

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs K Hipkins (Chairman); R. Gray; R. Gardner; V. Moon; Mrs T. Irving – Clerk; Cllr G. Cooke (KCC); Mrs Stella Trench (resident)

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Newton - OP & MB Cllr – (conflicting meeting); Cllr Drake (family commitment). PCSO Turner (holiday).

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 declared.

4 COUNCILLOR VACANCY/CO-OPTION: Further to the interest previously expressed by Mrs Trench, it was unanimously agreed to co-opt her. An acceptance of office was signed – additional paperwork to be completed within the stipulated 28 days. Cllr Trench was welcomed back to the council.

5 CRIME REPORT & POLICING UPDATE:

The following written report was provided by PCSO Turner:

- 17.07.2019– Theft, Holly Farm Road, Riding equipment stolen.
- 27.07.2019- Ennis Close Park, Criminal Damage to Park sign.
- 02.09.2019- Cobnut Avenue, Theft from a motor vehicle.
- 02.09.2019- Downton Court, Interference with a motor vehicle.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

27.07.2019- Ennis Close, Park. Youths causing a nuisance in the park and caused criminal damage to the park sign. Have spoken to a few youths in the location about their behaviour and Kent Police have not received any more calls. Regular patrolling in the area.

6 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: No members of the public were present.

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2019: The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Cllr Hipkins.

8 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: Cllr Newton reported via the Clerk that due to the damage that has been caused to the wall fronting St Nicholas Church, he has arranged for a meeting with KCC Highways to discuss prohibiting lorries from Church Road (access only).

9 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

- The new Leader of KCC will be decided at the Conservative Group meeting of 17 October
- An additional £60m will be invested for maintenance of the highways. Talks with the government may increase this amount.
- A strategy for zero carbon has been prepared and is out for consultation.
- Cllr Cooke will be meeting with the Leader of the Council and other members of the council to have further discussions on the Leeds/Langley relief road. When talks have progressed, Cllr Cooke will discuss further with the PC.

10 FINANCE.

10.1 Approve Statement of Account: Cllr Trench proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Gardner & unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

Cheques issued

MBC	(Paid on Acct - £9732.00 o/standing)	500.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary (July)	458.76
KCC Re Kent Pension	Employer/Employee (July)	126.34
MBC	(Paid on Acct - £9232.00 o/standing)	500.00
Mr J. Breeze	NHP Honorarium	1500.00
MBC	Final Payment	9232.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (Aug)	443.55
Commercial Services	Draft NHP & Ragstone	68.46
KCC Re Kent Pension	Employer/Employee (Aug)	126.34

Receipts

HMRC	VAT Refund	547.73
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Balance of Current Account: £20,596.75 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd

Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,912.43

Total Funds: £25,509.18

10.2 Cheque Signatories Update/ Electronic Banking: Meeting with NatWest resolved nothing. However the cheque to MBC has now been processed. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Hipkins becomes a signatory.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council will change banks. Following discussions, HSBC was proposed by Cllr Trench, seconded by Cllr Moon and unanimously agreed. Clerk to investigate new account.

ACTION: CLERK

10.3 Other Matters to Report: A letter of thanks has been received from Mr. Breeze.

11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: RECEIVED/GRANTED

19/501600/OUT – Land West of Church Road

Outline application for up to 440 residential dwellings with associated access, infrastructure, drainage, landscaping and open space (Access being sought with all other matters reserved for future consideration).

The Secretary of State did not uphold a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment to be carried out on the site.

*Response to the application to be considered at a separate meeting for this and the Bicknor Farm application.

19/503342 – Bramley, Otham Street.

Retention of dwelling footprint as built with alterations to the roof

Object on the following grounds.

The proposal far exceeds the footprint for which planning permission was originally granted and therefore the application should be reduced in size accordingly.

Whilst the roofs have been modified there are far too many and this does not sit well with other buildings in the locality.

The building is not in the style of local housing. It is unattractive and totally inappropriate for a Conservation Area.

Request to be made that planning permission for this retrospective application is Refused.

19/503912 Land at Bicknor Farm, Sutton Road.*

Development of the site with 302 dwellings, parking, access, amenity space, landscaping and associated works.

19/504960. The Monards, Avery Lane

Proposal: Demolition of existing outbuilding and summer house. Erection of an annexe ancillary to main dwelling, together with garage and car lift (resubmission: 19/502389/FULL).

Response to be considered.

12 HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS: Recommendations for Working Group

Improve HGV no access signage throughout the village

Reduce speed limit to 20 mph (location tba)

Otham Street carriageway white line to be extended to include Green Hill.

Cllr Hipkins and the Clerk to meet with KHS on 16 October to discuss the above. Cllr Trench also volunteered to attend the meeting.

ACTION: CLLRS HIPKINS/TRENCH & CLERK

13 VILLAGE GREEN

The football match organiser has confirmed that he will comply with the requests made by the council for future matches.

Quotations from Playdate and Discovery have been circulated – quotation from Wicksteed awaited.

14 CAROLS: Village Hall is booked for 8 December. The local farmer has kindly agreed that his yard can be used for parking, although heavy plant may be there.

Mr Marchant is not sure of his availability but the choir has confirmed they will be present.

Further to the request from the pre-school that the children are involved with the event, Clerk to ask if the children will make decorations for the tree and attend with their families on the day. **ACTION: CLERK**

Clerk to request a donation of a 6' Christmas tree from Rumwood Nursery.

ACTION: CLERK

CHRISTMAS MEAL: Cllr Trench to check availability for The Curious Eatery on 5, 12 or 13 December. **ACTION: CLLR TRENCH**

15 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED: Cllr Hipkins attended the Local Planning Review on 22 July when approximately 100 people were present. There was a lot of hostility at the meeting when the interim plan for building 1,800 houses, per year was discussed. Why is the SE having more allocation than up North?

16 URGENT MATTERS: None.

17 HEDGES: Clerk to ask KHS for help at the meeting on 16 October as no response was received to her emails requesting that the hedges are cut back. **ACTION: CLERK**
Clerk to write to Bellway Homes to request the hedge on the corner of White Horse Lane/Gore Court Road is lowered to at least below the level of the overhead cables. **ACTION: CLERK**

18 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE: Update re Regulation 14 Consultation.
Meeting to be held next week to discuss comments from the Consultation.
The group will go through the comments and decide what, if anything, needs to be done.

19 WEBSITE: As requested, the old KCC website has been closed.

20 RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE: Various correspondence circulated by email.
A resident asked Cllr Gardner if the amount of soiling by dogs on the footpaths can be addressed? Clerk to request notices are installed on all PROWs warning of the fines for dog fouling. **ACTION: CLERK**

21 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING ON 11 NOVEMBER

2019: 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 9.50pm.