ORLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Orlestone Parish Council's Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 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, Steve Newton, Basil Smith, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell).
Also Present: Borough Councillor Aline Hicks, Dennis Seton (Hamstreet & District Royal British Legion) and one member of the public.

Public Comments & Observations: A member of the public present asked if this was the right time for the Parish Council to look into having a Neighbourhood Plan as Hamstreet had been highlighted for various developments in the proposed Local Plan 2041. During discussion it was noted that OPC had reviewed the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan recently as they had done in previous years. It had been agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan would not be taken forward due to:

a) The time it took in creating one and having it adopted. Approximately 5 years.
b) The amount of work that was required to put one together.
c) The costs involved, approximately £30,000 and the cost of regularly reviewing it.
d) That it could be over-ridden by Ashford Borough Council's Local Plan.
e) Neighbourhood Plans were more suitable for areas that did not have a Local Plan.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Kent County Councillor David Robey and Borough Councillor David Ledger who were both attending other meetings.

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.

It was mutually agreed by members that Agenda Item 5 Be Brought Forward.

5. **Reports/Updates From Representatives of the Community Including Kent County Councillor David Robey & Borough Councillors**
Dennis Seton – Hamstreet Branch of the Royal British Legion Dennis reported that on Sunday 15th September 2024 there would be a service at 12.30pm at the Church of The Good Shepherd which would include the changing of The Standard. This would be the third time in a100 years that it had been changed. He invited those present to attend with their families and friends.
Dennis further reported that the future of the Hamstreet Branch was in jeopardy as there were not enough members. They would be holding their AGM on 2nd October 2024.

Borough Councillor Aline Hicks: reported that August had been a quiet month with the next big event being Ashford's twinning event with Bad Münstereifel which was taking place from 19th to 23rd September 2024.

Kent County Councillor David Robey: had provided the following report which had been circulated to members via email:
'From the KCC point of view, like others, we are waiting to see that the new government will do in many areas, and have written to them at ministerial level on a range of issues including:

- *Planning & Housing, especially the provision of infrastructure, how to fund this and when.*
- *The European Entry & Exit System (EES), due to come into effect later this year, which will have significant, potentially negative implications for Kent residents, especially with regard to what happens at Dover, and the surrounding roads.*
- *All the issues surrounding migrants coming across the Channel.*

- *Adult Social Care and how to fund it.*
- *Children's Service's and SEND provision, including how to deal with the knock-on effect of the imposition of VAT on private schools, which will require extra capacity in the state sector.*
- *Highways & Transportation, which require significant funding, including buses in this.*
- *Local government finance and structure. There is talk of devolution, but what this mean is not yet clear. Certainly, the existing system in Kent, of District and County Councils, could be streamlined to the benefit of residents. However, over and above this, a different approach to social care provision is vital, as without this, KCC, and other similar authorities, will not survive in the long term.'*

3 **Minutes From OPC's Meeting Held on 8th July 2024: To Be Authorised as Being A Correct Record:** Mike Wady proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 8th July 2024 be accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed/authorised by the chairman. David White seconded this proposal which was agreed by those present.

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes of The Meeting Held On 8th July 2024.**
   - Online Community/Village Magazine – The first issue had been released and could be found on Orlestone Parish Council's website http://www.orlestoneparish.co.uk/parish-magazine/ A new magazine will be available on the 28th of every month. A printed copy of the magazine was made available to those present.

6. **War Memorial Project: Update** Sid Gittens reported that the memorial was nearly complete. He was now waiting for 'coping stones' to be placed on it and engraved plaques.

   During discussion it was agreed that an official opening be planned and all that had helped would be invited to attend with perhaps the Mayor of Ashford attending.

7. **Purchase of Land: Update** Borrowing approval had been received from the Public Works Loan Board and it was hoped that funds to purchase the land beside Pound Leas Recreation Ground would soon be credited into the Parish Council's bank account. When this occurs the Parish Council's solicitor will be informed. *Nb a loan for £200,000 to be repaid over a period of 49 years to purchase the field adjacent to Pound Leas Recreation Ground.*

   During discussion it was agreed that when the purchase had been completed a meeting be held between OPC and HDSLA so that arrangements could be put in place regarding the future of the field. Legal advice would be sought regarding a licence/agreement between OPC and the HDSLA.

