ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 4th March 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, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).
Also Present: Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger and two members of the public.

Public Comments & Observations: *This being an opportunity for parishioners to speak or ask questions.*

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Basil Smith (working away) and Steve Newton (prior engagement), those present agreed that these apologies be accepted. Apologies were also received from Kent County Councillor David Robey

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: Sid Gittens and Dave Farrell members of The Hamstreet Men in Sheds, Mags Wellsted-Boorman: HDSLA Member & Firework Committee Member, David White: Allotment Holder, Sadie Michell Proprietor of the Cosy Kettle.

It was agreed that Agenda Item No 5 be brought forward at this point of the meeting.

5. **Reports/Updates From Representatives of the Community**
   Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: reported:

   - Ashford Borough Council had set aside £100,000 for digital improvements to the planning system.
   - The sites put forward for inclusion into the Local Plan 2041 would be released in the next few weeks. The whole procedure was likely to take between one to two years. Although sites had been put forward this did not necessarily mean that they would be included in the local plan.

NB: *Ashford Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan which will include a new strategy and planning policies to guide and manage growth and change across the borough to 2041, to ensure that local development is built in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.*

The Local Plan is a legal document which the Council are required to prepare following a process set out in legislation and having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Policy Guidance.
The Local Plan is an important legal document which provides an opportunity to:

- *shape the places that we live, work and socialise;*
- *address needs and opportunities in relation to local housing, the local economy, community facilities and infrastructure;*
- *have a positive impact on the natural and built environment; and*
- *mitigate and adapt to climate change.*

Once adopted, the new Local Plan will replace the current Local Plan 2030.

Borough Councillor David Ledger: reported:

- ABC had held a budget meeting and Precept proposals had gone forward; Council Tax had been set. Letters with details would be going out in the next few weeks to the public.
- ABC have agreed to raise fines relating to anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and dog fouling.
- As ABC's planning committee Vice-Chairman, he would be fighting for rural communities to have good facilities and policies during the Local Plan process.

During a brief discussion it was noted that Hamstreet's Village Design Statement needed to be referred to in planning applications put forward and that this would be highlighted if need be. *David Ledger and one member of the public left the meeting.*

Kent County Councillor David Robey reported via email: *The budget issue continues to dominate at KCC, but we agreed a balanced budget for 2024/2025, at a very long Full Council Meeting on 19th February. However, we have had to make a lot of cuts to a variety of services. This is not an issue restricted to KCC, and affects Local Government at all levels in the UK, particularly those delivering demand led people services, like Adult Social Care.*

- *The Roadworks Project continues and is a complex area. Ultimately, the utility works need to be done, as we all need the services, but we need to find ways of ensuring that these works happen as quickly as possible, to minimise inconvenience for road users, and this is now our focus.*
- *I need to chase the Loading Bay issue.*

5. **Royal Military Canal Footpath:** An email had been received from Mr P Sillibourne regarding an unanswered email that he had sent in August 2023. The Parish Clerk apologised for overlooking this email however Kent County Council had replied to various issues that had been raised in it.

   During discussion Mr Sillibourne requested funding from the Parish Council to help him continue to keep the PROW in order. It was noted that funding from other sources had been rejected as it was believed that the footpath was in good order and above the standard required; this was due to the continued work of Mr Sillibourne and previous help from various authorities in providing materials to do this. It was agreed that Mr Sillibourne be provided with a grant application form and that members would take time out to walk along the footpath. *Following discussion Borough Councillor Aline Hicks and Peter Sillibourne left the meeting.*

3 **Minutes From OPC's Meetings Held on 5th February and 19th February 2024: To be Authorised As Being A Correct Record:** David White proposed that the minutes from the meetings held be accepted as correct records 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 Meetings Held on 5th and 18th February 2024.**
   - Map of Parish Boundary: Paul Libreri the Electoral Services Manager had provided the Parish Clerk with a link to a map of the Parish Boundary. The Clerk is to make enquiries into having copies printed, size A0.
   - Planting of Willow Trees: Pond Area (near Cotton Hill House): Sid reported that Basil had the tree guards and they would be planted when the weather improved.

5. **Village Firework Display: Review** Discussions were being held by the HDSLA on whether to hold the display this year or take a year out. It was noted that the event was becoming larger and required various safety measures in place and a year out would enable these to be reviewed in depth.

