

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs R. Gray (Chairman); S. Trench; H. Drake; V. Moon; K. Hipkins; Gardner; Gandotra; Newton (OP & MB Cllr); T. Irving (Clerk).

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Cooke – KCC, (unwell).

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: None.

5 RECEIVE POLICE REPORT – PCSO EDWARD MONEY: Not available.

It is believed that approximately 40 turkeys were stolen from Greenhill Farm.

Clerk to attempt contact with PCSO Money as nothing has been heard from him for some time. Clerk to write to the Inspector if a response is not received.

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Not applicable.

The meeting was reconvened.

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2016: The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Cllr Gray.

8 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Local Plan. Further to a comment in the Inspector's interim report that 900 homes should be removed from the plan, Cllr Newton suggested that focus should be made on trying to get site H18 removed when the Inspector's full report is received.

9 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Written report provided – see Appendix 1.

Cllr Cooke informed the Clerk that he has been contacted by residents asking about a car from the White Horse that is parked at Junction 8.

Clerk to request a meeting with KCC to discuss the traffic situation and invite suggestions to alleviate the rise in vehicles that is being experienced.

10 HENDLEY'S CHARITABLE TRUST – VOLUNTEER TRUSTEE

REQUIRED: Following the request for a volunteer from OPC, Cllr Gardner agreed to undertake the role.

11 COMMUNICATIONS/RAGSTONE/ADDITIONAL NOTICE BOARD?

Consideration to be given to producing an Otham type version of the Chegworth leaflet at the next Comms Meeting.

Further to the email sent to the Residents Association to form a litter picking group. It was agreed to advertise the suggestion in the next edition of the Ragstone, recommending that 'little patches are cleared in front of houses'. Cllr Newton advised that MBC should be able to supply orange bags and arrange for collection of litter when emptying the litter bins (on Thursdays).

Suggestion for next Comms Meeting on 18 Jan – TBC.

Clerk to investigate the cost of a notice board for The Coppice development.

12. FINANCE.

12.1 Statement of Account

The council approved the following payments.

MBC	Village Green Bollard	117.60
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Nov)	391.23
KCC Re. Kent	Employer/Employee Pension	
Pension	(Nov)	98.66
KALC	Chairmanship Training (R. Gray)	72.00
S. Trench	Expenses (Carols)	110.00
MBC	Village Green Bin (Oct & Nov)	48.00
HMRC	PAYE	180.60
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Dec)	367.89
KCC Re. Kent	Employer/Employee Pension	
Pension	(Dec)	98.66
Commercial Services	Carols Flyer	25

Cheques/Credits Received:

Nat West	Interest	0.49
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Balance of Current Account: £14,484.02 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd

Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,903.29

Total Funds: £19,387.31

12.2 Budget/Precept Proposal for 2017/18: The Finance Committee's proposal to retain the Precept at the same level as 2016/17 was unanimously agreed. Therefore the 2017/18 Precept will be £10,466.23.

12.3 Parish Services Scheme: Awaiting PSS document for signature.

12.4 Other Matters to Report: Cllr Gardner quoted from KALC minutes that 'they hope the LCTS scheme will continue'.

13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: RECEIVED/GRANTED/LOCAL PLAN (see Item 8).

Letter to be sent to developers requesting that site vehicles are prohibited from driving through the village: 'No through traffic, access only to Otham Street'.

New Applications/Awaiting Decision by MBC

16/508302: Hurstbourne. Proposal: Loft conversion with hip to gable roof extension (both sides), 3 No Velux windows to front elevation and crown/table top dormer to rear elevation

Whilst the PC neither objects nor supports the Planning Application, there are concerns that the plans are not accurate in relation to the plot.

Cllrs Gray and Gardner visited the site and felt that proposed loft conversion would overlook both the house and garden of Venlo and would overshadow and reduce the light reaching Offaly. The construction of the dormer roof at the rear of the property would mean that the new bedroom dormer window would look down onto Venlo's garden and more importantly, down into the living room of Venlo through their large patio doors. This would be an unacceptable loss of privacy.'

16/506349/FULL - Bearsted Football Club

No objections

16/507996/FULL - The White Horse

Object due to the impact that the proposed building would have on the surrounding area. It is considered to be unreasonable due to mass, size and density.

Further, it is not appropriate to replace the existing grey, slate roof with red/brown plain tiles. The building is very recognisable in the village as a white building with a grey roof. It is not fitting to make a major colour change, particularly to a building which sits in such an open, prominent position.

There are currently no 3 storey buildings in the vicinity.

Ongoing Applications:

16/506074 - Bramley's.

Madam Taylors – Planning breach.

13.1 COMMITTEE REVIEW OF SYSTEM OPERATION: Following discussion of the options available, it was agreed to continue with the current method for deciding planning applications.

14 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED:

Cllr Gardner – KALC Meeting of 30 November. “The most significant comment was that had there been a Neighbourhood Plan in place, it would have been taken account of in the recent review.”

Cllr Trench volunteered to represent OPC at the next KALC meeting.

15 URGENT MATTERS: Not applicable.

16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Cllr Gray to contact volunteers to arrange a meeting in the village hall, with a view to forming a steering group. The first job will be to define and have the village boundary agreed by MBC.

As it looks highly likely that the Bicknor Geen development will go ahead - the position for Church Road is still unknown – the purpose of the plan will be to form an opinion on the design of future developments/traffic/roads & generate ideas.

17 REVIEW OF CAROLS: A very successful event this year. It was agreed to; continue with the later start time of 4 pm in future, advertise the event well in advance and then follow up with a flyer approx. 1 week before. **DINNER:** A very nice evening.

18 CORRESPONDENCE: Various correspondence circulated by email as received.

MBC Play Area Inspection Report. Board under the platform on the multiplay shop front has broken. During talks with MBC, the clerk was informed the panel has split and could be replaced with buffalo board for an approx. cost of £100. It was agreed to delay repairs until the spring as the item has been categorised as low risk.

EIS Wordpress. Cllr Trench to check content of the new website and confirm to the Clerk that everything has been transferred from the old site/she is happy with the changes.

MBC – Landscape Services. Leaflet detailing landscaping and grounds maintenance services.

19 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING (13 MARCH 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 9.30 pm.