

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 10 JULY 2023 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs Kevin Hipkins; Val Moon; Clint Hickmott; Jenny. Hollingsworth; Teresa Irving – Clerk; Cllr Gary Cooke (KCC); 7 Members of the Public.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Mick Read – unwell.
The apology and reason for absence was noted and accepted.
- 2 **NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS** – The meeting was recorded by the Clerk for the purpose of minuting.
- 3 **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS:** Mrs Christodoulou had previously expressed an interest in the vacancy by email and was present at the meeting to confirm her interest. Following due consideration, it was unanimously agreed to proceed with co-option of Mrs Christodoulou.

An Acceptance of Office was completed and signed. Co-option and DPI to be signed and returned with 28 days.

- 4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS:** None declared.
- 5 **CRIME REPORT & POLICING UPDATE:** Crimes reported on e-watch.co.

The Clerk attended a productive meeting on 3 July with area PC Mitch Hunt and his Sergeant Paul Cook (notes from the meeting have been circulated to all members).

PC Hunt will try to attend as many PC meetings as possible.

It is hoped that by September '24 there will be 100% of the planned policing numbers (this currently stands at 50%).

Sutton Road between 17.00 on Wednesday 31 May and 07.00 on Thursday 1 June.

Somebody broke into a building site and stole two boilers.

Spot Lane around 17.10 on Saturday 10 June. Some young people broke a fence leading into a yard and damaged a large plant pot and nine outside lights.

Titchfield Road on Tuesday between 00.01 on 20 June and 23.59 on Wednesday 21 June.

Somebody stole hub caps from a vehicle parked in the road.

- 6 **ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**
Concerns were expressed about the forthcoming Leeds village road closure and how it will impact the village. (Reference was made to the 2 meetings that were held by SE Water).

Cllr Hipkins stated that he had written to the Chairman of KCC and the Chairman &

Project Manager of SE Water expressing the traffic concerns; particularly relating to Otham Street, which has been getting progressively worse and nothing has been done about it. SE Water declined to introduce additional measures at the public meeting.

Traffic calming suggestions have been made, but they are virtually impossible to implement. Cllr Hipkins suggested that Otham Street should be blocked at one end, but was advised that this is unlikely to happen.

SE Water have agreed to review the situation when it has been in operation for a couple of weeks. Another public meeting will be held at the end of July, with a further review held in September.

Members of the public were reminded that signage and speed restrictions for the village have been investigated many times in the last few years, with little luck due to the narrowness of the roads.

Residents were reminded that all accidents/incidents must be reported to the Police.

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2023:

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Councillor Hipkins.

8 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: Not available.

9 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

KCC finds itself in the usual situation of being overspent and under resourced. This is solely due to two of the services that it provides: Adult Social Services and unaccompanied asylum-seeking youngsters.

10 VILLAGE GREEN:

- **Car Park/Signage Update.** Signage has been agreed with the tenant farmer. The suggestion is to have one sign by the War Memorial, one pointing into the farm yard and one on the side of the barn (to ensure that cars are parked behind the barn, not in front).
ACTION: Clerk
- **Verge Posts.** The contractor has apologised for the delay and will install the replacement posts as soon as possible.

11 FINANCE

11.1 Approve Statement of Account:

Balance of Current Account bf: £88,917.87

Balance of Business Reserve bf: £197,945.20

Cheques issued:

KALC Annual Membership	515.40
Gallagher Insurance Annual Insurance Premium	556.21
Otham/Langley PCC Donation – Churchyard Maintenance	200.00
CPRE Annual Membership	45.00
Staffing Costs Payroll/Expenses - (May)	797.98
Waller Associates VH Grant (Toilet Refurb)	5,474.40

First Rescue Training Defibrillator & Cabinet	1,870.80
Staffing Costs Payroll/Expenses - (June)	1,149.51

Receipts:

MBC: PSS Grant	780.84
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Balance of Current Acct: 79,089.41

Business Reserve Acct:

Interest 28.04.23 154.56

Interest 31.05.23 192.40

Interest 30.06.23 187.43 = £534.39

Balance of Business Reserve Acct: 198,479.59

Total Funds: £277,569.00

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

It was noted that charges will be applied by NatWest as the (business) current account had gone over the annual credit turnover of £100,000 (re free community banking rules and regs).

11.2 Review of Bank Accounts(s)/Investment Account re CIL monies

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Hipkins, seconded by Cllr Hickmott and unanimously agreed that £85,000 will initially be transferred to a CAF Account: £1,000 to open a CAF Cash Account and £84,000 to a CAF Gold Account.

ACTION: Cllrs Hipkins, Moon, Hollingsworth & Clerk

11.3 Other Matters to Report: No further matters to report.

12 CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS: RECEIVED/GRANTED:

New Application:

23/502410/FULL - 1 Gable Cottages Otham Street

Erection of a rear extension at ground and lower ground levels to an existing semi-detached dwellinghouse including changes to fenestration.

Awaiting consideration by MBC

Cllr Hollingsworth has volunteered to attend KALC Planning Training and subsequently become a member of the Planning Committee.

ACTION: Cllr Hollingsworth

13 TRAFFIC CALMING/SPEED WATCH: See also Item 6.

Bellway Homes has agreed to display a KHS 30 mph traffic banner on Church Road.

Clerk to approach Boughton Monchelsea to ask how successful they have found Speedwatch and whether they will consider loaning their equipment to OPC. The suggestion is that volunteers monitor speeds between the Village Hall and Green Hill & by the Football Club heading towards Church Road (several residents agreed they will be willing to volunteer with members of OPC).

14 CIL PROJECTS: Defibrillator Update/Map Update:

Defibrillator: An order has been placed and an pro forma invoice raised. A quotation for the installation of the cabinet will be sought from the same electrical company that carried out work at the Village Hall.

Map Board. An electronic map has been supplied free of charge by KCC (750 x 960). An order for printing and laminating to be placed with Scarbutts at a cost of £137 **RESOLVED.**

H & P Works has experienced problems finding an insert for the map board. However, one has been sourced at a cost of £450.00. This will include wording, which was agreed as 'Otham Village Footpaths'. Proposed Cllr Moon, seconded Cllr Hickmott, unanimously agreed **RESOLVED.**

15 THE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – Stage 2 Consultation Proposals:

Cllrs Hickmott and Read to co-ordinate the response and feedback suggestions to Full Council.

ACTION: Cllrs Hickmott & Read

16 OTHAM FETE UPDATE: Cllr Read represented the PC and reported that the stall was 'well hosted by the Bicknor Wood Group'.

17 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED:

- BWRCG - Cllr Read attended the meeting (report not available).
- Bellway Homes meeting of 17.05.23. Attended by Cllr Hipkins and the Clerk (notes distributed).
- Police meeting 03.07.23. Attended by the Clerk (notes circulated - see also Item 5)

18 URGENT MATTERS: None raised.

19 CLERK'S REPORT: No additional items to report.

20 RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE: Various correspondence circulated by email for consideration. It was noted that this included several items regarding traffic and lack of Village Green parking.

21 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED: None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 7.45 pm on Monday, 11 September 2023 in the Village Hall.

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