

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 4 JULY 2022 AT 7.45 PM  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs Kevin Hipkins; Rachel Gray; Val Moon; Clint Hickmott; Gordon Newton; Mick Read; Christine Lambourne; Teresa Irving – Clerk; Cllr Gary Cooke (KCC); 8 Members of the Public.

- 1 APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Mark Ramsey & Kinga Stallwood (work commitments).  
The apologies and reasons for absence were noted and accepted.
- 2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS** – The Clerk for the purpose of minuting.  
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- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None declared.
- 4 CRIME REPORT & POLICING UPDATE:** Crimes reported on e-watch.co.
  - 01.06.22 in White Horse Lane. Someone poured a substance over a vehicle.
  - Between 00.01 on Saturday 7 May and 23.59 on Sunday 8 May in Spot Lane. Somebody keyed a Mini Countryman Cooper down the passenger side while it was parked on the road.
- 5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**
  - Is it possible to request Quiet Lanes status? Resident advised that the PC were previously told this is obsolete, but a check will be made.
  - What can be done to slow traffic/additional signage? KCC to be asked to reconsider original advice.
  - Concerns regarding traffic related incidents. PCSO to be requested to attend September's meeting to address issues raised.
- 6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 2022:** The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Councillor Hipkins.
- 7 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:**  
The appeal by Bellway Homes re non determination of application 22/501614/FULL was held in Maidstone Town Hall and attended by Cllrs Newton, Hickmott (OPC), Springett & Spooner (Bearsted PC). Decision awaited.
- 8 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**  
Personal issues have prevented Cllr Cooke from responding to emails etc as quickly as he would have liked, but he will deal with these as soon as he can.
  - British Citizenship ceremonies are held every Thursday.
  - Two waste sites are now available: one in Allington and one in Tovil (both sites are via a booking system).
  - New local bus strategy. Waiting to see what funding is available from Central Government.
  - Bus pass for young people is being kept open during the summer holidays.
  - Large area of redevelopment is planned for Shepway.

- Pot hole filling continues.

## 9 FINANCE:

### 9.1 Approve Statement of Account:

#### Cheques issued:

KALC	Membership 2022/23	415.39
Bicknor Wood Group	Grant Re Footpath Restrictor (CIL)	1,250.00
The Institute (Otham VH)	Replacement Cheque (Hire of VH)	250.00
CPRE	Annual Membership	36.00
ASGIBL (Gallagher)	Annual Insurance	451.32
KALC	Training (C. Lambert)	60.00
Smart Print	Printing of Heritage Maps	188.00
Staffing Costs (May/June)	Payroll/Expenses	1,792.00

#### Cheques received:

MBC	PSS Grant	757.50
NatWest	Interest	0.81
The Institute Otham	Cancelled Cheque 1565	250.00

**Balance of Current Account: £145,716.10 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd**

**Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,923.87**

**Total Funds: £150,639.97**

Approval of the above was proposed by Cllr Hipkins, seconded by Cllr Hickmott and unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

**9.2 Internal Audit Confirmation:** Audit performed on 23 May with paperwork subsequently submitted to PKF Littlejohn for the external audit on 27 May.

**9.3 Confirm Period for the Exercise of Public Rights:** Monday 6 June to Friday 15 July.

**9.4 Other Matters to Report –** No further matters.

## 10 CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS: RECEIVED/GRANTED:

**Applications Received: Nil**

#### Applications Refused:

**22/501471/FULL PROPOSAL:** Land Rear of The Stables Green Hill

#### Applications Awaiting Decision:

**22/501614/FULL:** Section 73 - Application for Variation of condition 30 (to vary the trigger point for the delivery of the Willington Street/Deringwood Drive improvements, to prior to occupation of 100 units, rather than prior to commencement above floor slab level) pursuant to application 19/506182/FULL (allowed on appeal) for - Residential development for 421 dwellings with associated access, infrastructure, drainage, open space and landscaping.