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

Mike Wady: reported that Lance who had been working and helping out at Johnson's Corner had now moved out of the area. He was happy to put up a flag regularly and as reported at the last meeting a gardener had been employed to look after the area.

During a brief discussion it was agreed that new flags would be purchased and Mike would look after them.

David White: reported that one the allotment plots was being neglected. The Clerk will make enquiries to find out if there is an issue.

Basil Smith: Highlighted that work had been taking place at the sewage works but none that indicated improvements to its capacity.

David Farrell: noted that the path that run from The Pippins to Ashford Road was now open and being used. However, he was concerned about safety issues and it needed to be completed so that pedestrians and vehicle users could use it safely. The Clerk is to highlight these issues to ABC.

Sid Gittens: raised concerns regarding parking in the main high street where double yellow lines were being ignored. It was noted that these had recently been repainted but due to a parked car a section had been missed – this had been reported to KCC Highways. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the parking issues be reported to the local beat officer Darren Laker.

Steve Newton: highlighted that members be mindful and diligent especially with controversial applications as Planning Conditions on applications did not seem to be enforced. One problem being that there were only two members of staff on the planning enforcement team and they were dealing with a large number of queries.
Mags Wellsted-Boorman: reported that the Bus Stop/Information Shelter was dirty and needed regular cleaning. During discussion the Chairman agreed to investigate the cost of a regular cleaner and having a CCTV camera placed in it. It was agreed that if a cleaner could be found that they be employed to clean the shelter regularly.

9. Planning Update & Review Applications Received:

2024/1547 Capal Barn, Capel Road, Hamstreet, TN26 2EH
Proposal: Listed building consent for changes to the ground floor layout including partition walls and internal doors and to reduce the size of the conservation roof lights on the ground and first floor. The north-east elevation is change to suit the above.
Comments: During a brief discussion, Steve highlighted that there had recently been a bad accident at the Capel Manor junction and that appropriate safety measure needed to be put in place for construction traffic if the application was approved. It was agreed that there were no objections to the application but it would be noted that safety measures needed to be considered for construction/work vehicles.

OTH/2024/1521 Hamstreet Woods National Nature Reserve, Bourne Lane TN26 2HH
Proposal: Proposed works to 54 trees
Comments Members agreed that the application be supported.

2024/1469 14 Bournewood, TN26 2HJ
Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed rear extension and loft conversion with dormer window
Comments: No objections were raised.

On line discussion had been held on the following applications and it had been agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to them:

2024/1346 2 Rectory Walk, Cock Lane, TN26 2HU
Proposal: Detached cart lodge garage
Comment: No objections to the application

2024/1308 6 St Marys Close, TN26 2DX
Comment No objection to the application
Proposal: Single storey rear extension replacing existing conservatory
Decision: Passed by ABC (with conditions)

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

- Various circulars, bulletins and fraud notices had been circulated to members via email.
- Notice that a Parish Forum meeting would be held on Tuesday 15th October from 9am to 3pm at the Singleton Environment Centre.
- Correspondence had been received from the Friends of St Mary's Church who require the Parish Council's support in obtaining Section 106 Funding for the Church. This funding had been set aside from the Nightingale and Pippins Developments.
  Those present agreed that they were happy to collect these funds if they could not be paid directly to the Friends of St Mary's Church and it would in turn be passed on to them for their projects.

15. Finance:

Budget Review/Update: had been circulated to members prior the meeting. No queries were raised.
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: None brought forward.

17. **Date & Time of Next Meetings:** Due to various commitments of members it was agreed that the next meeting would not be held on the first Monday of the month in October as usual, but the second.

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 14th October 2024 at 7pm

Meeting Concluded 9.01pm Chairman's Signature: