

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2019 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs Gray (Chair) K Hipkins; V Moon; R Gardner; S Trench; H Drake; G Newton (OPC & MBC); Cllr G Cooke - part (KCC); PCSO Turner.

1 APOLOGIES: No apologies were received.

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

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No declarations received.

4 COUNCILLOR VACANCY/CO-OPTION: It is with regret that Harry (Harald) Knottley's resignation was received due to being unable to contribute given other commitments. Thanks were recorded for all the work Harry carried out on the Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to his council work.

Elections will take place on 2 May – see Item 18.

5 RECEIVE POLICE REPORT:

Griffin Lodge, Gore Court Road. 11 February tools were stolen from the building site.

PCSO Turner reported the theft of a tractor from Belks. CCTV footage has been requested to assist with investigations.

Following information of speeding, checks were carried out by PCSO Turner in White Horse Lane and close to the Village Green between 5 pm and 6 pm. 1 Person was found to be travelling above 35 mph. Further checks will be carried out when time permits.

A quality of life visit has been made to some residents in White Horse Lane.

PCSO Turner to speak with Bearsted Football Club in respect of the noise on Saturdays.

6 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Not applicable.

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2019: The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Cllr Gray.

8 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Local Plan Review: Call for Sites. The deadline for submitting sites is 5pm on Friday 24 May 2019.

The first public consultation is scheduled for July and August.

MBC are above their target for housing.

The Waste Crime Team (Enforcement) have issued:

9 x £400 notices for fly tipping and 6 vehicles have been seized.

450 Fixed penalty notices for dropping litter

2 dog offence notices

8 Statutory notices in relation to waste crimes

Cllr Gray remarked that the council does a really good job with fly tipping.

Cllr Newton commented that the budget and financial strategy looks reasonable.

9 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Cllr Cooke has spoken to Highways and contractors regarding the closure of Gore Court Road. However, as the road is being rebuilt to give it more durability for increased traffic there is not a lot of flexibility, but they will try to get it reopened as quickly as possible.

80% Of pupils have been offered their school of choice. Reassurances have been given to those that were unsuccessful and Cllr Cooke is happy that the County has done as good a job as they can do.

A meeting was held with parishes on 10 February to discuss the Leeds/Langley issues (Relief Road), traffic congestion, strategic development and schemes.

1.3 Million has been provided to help with gang strategy and knife crime in Maidstone.

10 FINANCE.

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

The council approved the following payments.

Maidstone Signs	Notice for Play Area	58.80
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (Jan)	400.27
KCC Re Kent Pension	Employer/Employee Contributions	123.51
Spectulise	Website	100.00
Paul Waring	Village Green Maintenance	902.02
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (Feb)	411.23
KCC Re Kent Pension	Employer/Employee Contributions	123.51
NatWest	Safe Custody Hold	25.00

Payments received:

NatWest	Interest	2.41
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Balance of Current Account: £23,226.52 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd

Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,909.96

Total Funds: £28,136.48

10.2 Donation Request: The Parish of Otham with Langley, St. Nicholas Church, Otham: The completed Charitable Donation form was considered

favourably with a donation of £200 - from the 2018/19 donation pot of £500 – **RESOLVED.** Clerk to request that the donation is used specifically for the churchyard at St. Nicholas.

10.3 Annual Subscriptions: SLCC Membership. It was **RESOLVED** to contribute the remaining 1/3 of the membership (2/3 has already been met by DPC).

10.4 Other Matters to Report. S137 Expenditure for 2019/2020 is £8.12.

11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Cllr Gray wishes to have it on record that she attended the Bicknor Wood (formerly Bicknor Green) meetings as an objector. She is very annoyed to hear that it has reported otherwise.

A precis of CIL funding was given by Cllr Gray – to be discussed further at May's meeting.

No update received from MBC re a Community Centre assessment.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

19/501600/OUT: Land West Of Church Road, Otham. ME15 8SB

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

The Council is not in favour of the development and will be formulating their official response.

The request from DHA/Bellway that an Environmental Assessment is not required is being examined.

Whilst a public meeting was originally proposed to encourage residents to comment on the application, it was decided to cancel this and produce a Ragstone ASAP.

PENDING:

TPO 19/500121 – Bearsted FC. Sports Ground, Honey Lane.

Application to fell 3 black poplar trees.

OPC submitted a request that the trees are inspected by the Case Officer or an Independent arboriculturist before a decision is made.

If the specialist is not satisfied that pollarding/removal of certain branches is sufficient and the trees need to be felled, the Council requested that a condition is made for replacement trees of the same, or a very similar species, to be planted in the same location.

Appeal re 15/505596 & 16/506074 – Bramley

The Inspectorate has dismissed the appeal and has upheld the enforcement notice. Planning permission is refused on the application deemed to have been made under section 177(5) of the 1990 Act as amended.

It is understood that the development must be removed within 6 months of the notice. A site visit has been made by the Community Protection Officer as the owner refused to remove offensive graffiti. (Lighting has been removed).

12 ANNUAL LITTER PICK: Approximately 12 residents participated, collecting a lot of rubbish. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Trench/David Trench for the part they played on the day.

13 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED:

- Bellway/DHA meeting attended on 30 January by Cllrs Gray, Newton, Weeks (DPC) and the Clerk to look at the draft proposal re. Land West of Church Road.
- A follow up meeting of the above was held on 4 Feb. This was attended by Bellway/DHA and their Transport Consultant, Cllrs Gray, Gardner, Weeks and the Clerk, with various traffic calming measures considered; these include a chicane close to Little Squerrys and widening the junction of Church Rd/Deringwood Drive.
- Cllr Gray and the Clerk attended a meeting hosted by Cllr Cooke (see item 9). It is not certain if the relief road will benefit Otham? Useful advice was provided on how to object to the Church Rd application.
- Cllr Gray attended a CIL meeting on 20 Feb when it was suggested that an infrastructure plan is written to show the community has been consulted and this should accompany the NHP.

14 URGENT MATTERS (Including update on matters raised at January's meeting): None.

15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: It is not known how the Green Hill 'passing bay' problem has progressed. Cllr Cooke has briefed the resident that raised the query.

16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE: The NHP has been sent to MBC for comments. Feedback is expected prior to 18 March, when another meeting will be held.

17 VILLAGE GREEN/PLAY AREA: A good job has been carried out on the fencing around the play area and it was agreed that it blends in very well. A quotation has been requested for repairs to the existing play equipment. New equipment for older children will also be considered.

- **Grass Cutting 2019/20.** It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Steven Waring (this included a nominal increase). The work continues to be of a good standard.
- **Update re tree donation:** Clerk to request Steven Waring to plant the tree and liaise with the donor to arrange planting.
- **Request for a Memorial Bench.** The request for a bench in memory of Thom Walker was unanimously agreed. This will be located on the eastern edge of the green, looking into the valley. It is understood that bulbs may also be planted around the bench.

18 ELECTIONS: 2 MAY 2019. Nomination papers have been circulated and must be returned to the Clerk by no later than 27 March.

19 WEBSITE: The new website is now live. Cllr Trench has removed some of the pages from the old Kent Parishes site and has put a link to the new website.

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

The Chairman of Bearsted FC has decided to stand down at the end of the season. He thanked the council for their assistance and hopes that a good relationship will continue with the club in the future. An introductory meeting with the new Chairman was suggested for June.

A telephone complaint was received by the Clerk from a resident stating that litter has increased in White Horse Lane and there are issues with speeding traffic.

The resident was aware that a litter pick had taken place on 24 February but she stated that the litter was all back again.

Cllr Gray inspected the area and found that a piece of polystyrene had been dropped and blown around in the wind, causing it to break into bits all down the road. No other litter could be seen.

PSCO Turner was contacted and asked to carry out speed checks (see Item 5).

21 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 29 April a start time of 7.30 pm was agreed.

22 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING ON 14 March 2019: 13 MAY 2019: CIL, GDPR/Data Protection Officer.

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 10.00 pm.