ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 7th July 2025 at 7pm in Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Pound Lees, Hamstreet.

Present: Parish Councillors: Andy Othen (Chairman), Mike Wady (Vice-Chairman), Sid Gittens, Sadie Michell, Basil Smith and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).
Also Present: Borough Councillors David Ledger and Aline Hicks and two residents.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Dave Farrell, Steve Newton, David White and Mags Wellsted-Boorman who had prior engagements. Those present agreed these apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from Beat Officer Darren Laker who was off duty.

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): None were made at this point of the meeting

3. **Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held on 2nd June 2025: To Be Authorised as Being A Correct Record:** Mike Wady proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 2nd June 2025 be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed/authorised by the chairman. Sid Gittens seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

Public Comments & Observations: During discussion it was noted that a delivery lorry for Morrisons had hit a dwelling in the high street on 2nd July, causing structural damage. It was agreed that a letter be sent to KCC, Ashford Borough Council, The Police and the local MP asking for action regarding the continued parking issues in this area. It was noted that all suggestions by the parish council to improve the situation had been deemed unfeasible by Kent Highways. A new approach would be undertaken and each organisation would be asked how the problem could be remedied.

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The Meeting Held on 2nd June 2025:** No matters were brought forward at this point of the meeting.

5. **Reports/Updates From Representatives of the Community Including Kent County Councillor Bill Barrett, & Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger**
   Kent County Councillor Bill Barrett: No apologies had been received for lack of appearance although an emailed had been received confirming attendance.

   Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: highlighted that the draft Local Plan 2042 would put out for consultation in August. She highlighted that she sat on the Romney Marsh Drainage Board and due to ill health, the Chief Clerk was resigning. She had attended the community day that had been held on Pound Leas.

   During a brief discussion it was noted that the community day had been used to highlight the consultation currently taking place regarding plans for Pound Leas Recreation Ground. All views were welcomed and would be listened to.

   Borough Councillor David Ledger: highlighted that he sat on the Local Plan Task Group, their next meeting would be held at the end of July. All villages were to be included with no village being highlighted as being preferable for development.

   He had attended a meeting/visit to the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Warehorne Road and was surprised to see how large it was and that there was opportunity for expansion if necessary. However, the existing entrance was via a narrow lane which was not suitable for the large tankers that visited it. During a brief discussion it was noted that a new entrance could be made via The Pippins and that this would be suggested in future correspondence.

David concluded saying that he would be holding his regular surgery at the Cosy Kettle on Wednesday. *David left the meeting.*

6. **Pound Leas Recreation Ground: Update** It was noted that the community day had been well attended and an exhibition had been held in the lounge area regarding the ongoing consultation for development ideas.
Agreements: Two draft agreements for Pound Leas Recreation Ground for the lower and upper fields had been circulated prior the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that they be adopted and reviewed every 12 months. It was noted that eventually a lease may be required for the lower field between OPC and HDSLA depending on future funding criteria.
Cllr Aline Hicks left the meeting.

7. **Greensand Way: Information Point** Sid highlighted that he was looking for a suitable display cabinet that could be used for an information point.

8. **Highways:**
Current concerns regarded the lack of deer signage in Ashford Road and the lack road signage indicating speeding limits by the school. These has been reported to KCC.
Highways Improvement Plan (HIP): A more precise location for the deer sign had been requested. During a brief discussion two ideal spots were marked on a map.
It was noted that the existing list of priorities on the HIP were:

- Increased signage to encourage people to use the car parks in the village centre.
  KCC are to carry out a feasibility assessment
- Speeding Traffic: request for more signage
  KCC response ample signage in place however KCC support installing and funding a 'SLOW' marking on the road by the school
- Bourne Lane: Request for speed to be reduced to 20mph and speed bumps
  KCC will analyse and determine if a 20mph limit is feasible
- The Street: request for safer road crossing be installing a zebra crossing and installation of a loading bay.
  KCC to investigate

Highway Issues: Outstanding reports had been circulated to members prior the meeting.

Speeding: There had been a speed check survey undertaken by KCC. It was hoped that this was in response to the Parish Council's request for more signage and a reduction in the speed limit.

Vegetation: A tree positioned ditch side running alongside Ashford Road/Marsh Road and Pound Leas Recreation Ground (lower field) had been reported to KCC. Concern had been raised that it was in danger of falling over into the road. It currently stood at a 45% angle. KCC had visited the area and noted that the tree did not belong to KCC but the land owner and they were not unduly concerned about it.