6. **Extension to Pounds Leas Recreation Ground: Finance & Loan Review:** The Chief Executive of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) had sent the paperwork from the Parish Council to the Public Works Loan Board. During discussion it was noted that the existing license between OPC and the HDSLA would be reviewed the after the process.

7. **War Memorial Project: Update & Finance:** Sid reported that he was waiting for quotations for the work. Once these had been received funding for the project and grants could be investigated.

8. **Johnsons Corner: Saturday 13th April 2024 - 80th Anniversary:** It was noted that
   - Damien Green MP, Kent County Councillor David Robey and Borough Councillor Aline Hicks and the Mayor of Ashford had all accepted their invitation to attend.
   - The Cosy Kettle are to provide refreshments after the service in Victory Hall. The Parish Council would pay for these refreshments which would be taken from the grant budget.
   - Mike Wady was co-ordinating the tidying up of the area which included the painting of the plinth and removing a dead conifer.

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

David White: highlighted that the track by the allotments had been damaged by Southern Water vehicles. He is to provide the Clerk with photographs and these will be passed to Southern Water with a request that the track is made good.

Sadie Michell: highlighted that OPC's website appeared to have various issues when trying to view the minutes. Andy reported that there had recently been problems with the website which would be addressed. Sadie highlighted the footpath/alley that run alongside the bowls was uneven and flooded. The Parish Clerk is to highlight this to Highways and request that the path is improved.

Mags Wellsted-Boorman: reported:

- She was in the process of purchasing a new padlock for the barrier at Pound Leas Car Park. The Clerk is to put in a request to Southern Water to pay for its replacement as they were responsible for cutting and removing the last one.
- Alan Brind (ABC Officer) would be retiring in June but was trying to arrange for the potholes in the car park to be repaired before he did.
- The pavilion's kitchen had now been upgraded to a working kitchen.
- The HDSLA were holding a Village Fun Day on 13th & 14th July.
- The bus shelter was being misused by youths who continued to hang around in it, leaving it dirty and there had been attempts to set alight the noticeboard.

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

Maps had been received from Hallam regarding their proposed development. Emails had been received from residents regarding recent consultation from Hallam regarding the development of land between Ruckinge and Hamstreet. These had been responded to by the Parish Clerk who had highlighted that the development was a proposal at this stage and likely to be put forward in the Local Plan 2041 and not a planning application.

Planning Application no:

PS/2023/2179	Prospect Cottages, Warehorne Road, TN26 2JR
Proposal:	Construction of a single 3-bedroom dwelling
Comment:	No objections from OPC
PA/2024/0219	Capel Barn, Capel Road, Hamstreet, TN26 2EH
Proposal:	Installation of flue to first floor to serve new woodburning stove & installation of two conservation roof lights to the family bathroom & bedroom 4.
	PA/2024/0248 Capel Barn, Capel Road, Hamstreet, TN26 2EH – Installation of woodburning stove in the sitting room, & formation of new access to the kitchen. Installation of flue to first floor to serve new woodburning stove & installation of two conservation roof light
Comment	No objections from OPC

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

- Circulars and News Bulletins from various organisations had been forwarded via email to members.
- A questionnaire from OPC's insurer. It was highlighted that their policy was due for renewal in June 2024. The Clerk is to make enquires regarding insurance from other companies.

12. **Community Award:** During discussion it was agreed the awards would be presented to.

15. **Finance:**

Budget Review/Update: had been circulated to members prior the meeting, paper copies were made available.

Grant Applications: completed grant applications from Victory Hall and Ruckinge and Hamstreet Scouts and Guides group had been received. Copies had been circulated via email prior the meeting.

Victory Hall:

During discussion it was unanimously agreed that a grant of £800 would be awarded to Hamstreet Victory Hall towards mowing costs and £1,000 would be awarded to the Ruckinge and Hamstreet Scouts and Guides Group for the upkeep of their mini-bus.

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**: It was noted that the next meeting would be the Annual Assembly and that the Clerk would invite representatives from local groups and organisations.

17. **Date & Time of Next Meetings:**
Parish Council Meeting: Annual Assembly: Monday 15th April 2024
AGM Monday 13th May 2024

Meeting Concluded 9.08pm Chairman's Signature: