Borough Council are to organise informal community sessions at various sites throughout the Borough regarding all the sites that have been submitted for inclusion in their Local Plan 2041; a session will be held in Hamstreet.

Planning Applications

2024/0773	Land between Hillside and Carter House, South of Hamstreet Road
Proposal:	Outline application for the construction of up to 170 new homes, formation of a new access from Hamstreet Road, green infrastructure including landscape planting, habitat creation and open space, drainage infrastructure including a new pumping station, pedestrian and cycle routes, and associated works and infrastructure with all matters reserved save for access.
Comment:	A letter of objection had been agreed and submitted on 29th May.

Future Proposal/Plan A letter had been received from Dean Lewis Estates Limited. It highlighted that they were currently preparing proposals for the redevelopment of Windsor Food Machinery Ltd land at Mountain Farm. Proposals involved the demolition of the existing complex of commercial buildings and the rebuilding of new single consolidated commercial building. Their objective being to engage with the Parish Council and the local community. Members agreed that a representative be invited to attend the next planning meeting due to be held on Monday 17th June.

10. Neighbourhood Plans: Discuss A summary explaining what a Neighbourhood Plan was had been circulated to members prior the meeting. During discussion it was noted that the main drawbacks would be the cost and time it would take to draw one up. It was unanimously agreed that one would not be taken up.

11. Correspondence Received: not covered under other agenda items:

- Circulars and News Bulletins from various organisations had been forwarded via email to members.
- An email from Emma Harris (ABC) regarding Ashford Community Resilience Plans, circulated to members via email. It was agreed that it would be read and if further action was need it would be discussed at the next meeting.
- An email had been received from an allotment holder regarding concerns relating to Hemlock growing on the borders. It was agreed that enquiries be made to identify the plant and ABC would be asked for advice.

15. Finance:

Budget Review/Update: had been circulated to members prior the meeting, no questions arose.

Grant Applications: completed grant applications from Hamstreet Junior FC and the HDSLA had been received and circulated to members via email prior the meeting. Prior discussion Andy Othen and Mags Wellsted-Boorman left the meeting room, explaining that they were both affiliated with these groups - Andy Othen with Hamstreet Junior FC and Mags Wellsted Boorman with the HDSLA.

During discussion it was noted:

- Hamstreet Youth FC: Application requested £900 to purchase new football strips for the under 6 team.
- HDSLA: Application requested £1,250 to help cover the costs of the tractor and mowing machine that was used to cut the grass on Pound Leas Recreation Ground.
- There was £3,500 currently left the in Grant Budget.

Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed by those present that:

i) Grants would now be capped to a maximum of £500. This would enable at least seven different groups to benefit from a grant during the current financial year.

ii) Both the Hamstreet Youth FC and the HDSLA would receive a grant of £500 each.

Andy Othen and Mags Wellsted-Boorman rejoined the meeting.

Authorisation of Cheques: The following cheques were authorised for signature with the Chairman having delegated authority to approve cheques if required before the next meeting.

To	For	Amount	Cheque No
[redacted]			

16. Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business: No specific items were brought forward.

17. **Date & Time of Next Meetings:**

Planning Committee Meeting: Monday 17th June 2024 at 7pm

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8th July 2024 at 7pm

Meeting Concluded 9.10pm

Chairman's Signature: