

# Orlestone Parish Council

Notes taken during Orlestone Parish Council's Annual Assembly held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm in the Hamstreet Sports Pavilion, Hamstreet.

**Present:** Members of Orlestone Parish Council: Andy Othen (Chairman), Michael Wady (Vice-Chairman), Sadie Michell, Mags Wellsted-Boorman, Sid Gittens, Steve Newton, Dave Farrell, Basil Smith, David White and the Parish Clerk (Sue Stiffell)  
Representatives From Hamstreet WI, Hamstreet Branch of the RBL, Hamstreet & Ruckinge Scouts and Guides, The HDSLAs and members of the public.

## Welcome by Chairman of Orlestone Parish Council (Mr Andy Othen) Presentation/Report

*'Good evening and welcome to the 2024 Orlestone Parish Council Annual Assembly.*

*Firstly, I want to thank everyone for coming down this evening. The parish is a wonderful place to live and it is fueled by you, volunteers and helpers, who provide resources, clubs, groups and events for the community. It is important to recognise the time you freely give up and the effort you put into making these things happen that others may take for granted. On behalf of Orlestone, I would like to voice our gratitude. I would also like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their time freely given and the support of the Parish Clerk.*

*The purpose of this evening is to give you an overview of what we, the Parish Council, have been doing over the last 12 months.*

*We continue to monitor and report local issues, there seems to be more potholes every year and we contact ABC regarding these, as well as issues with lampposts, drains and bins. We continue to work closely with our borough and county councillors, acting as a channel for useful parish information.*

*The Parish Council want to make our local area somewhere we are proud to live and we enjoy adding to community events. We continue to provide an annual Christmas tree in Forge Gardens, decorate the village with poppies for Remembrance Day, we support the fireworks night by volunteering to help and who could forget our valiant attempts at bowls. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Linda and Sid Gittens whose help and dedication has made Forge Gardens a beautiful place to visit.*

*Over the last 12 months, the Parish Council has contributed to the following:*

- £250 For afternoon tea for the Kings Coronation (Victory Hall Committee)
- £1,250 Upkeep of Sports Field (HDSLAs)
- £500 Netballs, Goals and Bibs for the New Netball Club
- £790 St Mary's Church towards maintenance costs

- £1,000 to Hamstreet & Ruckinge Scouts and Guides Minibus
- £800 to Victory Hall Committee towards grass cutting costs.

As well as the upkeep of the defibrillator and the provision of prizes for the Christmas Light Display.

The ongoing project to provide a war memorial for Hamstreet is progressing well and we now have an agreed design with planning permission granted. This will certainly become a focal point in the village.

This year's big project continues to be the extension of the sports field. The consultation was well represented and an overwhelming percentage, almost everyone, agreed with the proposal to increase the Precept to fund the purchase of land. We have now engaged with solicitors and hope have an agreement in the coming weeks.

We share your views on development and will continue to work on your behalf to do what we can to ensure the parish does not grow so fast that it exceeds the infrastructure that has served us well in the past. We are aware of the current round of call for sites and will monitor this process and when the time is right and we are able to voice our concerns, you can be sure we will.

It was a shame to lose the Parish Magazine this year and the Parish Council wanted to recognize the efforts of Denise Rossington who has kept this going for so long, providing a useful resource for everyone. Although Denise cannot be here this evening, we will be sending her a little something as a thank you.

Several years ago, the Parish Council decided to introduce a Community Award. As mentioned at the start of this speech, we want to recognise and thank those who go the extra mile for the parish. This year we were unanimously agreed on someone who is the unsung hero.

The award this year goes to someone who is our own Mr Fix It for over 35 years. He was instrumental in building and furnishing this building (Hamstreet Sports Pavilion), he kept the parish mower going for many years, he is still involved in the annual Father Christmas parade, providing the sleigh and spending weeks making sure it is decorated and ready. He has helped with the Hamstreet Country Show and Car Show, he is always at hand providing help with car parking duties. The winner of our award is one of the people behind the annual firework display and is always there on the night. He is the village BBQ King – the award goes to Mr Alan King.

So, to wrap it up, thank you all very much for coming and for your continued support. Please now taken this opportunity to have something to eat, drink and catch up with each other'