

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 14 JANUARY 2019 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs K Hipkins (Vice Chairman); V Moon; R Gardner; S Trench; H Drake; G Newton (OPC & MBC); Cllr G Cooke (KCC); PCSO Turner; 2 Members of the public.

Councillor Hipkins chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair, Cllr Gray.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs R Gray (family commitment) & Cllr Knottley (conflicting appointment).

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: No declarations received.

4 COUNCILLOR VACANCY/CO-OPTION: Ongoing.

5 RECEIVE POLICE REPORT:

Gore Court Road. A shed was broken into between 6 pm on Thursday 22 November and 7 am on Friday 23 November. Power saw stolen.

PCSO Turner warned of telephone scams and of Asian gold being targeted in thefts.

6 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: It was reported that the Otham Village sign requires attention.

ACTION: Clerk

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2018: Following a minor amendment to Item 5 'Turning' to 'Turner', the minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Cllr Hipkins.

8 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: Various meetings have been attended with regards to H1(8) in Church Road.

The main points of concern regarding this proposal are access/egress of the site and the number of dwellings.

In addition to the 21 January meeting with Bellway, Cllr Newton will be attending another meeting with the developer at Maidstone House on 30 January.

9 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: KCC's budget is currently being put together but it is understood that it will result in a 5% increase (2.99% on the precept and 2% social care levy).

The Members grant is being reduced next year from £20,000 to £15,000.

You Decide event will be held at Downswood Community Centre on 23 February. All eligible groups are invited to apply.

Cllr Cooke stated that he is strongly opposed to the proposal to charge for disposal of non-household waste as this will increase flytipping.

The annual cost of a Young Persons Travel Card will increase from £290 to £350.

OPC's chairman will be attending a meeting that has been arranged by Cllr Cooke to discuss the Leeds/Langley relief road.

10 FINANCE.

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

The council approved the following payments.

GeoXphere	Online Mapping	90.00
K. Kersey	Books x 2	36.00
S. Trench	Expenses (Carols)	118.24
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary (Nov)	409.85
KCC Re Kent Pension	Employer/Employee Contributions	123.51
Glasdon UK	Village Green Seats	1249.94
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary (Dec)	395.25
KCC Re Kent Pension	Employer/Employee Contributions	123.51
HMRC	PAYE	181.20

Payments received:

NatWest	Interest	1.83
---------	----------	------

Balance of Current Account: £25,370.86 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd

Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,907.56

Total Funds: £30,278.41

10.2 2019/20 Budget Proposals: The recommendations of the Finance Committee were duly considered.

It was **RESOLVED** that a provision of £2,500 is made for a Neighbourhood Plan consultant and approximately £8,000 (to include match funding) for new Play Equipment.

Precept: The recommendations to retain the precept at the existing level of £12,268 was proposed by Cllr Newton, seconded by Cllr Moon & unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

10.3 Other matters to report: The 2019/20 National Salary Awards has been circulated to all members.

S137 Expenditure limit for 2019/20 has been confirmed as £8.12

**11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:
NEW APPLICATIONS:**

**TPO 19/500121 – Bearsted FC. Sports Ground, Honey Lane.
Application to fell 3 black poplar trees.**

Cllr Trench to photograph the trees and circulate her findings to all. Cllr Newton to discuss the application with Nick Gallavin and advise councillors accordingly.

GRANTED:

18/505187 Bishops, Avery Lane.

18/504996 Tudor Cottage, Stoneacre Lane.

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

PENDING:

Appeal re 15/505596 & 16/506074 – Bramley

The Inspector has visited the site and a report is imminent.

12 ANNUAL LITTER PICK: Cllr Gardner to ask Mr Betts if he is available to assist on Sunday 24 February, or Sunday 4 March? Once the date is agreed, arrangements to be made with MBC.

ACTION: Cllr Gardner/Clerk

13 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED:

- Cllr Moon reported from the Big Conversation meeting.
A 12 month trial system will be operated from Monday to Saturday with the number 13 bus running through Otham to Morrisons on the Sutton Road. The number 82 can then be taken to Maidstone.

Unfortunately Cllr Moon will not be able to attend future BC meetings as they clash with her work commitments.

14 URGENT MATTERS:

Pot holes have been filled on Green Hill but the edges of the road are of concern. Cllr Cooke advised that these 'passing bays' do not form part of the highway. He agreed to discuss the matter again with KHS, but is not hopeful on the outcome.

15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING. SIPA Parish Grant Scheme: The fence has been installed and the bench installations are imminent.

16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE: The group continues to meet approximately once per month. It is quite a robust plan and is very close to being of the standard that's required.

Cllr Hipkins is waiting to hear from a NHP consultant whether he is interested in working on the plan?

17 VILLAGE GREEN/PLAY AREA: See Item 15.

18 AGREE DATE FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 29 APRIL & 13 MAY respectively were agreed.

19 WEBSITE: Following the success of the trial site, it was **RESOLVED** to decommission the existing website, update the trial site and request Spectulise to go live as soon as possible. The ongoing cost for the website will be £100 per year.

20 CHRISTMAS CAROLS: All the work carried out by Cllrs Gray and Trench is greatly appreciated as this contributed to the event's success.

The tenants of Stoneacre decorated the venue very nicely and were very helpful.

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

Complaints about a drummer at football matches have again been raised with Bearsted Football Club. The chairman has given his assurance that steps will be taken to prevent the drummer from playing there again.

21 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING ON 11 March 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 9.00 pm.