

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs Rachel Gray (Vice Chairman); Val Moon; Clint Hickmott; Gordon Newton; Heather Drake; Teresa Irving – Clerk; Cllr Gary Cooke (KCC); 2 Members of the Public.

Cllr Rachel Gray chaired the meeting.

- 1 APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Kevin Hipkins – Health related; Cllr Stallwood – family commitment; The apologies and reasons for absence were noted and accepted.
Cllr Mark Ramsey (received retrospectively).
- 2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEM** – None received.
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** No declarations.
- 4 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION:** No updates available.
- 5 CRIME REPORT & POLICING UPDATE:** Report obtained from e-watch.co.

- Between 17.00 on Tuesday 14 September and 10.00 on Wednesday 15 September in Church Road. Somebody broke into a storage container on site.
- On Tuesday 21 September between 08.30 and 17.30 in Spot Lane. A man entered an office and stole cash.
- Thursday 23 September around 19.51 in Lambert Drive. Somebody stole both number plates from a Nissan Micra parked in the road.

PCSO Kirsty Greaves has informed the Clerk that during her forthcoming maternity leave, a temporary replacement will be assigned her duties.

- 6 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** The provision of fibre optic broadband throughout the village was discussed – see Item 15 below.
- 15 FIBRE BROADBAND:** Item brought forward to facilitate further discussion re the above.

Otham is no longer rural and with the new developments the PC would like to ensure that at least the minimum level of high speed broadband is available to all residents. Clerk to write to Openreach and Helen Whately MP. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Cooke stated that he has written to MBC to ask that when granting planning permission in future, the fundamental needs of existing residents is taken into account. Fibre broadband to be raised at January's meeting with Bellway Homes. Cllr Cooke will also be writing to Openreach and Helen Whately MP **ACTION: Cllr Cooke**

- 7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2021:** The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Councillor Gray.

- 8 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:** Regulation 19 of the Local Plan is currently out for consultation. Whilst there is nothing of significance for Otham, the Leeds/Langley bypass is close and a careful eye will need to be kept on The Glebe.

Regulation 19 is to ensure that the Local Plan complies legally and procedurally.

- 9 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** KCC is focussing on a green agenda and bringing down their carbon footprint. Buildings to be used to generate electric in a green and friendly way.

The sad and sudden passing of Cllr Ann Allen, KCC's Vice Chairman, was noted.

10 FINANCE.

10.1 Approve Statement of Account:

Cheques issued:

Royal British Legion	Wreath Donation	50.00
HMRC	PAYE	187.60
KCC Re Kent	Employer/Employee	
Pension Fund	Payments (Sept)	150.58
	Clerk's Salary/Expenses	
T. Irving	(Sept)	406.06
KCC Re Kent	Employer/Employee	
Pension Fund	Payments (Oct)	150.58
	Clerk's Salary/Expenses	
T. Irving	(Oct)	406.06

Cheques received:

HMRC	VAT Refund	1,841.15
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Balance of Current Account: £81,992.55 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd

Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,922.82

Total Funds: £86,915.37

Approval of the above was proposed by Cllr Hickmott, seconded by Cllr Drake and unanimously agreed.

- 10.2 Budget Proposals 2022/23:** It was agreed that the Finance Committee will meet prior to the 10 January '22 meeting to discuss suggestions.

- 10.3 Bankline Update:** NatWest has advised that Community Bankline is only available for registered charities. The PC may apply for the standard Bankline account for which charges are currently £20/month + a separate charge for each payment.
Clerk to investigate Unity Bank and suggestions made by Cllr Hickmott re Monzo & Revolute.

ACTION: Clerk

- 10.3 CIL Payments/Projects.** Awaiting further discussion prior to moving forward

ACTION: All

10.4 Grant Request: Village Hall. KCC has awarded £8,000 from their Covid 19 Grant Fund to the Village Hall.

The AGM will be held on 17 November when the hall's future will be discussed.

10.5 Review Fixed Assets Reporting: Finance Committee to propose new style of reporting.

ACTION: Finance Committee

10.6 Other Matters to Report: Not applicable.

11 CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS: RECEIVED/GRANTED:

Applications Received:

- **21/505388 – 5 Broadclough Way**
Erection of Rear Conservatory
The Council does not wish to object
- **21/503538 SUB – Land West of Church Road**
Submission of Details to Discharge Conditions 9 (Ramp to Public Right of Way KM86), 11 (Pedestrian/Cycle Route Details), 35 (Pedestrian/Cycle Link to South), and 38 (Upgrade Works to PROW KM86), subject to the Appeal Decision of Application 19/506182/FULL
The Council objects to this latest design of ramp.
- **21-503585 – Land West of Church Road**
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.

The Council wishes to strongly object to this proposal.

Awaiting Decision by MBC

- **21/502775/FULL – Land South West of Caring Road, Leeds.**
Construction of lake, improvement of habitat and bio-diversity and reinstatement, improvement of current derelict huts on site and establishment of woodland copse, orchard and hedgerow.
- **21/50385/ADV – Land West of Church Rd.**
- **21/504081 – Yeolands, White Horse Lane**
- **21/504508 – 1 Wardes Bungalows, Otham Street.**
- **Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review Regulation 19 Consultation:** It was agreed that as this is largely to consider that the plan is compliant, the Council does not wish to formally comment.

- **PARSONAGE PLACE: Consider Road/Block Names:** The Council agrees with the name that has been suggested for the main entrance road 'St Nicholas Way'.

Cllr Gray provided a list of Otham Rectors between 1293 & 1935 which are appropriate as the Rectors were responsible for farming the land around the church that the development is being built on. The names were proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed. Clerk to send the suggestions to MBC. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was noted that the archaeology report for the site will go to KCC. Cllr Cooke to ask for details of the finds. **ACTION: Cllr Cooke**

12 VILLAGE GREEN

- **Consultation – Car Park.** Article to be included in the pre-Christmas edition of the Ragstone. All to provide articles for consideration
- **Tree Report** – Clerk has tried to progress this with MBC's Landscape Officer several times with no response. Cllr Newton to make contact to determine what the delay is?

ACTION: Cllr Newton

13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Provide update. This was formally adopted by MBC on 29 September 2021 and now forms part of the Local Plan.

The Policies will need to be used when dealing with planning applications.

14 UPDATE Re. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID/ASSET(S) OF COMMUNITY VALUE: MBC has requested further information to support the application.

Clerk to ask residents that were involved with the running of charities/functions etc. at the pub if they have evidence/photos regarding past community use. **ACTION: Clerk**

Confirmation to be provided that there is clearly an appetite in the village to bring back a local facility. With an increased population, support for the venture is likely to be even higher than previously expressed.

16 REMEMBRANCE DAY REPRESENTATIVE/REFRESHMENTS: Cllr Gray to represent the PC at the War Memorial. Cllr Moon to publicise the event on Facebook.

ACTION: Cllrs Gray/Moon

Due to ongoing Covid concerns, it was unanimously agreed that the PC does not support the suggestion to gather after the service in the Village Hall for refreshments.

17 VILLAGE HALL: Trustee Meeting 7pm on 17.11.21: Cllr Gray to represent OPC. Cllr Drake regrets she is not available. **ACTION: Cllr Gray**

18 ALLOTMENTS: Trustee: Following a request from The Henley Trust that a representative from OPC is appointed as a Trustee, Cllr Moon volunteered to take up the role.

ACTION: Cllr Moon

19 CHRISTMAS MEAL: Clerk to check availability at The Plough, Langley and forward details of menu/cost to all Members **ACTION: CLERK**

20 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED:

- Cllrs Gray & Newton attended a meeting with Bellway Homes/DPC/CARRA on 22 September – notes provided by Cllr Gray have been circulated.
- Cllrs Gray/Moon/Newton and the Clerk attended a virtual meeting with MBC and We Made That on 29 October to discuss the Otham Community Facilities Study. The aim of this study is find evidence of the village requirements, if any.
- Cllr Hickmott attended the free virtual training for Flood Warden volunteers.

21 URGENT MATTERS: Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily close Public Footpath KM94 between White Horse Lane and the A274 from the 12 October 2021 for a maximum of six months. There is no alternative route.

Reports of young people starting fires in Bicknor Wood.

22 RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE: Various correspondence circulated by email.

- Email received from a resident regarding dogs constantly barking at The White Horse. Resident has been advised to contact MBC.

23 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING ON 10 JANUARY 2022:
Please contact the Clerk if you have items that you wish to be considered for the agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.