During a brief discussion it was agreed that a tree expert be asked to look at the tree. *Following the meeting the tree in question was examined by a local tree expert (Mark Bolam) who reported that the tree was growing at an angle due to the closeness of other trees around it. The tree was healthy and did not look as if it was in danger of falling. It was agreed that the tree would be checked regularly but would be left as it was for the time being. Mark raised concern regarding the oak tree that stood by Pound Leas Car Park. The Clerk is to highlight this concern to KCC as it belonged to them.*

Footpaths: A concerned resident had contacted the parish clerk regarding the number of people who were walking along Ashford Road to the garden centre. The Clerk had contacted KCC who had responded saying that due to the grass verge in this area belonging to various people and the need to keep the gullies that sat by the hedge line clear to prevent flooding they would be unable to put in a footpath.

The state of the footpaths especially in the centre of the village had been highlighted to KCC. Concern had been raised regarding their unevenness and tripping hazard.

Flooding Concerns: KCC had been notified of the flooding issue by the garden centre (when it rained the road flooded) and they are to check the drains and gullies to see if they need clearing. The Clerk was asked to inform KCC that the problem was more to do with the location of the drains resulting in their inability to work properly.

9. Reports/Updates Received From Parish Councillors:

Dave Farrell: reported to the Clerk prior the meeting that those living around the school were fed up with the noise from the speed bumps ; he had further highlighted that they were unsuccessful in reducing the speed of traffic. The Clerk is to make enquiries into the possibility of having them either reduced or removed.

Mike Wady: passed a list to Clerk detailing various highway issues in the village; to be reported.

Sid Gittens: noted that the street light by the edge of the car park was still not working. The Clerk will raise this again to ABC. Sid highlighted that the hedge belonging to the house on the corner of Cock Lanes required cutting back. The home owner will be contacted with a request to have it cut.

Chair: highlighted the lack of/non-existent use of the 'classroom' at the back of The Nightingales development. The Clerk is to make enquiries about its uses and if it was available for local groups

He highlighted that he had been in discussions regarding a further CCTV camera at Pound Leas. This would hopefully act a deterrent to any illegal activities. The first quotation received was some £2,000. Further discussions are to be held to see a cheaper quotation could be found; it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman have delegated authority to agree a quotation for the work required and arrange for it to be done.

10. Planning: Applications Received & Updates

No: PA/2025/0996	Parker Farm
Proposal:	Erection of 8 dwelling together with all necessary infrastructure.
Comment:	The Parish Council had asked for an extension to the closing date for their comments. No reply had been received so the following comment had been submitted.

'Orlestone Parish Council would like to highlight that the access point to this proposed development is from a narrow road where site lines are hindered, making the access point to the proposed development dangerous. Any construction traffic would find it nearly impossible to access the site. There is simply not sufficient road space to accommodate this proposal. Those living next to the site would experience extreme disturbance from noise and dirt if this proposal was approved'

During a brief discussion it was agreed that no further comments would be made.

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

- Various circulars, bulletins and fraud notices had been circulated to members via email.

11.Finance:

Budget Review: had been circulated to members prior the meeting. Paper copies were made available to those present.

Authorisation of Payments: The following payments were noted. It was agreed that the Chairman had delegated authority to approve payments if required before the next meeting. An up-to-date bank statement was made available to those present.

To	For	Amount	Pay Details
Greenspace Gardener	Gardening Work in Village in June	140.00	FPO
Parish Clerk	Salary for July	583.99	FPO
Parish Clerk	Use of Home as Office Expenses	120.00	FPO
Chairman	Reimburse cost of Website Domain	274.50	FPO
Chairman	Reimburse cost of Web Hosting	56.32	FPO
Clerk	Reimburse cost of Flag	27.98	FPO
Bank Fee	Service Charge July	6.25	PAY
Mags Wellsted-Boorman	Reimburse cost of Flag	23.98	FPO
Chairman	Reimburse cost of Web Hosing	15.59	FPO
Greenspace Gardener	Work in Village in July	200.00	FPO
Parish Clerk	Salary Aug	583.99	FPO
Parish Clerk	Use of Home as Office Expenses	120.00	FPO

Bank Fee	Service Charge Aug	5.25	PAY

(FPO: Faster Payment Order)

12. Items for Next Agenda/Any Other Business: It was agreed that a review of allotment fees be discussed at the next meeting.

13. **Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Monday 8th September at 7pm

Meeting Concluded at 9.20pm Chairman's Signature: