

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs R. Gray (Chairman); V. Moon; R. Gardner; H. Knottley; Cllr G Cooke (KCC); 2 Members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs K. Hipkins – holiday; G. Newton – away on business; S. Trench – family commitment (received retrospectively) H. Drake personal reasons; PCSO Zoe Turner.

Apologies and the 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: Cllr Gray re Item 12.

4 COUNCILLOR VACANCY/CO-OPTION: Ongoing.

5 RECEIVE POLICE REPORT: No new updates available from e-watch.co.

A domestic incident is understood to have taken place at a private residence in Otham Street.

6 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Following questions raised during this session, the Clerk will make enquiries with Southern Water concerning the ongoing leak in Green Hill.

PCSO Turner to be asked about the increase in blue light incidents in the parish.

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2018: The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Cllr Gray.

The Clerk wishes to formally thank Cllr Trench for recording the minutes during her absence.

8 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Cllr Newton informed the Clerk that things are relatively quiet at the moment.

Reports for Bramley have been submitted to the Inspectorate.

9 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

The April 2019 budget is already being worked on with another £68M savings to be found. A consultation will take place, but hard decisions will need to be made.

The 'Big Conversation'- rural bus service - meetings were very successful with the parishes, but the meeting at County Hall with residents proved to be 'not so good' due to arguing about process and procedure and no real interest in the bus service.

Cllr Cooke offered to speak to officers with regard to reducing the speed limit to 20 mph, although the Police would not be keen to enforce this.

KCC is working on data for the Relief Road.

10 FINANCE.

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

The council approved the following payments.

MBC	Empty Litter Bin (Apr - June)	72.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (July)	393.22
KCC	Employer/Employee Pension	123.51
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (Aug)	404.60
KCC	Employer/Employee Pension (Aug)	123.51

Receipts

HMRC	Refund of 2017/18 VAT	344.49
NatWest	Interest - Business Reserve Acct	0.61

Balance of Current Account: £22,782.26 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd

Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,905.11

Total Funds: £27,159.87

10.2 Other Matters to Report: No update available from PKF Littlejohn.

11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Applications received:

18/503889 – The Barn At The Oast House, Green Hill

The council commented as follows.

Whilst the parish council does not object in principle to this conversion, they do have some reservations about the design.

The insertion of 4 new windows into the north wall would look directly into the neighbour's garden and into their house, which would be a breach of privacy. The existing openings were originally all doors which opened into the drying kilns of the original oasts, they were never windows.

Whilst we appreciate that the new property would benefit greatly from views to the North Downs, this should not be allowed for the reasons stated above.

With the exception of the above, the council supports the application as they would like to see the building saved.

18/504087 – Change of use of land to residential garden, construction of a tennis court, erection of 2.75m fence and erection of a changing room building/garden storage building.

No objections

18/504223 - Madam Taylors Otham Street

Erection of a replacement triple garage with 4 Conservation style roof lights, external stair and games room at first floor. (Retrospective)

The council's main concern is noise and light disturbance to neighbouring properties. Clerk to request that black out blinds are fitted and must be used after dark

GRANTED: N/A

PENDING:

Appeal Re MA15 505596 & MA 16/506074 - Bramley

12 HIGHWAYS: White Lining of Church Road. A quote has been received in the sum of £895 for lines from just before the bend (adjacent to Little Squerries), up to the 30 mph sign. DPC has agreed to share the cost on a 50:50 basis. Following due consideration, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to proceed with the work in accordance with LGA a274A.

13 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED:

Cllr Gray attended a Bellway/DHA meeting to discuss plans for Bicknor Wood. This included day to day management, when the work will start, etc. A meeting was then held with residents of Gore Court/White Horse Lane to disseminate the information (notes circulated to members).

It was noted there has been a couple of noise related incidents on the site.

Residents living in the close vicinity have been offered a free property survey prior to the commencement of pile driving.

14 URGENT MATTERS:

- **Abandoned car in White Horse Lane.** Clerk to request removal by Golding Homes as the car is on their property.
- **Discarded furniture etc in front gardens of 3 Tees.** Clerk to request GH to arrange removal.
- **Website.** The Clerk requested that all members view DPC website with a view to changing to something similar for OPC.

15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

- **Litter Bin** – Now installed by the bus shelter. Thanks recorded to Cllr Newton for his help with this.
- **SIPA Parish Grant Scheme** – The Clerk has prepared and submitted a proposal for the fencing and a seat.

16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:

- Annual subscription of online mapping. The NHP group has identified that an online mapping tool will assist with their work. It was formally **RESOLVED** that the cost of £90 per year – to be reviewed annually – will be met from the NHP budget. Cllr Gray to undertake arrangements with NHP group.

17 VILLAGE GREEN - The dead tree will be removed when conditions are satisfactory. Mr Marchant's offer to replace the tree was gratefully accepted.

WAR MEMORIAL: The missing stone missing has been passed to Cllr Newton for repair & is believed to be in place.

18 REMEMBRANCE DAY – Following discussion, it was agreed to accept Mr Marchant's offer to 'organise the event if it is put in his hands'. Clerk to enquire whether Cllr Newton will be prepared to assist with the service.

It was **RESOLVED** to donate £50 towards a wreath in accordance with LGA S137. The PC will publicise the event to encourage as many people as possible to attend.

RBL POPPY APPEAL – Cllr Knottley has volunteered to collect from The Coppice.

19 CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Cllr Knottley to visit Stoneacre this weekend in an attempt to formalise arrangements.

MEAL: A return to The Plough was agreed. Clerk to check availability and email all to finalise.

20 RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE: Various items circulated by email as received.

Whitehead and Monkton. Email received stating they wish to return the Deed of Easement they have been holding for the council (they no longer hold this type of documentation). As requested, a letter has been prepared by the Chairman to allow the release of the document to the Clerk.

21 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING (12 November 2018): 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 10.05 pm.