

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 21 JUNE 2021 AT 7.45 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs K Hipkins (Chairman); R. Gray; S. Trench; V. Moon; H. Drake; C. Hickmott; G. Newton; K. Stallwood; Mrs T. Irving – Clerk;

1. **APOLOGIES** – None received.
2. **NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEM:** None received.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS:** None received.
4. **DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR CIL PAYMENTS:**

The following appear in the order of agreed importance:

<b>Suggested Possible Expenditure</b>	
1	Car park for village green
2	<p>Either secure the ownership of the White Horse pub and convert it for use as a new community hub or build a new village hall somewhere in the village.</p> <p>Approach Football Club to improve and extend pavilion for it to be a shared village hall/meeting facility</p>
3	Pay for a new security fence around Rumwood Cricket Club to protect the club from antisocial behaviour as requested by the club. CIL money exists to mitigate the harm caused by new developments. Rumwood Cricket Club has been harmed by the influx of new residents along Sutton Road.
4	<p>Purchase Otham Glebe from the Diocese of Canterbury and the adjacent grassland from Kirkwood Trust to prevent unwanted infill development.</p> <p>Once designated as Local Green Space following referendum, they have no value as potential development sites so the price will drop. Only source of income for current owners would be as grazing or hay. The Diocese plan to enclose The Glebe with barbed wire fencing to prevent public access whereas its designation as Local Green Space is to secure the space for the benefit of local people and to provide safe pedestrian routes. If purchased by the PC, all weather footpaths can be installed, and the space maintained for the benefit of the wildlife and residents.</p> <p>Community gardens / woodland trust (similar to what's been done in Bearsted)</p>
5	Provision of noticeboards that have a map of the PROW and the Otham Heritage walks marked. Perhaps one located on the village green as it is council owned land. Another near the church would be good as it is the starting point of the heritage walks. Supply of leaflets made and put in accessible places.
6	<p>Upgrading of the footpath that runs from White Horse lane towards Sutton Road. The stretch running through the new development of Monchelsea Park will be upgraded by the developer, but the section between there and White Horse Lane should be improved to make it accessible all year to pedestrians including wheelchair users.</p> <p>(Decision to be made when the developer has completed the other parts of the footpath).</p>

### **Action Point 1**

Clerk to approach KCC to request the following:

Install parish entry signage gates in New Road and other key entry points

### **Action Point 2**

Clerk to approach Bellway Homes to request installation of north – south footpaths in the village linking the new Bicknor Wood development with the new development by the church. These could cut through the woodland and grassland at the edge of Church Road owned by Kirkwood Trust. These could provide a safe, all weather pedestrian route from properties in south Otham to the church. Might require purchase of woodland.

### **Action Point 3**

Councillor Newton is investigating the possibility of purchasing some of the field East of Church Road to provide an area of protected trees\* to form woodland and a wildlife habitat for future generations to enjoy. \* (The "Trees England" booklet produces some positive suggestions)

The remaining suggestions are not considered a priority but they will remain on file to be addressed in the future (in no particular order).

- White lines to be painted on roads in the village that are used as rat runs by residents of the new Sutton Road developments. They are proven to slow traffic down, improving safety for pedestrians and residents. Also pay for their repainting as necessary. (It was agreed to delay this item to allow new development to take place, prior to lines being painted).
- Improvement of footpaths, footpath signage and stiles.
- Purchase other green spaces in the village
- Installation of kerbing and bollards to protect hedgerow damage from increased traffic moving off of the carriageway.
- Allotments – do they need any investment to ensure that all plots are used? If full, could land be purchased elsewhere for further allotments?
- Consideration was given to re-joining parishes of Otham and Downswood back together again to form a larger, stronger parish with a bigger voice in the borough. However, it was agreed to put this on hold for the foreseeable future as the parishes are still very different at this point in time.

5. **URGENT MATTERS:** None raised.

6. **ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING ON 12 JULY 2021:** Please contact the Clerk if you have items that you wish to be considered for future agendas.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20 am.