#### **22/500298/SUB – Land West of Church Road.**

Submission of Details to Discharge Condition 27 – Lighting for streets and houses subject to 19/506182/FULL

**11 VILLAGE GREEN:**

- Parking Update: Cllr Hipkins to make enquires with the tenant farmer with regard to the possibility of providing parking on his land for visitors to the VG. Perhaps during the winter, with the NT sharing their car park during the summer?

**ACTION: Cllr Hipkins**

NT to be recontacted by the Clerk to ask if they will reconsider their refusal to share their car park? Perhaps a parking fee could be introduced and donated to the NT?

**ACTION: Clerk**

Kirkwood Trust to be asked to consider letting/selling the field opposite the VH for parking.

**ACTION: Resident\***

- Tree Report: Due to the failure of MBC to produce a report, it was agreed that 3 independent surveys will be sought.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**12 HERITAGE MAPS:** A resolution was made that 500 copies of the maps will be produced at a cost of £188. (Stored with the chairman for local distribution).

**13 FLOODING – WHITE HORSE LANE:**

No further information available. (Clerk requested update from KHS on 15 June and earlier today.)

**14 PARISH VEGETATION/HEDGE CUTTING UPDATE:** As reported at May's meeting, vegetation is no longer overhanging the road on Otham Street.

Clerk to enquire what maintenance has been agreed for the Bicknor Wood hedge and when this will be carried out?

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Hipkins to continue reviewing the cutting back of hedges in the parish.

**ACTION: Cllr Hipkins**

**15 VILLAGE HALL REQUEST TO CONSIDER MANAGEMENT:** Response from Ms Purvis is awaited in respect of what help is available in the community?

The PC was advised that the grant time frame for the replacement windows has been exceeded and the grant will have to be returned.

Alternative options to be considered for use as a VH: Senacre Community Centre, White Horse PH and the Football Club.

**16 CIL PROJECTS:** Original suggestions recirculated for the benefit of new members and individually reviewed. Timing is not considered correct to move forward with some items.

- Cricket Club – Cllr Newton to ask if the club is still active and if a fence is still required? If a grant is agreed, match funding would be required from the club.

**ACTION: Cllr Newton**

- Footpath that runs from White Horse Lane to Sutton Road is due for an upgrade. PC to determine how much of the PROW will be upgraded by KCC/the developer and determine if any further work will be required?

- Farmer/Kirkwood Trust to be asked if they will consider a Type 1 footpath, or similar, through the middle of the field opposite the church, to produce an all-weather surface.

**ACTION: Resident\***

- New notice boards. Developer has agreed to fund new boards for their sites. Consideration to be given if further boards required in the parish?

- Purchase of The Glebe/acquiring land was agreed as a good idea.

- Bicknor Woods Community Group has indicated that they will be requesting a further grant towards kissing gates.

- Cllr Gray to check land registry for ownership of areas discussed and provide an update.

**ACTION: Cllr Gray**

- Request to be made to Kirkwood Trust to ask if they would consider selling a strip of woodland from Bicknor Wood to Parsonage Place to provide a safe pedestrian/cycle route.

**ACTION: Resident\***

- 17 OPC BANNER:** It was **RESOLVED** that an upright OPC banner be purchased as a replacement for the missing banner.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**18 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED:**

- Cllr Lambourne attended KALC Councillors Conference of 30 June.

- 19 URGENT MATTERS:** None to report.

- 20 RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE:** Various correspondence circulated by email.

- Email received from Eileen Day during late afternoon today. The chairman had not had sight of the email prior to the meeting and was therefore unable to address the items raised due to its late arrival and length of content.

**21 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

- Christmas Ceremony. All to consider whether a Christmas Ceremony will take place this year? Suggestions to be put forward with regards to the type of ceremony/location.  
Cllr Lambourne to request her husband to speak with his contact regarding possible venue.

\*An offer was made by a resident to make contact Kirkwood Trust and report back as they know the trustee(s) personally.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

**The next meeting will be held at 7.45 pm on 12 September 2022 in the Village Hall.**

Please contact the Clerk if you have items that you wish to be considered for the agenda.