

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs K Hipkins (Chairman); R. Gray; V. Moon; H. Drake; C. Hickmott; Mrs T. Irving – Clerk; 2 Members of the Public.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr S. Trench – Holiday; Cllr Newton (conflicting MBC meeting); PCSO Kirsty Greaves.

The apologies and reasons for absence were noted and accepted.

2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEM – None received.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None received.

4 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION: No updates available.

5 CRIME REPORT & POLICING UPDATE: PCSO Kirsty Greaves.
No crimes of note.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:
Bicknor Wood and Otham Green patrols continue.

6 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

The meeting was reconvened.

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2020: The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Cllr Hipkins.

8 STANDING ORDERS – Consider draft copy: The previously circulated draft was discussed and duly adopted. Clerk to prepare Financial Regulations for consideration.

9 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: Not available.

10 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Not available.

11 REVIEW OF COVID 19 CIRCUMSTANCES: Cllr Hipkins continues to read Covid updates. Due to lack of available parking, it would be impossible to have a Covid testing site in the parish.

12 BICKNOR WOOD – Flytipping: Item deferred until November's meeting (response is awaited from the Bicknor Woods Residents Group).

FINANCE.

13.1 Approve Statement of Account:

Cheques issued

Cheques issued		
HMRC	PAYE	124.24
Came & Co	Annual Insurance Premium	313.84
CPRE	Annual Membership	36.00
KALC	" "	347.28
MBC	Play Area Refurbishm't (Part Payment)	500.00
KCC Re Kent Pension	Employer/Employee (July)	146.52
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (July)	409.18
MBC	Play Area Refurbishm't (Part Payment)	500.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (Aug)	396.64
KCC Re Kent Pension	Employer/Employee (Aug)	146.52

No cheques were received

Balance of Current Account: £24,439.52 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd

Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,922.22

Total Funds: £29,361.74

Cllr Hipkins proposed acceptance of the above, seconded by Cllr Moon & unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

13.2 Remembrance Day – Wreath Donation. Cllr Hipkins proposed a £50 donation, seconded by Cllr Moon and unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Hipkins to represent OPC at the service.

ACTION KH

13.3 Other Matters to Report: None.

14 CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS: RECEIVED/GRANTED

- **Update Church Road Planning Application.** OPC has withdrawn from Rule 6(6) due to the amount of work required/lack of resources and the financial implications. The Council, with CAARA, asked CPRE to take action and request Rule 6(6) status, which has been granted. Cllr Gray will be a witness for CPRE.

ACTION RG

Applications Granted

20/502212/FULL – 2 Wardes Bungalows, Otham St.
Erection of a single storey rear extension.

20/501868/FULL – The Oast Rose Cottage, Otham Street

20/502969 – Green Hill.

Awaiting Decision by MBC

20/500713/FULL Bicknor Farm (now known as Monchelsea Park), Sutton Road.

15 VILLAGE GREEN

- **Update re Signs/Bollards.** It was noted that cars parked adjacent to the VG are frequently left there by members of the public that are using local footpaths. Cllr Drake to approach NT to ask about the possibility of using their car park when Stoneacre is closed.

ACTION HD

Clerk to liaise with MBC to determine feasibility/cost of part of the green being used for parking 3 to 4 cars.

ACTION TI

Stephen Waring has visited the site and is preparing a quotation for the repair/replacement of bollards.

- **Consider Request to Install Bench:** If a suitable location can be found and providing the bench is a dedication to the resident's late father, not a memorial, members will be happy to consider the request. Resident to be invited to November's meeting to discuss the matter further.

16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Approve Final Document. Cllr Gray asked for confirmation that the Council is happy to approve the completed NHP. It was unanimously agreed that a very good job has been carried out and the document looks wonderful. Approval was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED.**

The document will now be submitted to MBC and an Inspector will be appointed to make a decision. If agreed, the NHP will go to a referendum and will then be adopted.

17 RAGSTONE: Discuss future publications/content: Cllr Gray to write articles for the Ragstone with details of the NHP and an update of what the next step will be in fighting the Church Road development.

ACTION RG/TI

18 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED: Cllr Gray has attended various virtual meetings in respect of Church Road.

19 NOTICE BOARDS: Item deferred to November's meeting.

20 URGENT MATTERS: None reported.

21 RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE: Various correspondence circulated by email.

- **Government White Paper - Planning.** Meeting to be arranged by Cllr Hipkins with Cllrs Gray/Hickmott and Clerk to formulate the Council's response.
- Following OPC's comments in respect of the planning application for development at Monchelsea Park (formerly known as Bicknor Farm) Sutton Road. The Clerk wrote to Redrow Homes to ask if the suggestion to upgrade PROW 94 and supply new fencing around Rumwood Cricket Club was being considered. The response was:

'We understand these points were submitted to Maidstone BC as representations during the planning consultation period, however these 2 issues were not deemed necessary by Maidstone BC. The planning officer summarising Otham PC's comments under sub-section 5 of the committee report:

The Parish Council have suggested improvements to PROW KM94 to the north of the site to make it suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. As this PROW only provides a link to a pub and not any significant amenities, I do not consider this is necessary or reasonable and so would not pass the tests for conditions. New security fencing for the cricket club is not necessary for the development to be acceptable and so cannot be required.

However, the PROW running through our site is being upgraded to KCC standard and provides a clearer route through new public open spaces. The northern boundary to the PROW is also kept open visually with a 900mm high post and rail fence. This will provide an improved and more distinct PROW route.'

22 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING ON 9 NOVEMBER 2020:
Community Assets

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.