

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 8 MAY 2017 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs R. Gray (Chairman); V. Moon; L. Gandotra; K. Hipkins; Cllr Newton (MBC); T. Irving (Clerk); 2 members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs H. Drake & R. Gardner (family commitments); Cllr S. Trench (work commitment); Cllr G. Cooke; PCSO's David Earl & Neil Denney.

Apologies and the reasons for absence were noted and accepted.

2 COUNCILLOR VACANCY/CO-OPTION: Ongoing.

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

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Gray re Item 15

5 RECEIVE POLICE REPORT:

21.11.2016 Theft from motor vehicle – Honey Lane

17.12.2016 Theft – Green Hill

15.01.2017 Theft – Gore Court

15.03.2017 Theft from motor vehicle – Honey Lane

15.03.2017 Burglary other than dwelling – Avery Lane

04.04.2017 Theft – Church Road

05.04.2017 Attempt burglary – Holly Farm Road

11.04.2017 Burglary – Holly Farm Rad

04.05.2017 Theft – Gore Court Road

Councillors expressed concern that the report does not provide enough detail. 'It is not a good example of community policing and is not considered acceptable'.

Three incidents that are known to have taken place – theft of gates at Little Squerries and 2 separate vehicle collisions in Green Hill and Church Road when police were in attendance – are not mentioned on the report.

The meeting was adjourned for

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

The meeting was reconvened.

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2017:

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Cllr Gray.

8 LITTER PICKING: 14 Volunteers attended the last session, with the 2 youths present as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award doing a particularly good job. The next scheduled litter pick will take place on Friday, 2 June at 10 am, meeting on the village green.

The council is grateful to Claire Anderson for organising the event, as a consequence of which it has been noted that less litter is being dropped.

Cllr Newton confirmed that if he is notified, he will be happy to request that MBC remove the collected litter.

9 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Not available.

10 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Enforcement has been contacted for an update on Bramley. The due process of law is being followed with a view to visiting Bramley en masse to establish how much is not according to the plans.

Cllr Newton has called in Land North of Bicknor Wood (Bicknor Green) as he is unhappy with the access/egress to/from Gore Court Road and there are no amenities on site.

Woodcut Farm application will be heard on Thursday by the Planning Referrals Committee. Cllr Newton will be objecting in accordance with the Local Plan 2000 and Local Policies ENV28 & 34.

11 TRAFFIC PROPOSALS:

- The Coppice – Bollards. Further to a recent resident's request for a bollard to be installed on the pavement where Imperial Park and The Coppice connect, Cllr Newton to speak to the MD at Bellway Homes as drivers have been noted using the area as a short cut via the pavement. This is of particular concern as the pavement is also the access to a playground.
- All requested traffic proposals have been refused by KCC.

12 COMMUNICATIONS:

Cllr Trench regularly updates Facebook but there has been issues with the website, which it is hoped will be sorted out in the next couple of weeks.

RAGSTONE: Following the April Planning Update edition, approximately 47 objections have been submitted in response to the Bicknor Green application. Another Ragstone to be put together and delivered over the forthcoming weekend. Cllr Gandotra agreed to circulate information to residents on the email list.

NOTICE BOARD: Following discussion, it was agreed to continue with the Ragstone and social media as methods of communication and delay purchasing further notice boards until more information is available on all proposed housing developments.

13 OTHAM FETE: OPC to request a stall. As many councillors as possible are requested to attend.

14. FINANCE.

14.1 Statement of Account: Cllr Gray proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Newton.

RESOLVED: The council approved the following payments.

Otham with Langley		
PCC	Churchyard Donation	75.00
HMRC	PAYE	180.60
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (March)	385.29
KCC Re. Kent	Employer/Employee Pension	
Pension	(March)	98.66
MBC	Emptying Litter Bin (Feb & March)	48.00
KALC	Audit Workshop (50:50 DPC)	18.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (April)	468.48
KCC Re. Kent		
Pension	Employer/Employee Pension (April)	121.08

Receipts:

MBC	Precept	10,466.23
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Balance of Current Account: £21,327.39 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd

Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,903.41

Total Funds: £26,230.80

14.2 Annual Return: a) consider the Annual Governance Statement - duly considered b) approve the Annual Governance Statement – proposed Cllr Gray, seconded Cllr Moon c) consider the Accounting Statement – duly considered d) approve the Accounting Statement – proposed Cllr Gray, seconded Cllr Hipkins.

14.3 Annual Membership Renewals: It was **RESOLVED** to continue with membership of; KALC @ £253.66, ACRK @ £50, CPRE @ £36.

14.4 Other Matters to Report: The Insurance documentation was considered. Cllr Gray proposed the Came and Co. 3 Year scheme at £302.35 per year, seconded by Cllr Hipkins and unanimously agreed.

15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: RECEIVED/GRANTED/LOCAL PLAN:

17/500674 - Springdene

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Application withdrawn.

New Applications

17/501449 - Land North of Bicknor Wood

Erection of 250 residential dwellings together with associated access, parking, public open space, drainage and landscaping

Failed to consult as per legal requirement.

Borough councillors to be lobbied

Object.

17/500674 – Springdene

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

No comment

15/509015 - Land South of Sutton Road, Langley Park.

Outline Application for Residential Development

No comment

Awaiting Decision by MBC

16/506349/FULL - Bearsted Football Club

Granted

16/507996/FULL - The White Horse

Conditions imposed: The use of natural slate for the roof and materials to match the existing building for the wall, windows and rainwater goods.

16/508302: Hurstbourne

Planning Breaches – Awaiting Action by MBC:

Madam Taylors 16/500326

Bramley - 16/506074

Local Plan

Site H1(8) in MM19 known as West of Church Road.

The council agreed that the proposals have not been positively prepared because it will not achieve a sustainable development.

Hedges need to be retained in Church Road and buildings should be natural or semi-natural.

Sufficient school capacity remain a matter of concern

The size of the churchyard is inadequate. It was suggested that the land next to the church should be used to double the existing space.

The need for a new village hall to serve the community to be reiterated.

16 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED:

Clerk 01/04/17. KALC Workshop 01.04.17: Audit – Best Practice

Clerk 29/04/17. PAYE Webinar.

17 URGENT MATTERS:

- It was confirmed that July's OPC meeting will take place on Monday, 24 July at 7.45 pm.
- East of Maidstone Bus Meeting to be attended by Cllr Newton on 3 July at 10.00 am in Sutton Valence Village Hall.
- Clerk to ask for an update from the Environment Agency/MBC regarding burning of industrial waste in Holly Farm Road.

18 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

- **Budget.** A sum of £5,000 was proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Newton and unanimously agreed. It was **RESOLVED** that a budget of £5,000 be allocated for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The long and short version letters as submitted by Craig Hale were considered. Following the proposal by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Newton, it was

RESOLVED that the longer version will be used for designation of the neighbourhood area.

19 RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE: Various correspondence circulated by email as received.

20 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING (24 July 2017): 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.