

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 24 JULY 2017 AT 7.45 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs R. Gray (Chairman); R. Gardner; S. Trench; Cllr G. Newton (OPC & MBC); Cllr G. Cooke (KCC); 3 members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs Drake (personal reasons), Moon (holiday); Gandotra (family commitment), Hipkins (conflicting commitment), Clerk (personal reasons).

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: There were no declarations.

5 RECEIVE POLICE REPORT: None forthcoming

As agreed during May's meeting, the clerk expressed the council's concern to Inspector Cumberland in respect of the level of level of service being provided.

It was not possible to find a mutually convenient meeting date for OPC/DPC & Insp Cumberland, therefore it was agreed to discuss further via email.

Cllr Newton volunteered to contact C.I. Mick Gardner to request reports/feedback:

- Garden tractors thefts
- White Horse Public House horse fair, behaviour issues
- Quad bike on green
- Articulated lorry in Honey Lane

The meeting was adjourned for

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

The meeting was reconvened.

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 MAY 2017: The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Cllr Gray.

8 RECEIVE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- The owner of Bramley has been issued with a breach of conditions notice. This requires the property to be returned to the correct specification within 28 days of the notice being served, or face prosecution.

9 RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Cllr Cooke does not support the proposed junction improvements for Sutton Road/Willington Street.

The proposals include:

South side - grass banks and trees to be removed and replaced with fencing
North side – to be widened to Morrison's (approximately).

It was noted that Sutton Road housing is the cause of the additional traffic and a relief road is the only long-term solution. MBC is now understood to be supportive of this, as is Cllr Newton.

KCC funding £0.5m in traffic surveys to develop evidence.
Central government has announced a fund for anti-congestion consultations with affected PCs by the end of the year. A public consultation to be held thereafter.

Double yellow lines in Buffkyn Way are required for the bus route that is planned to go through Imperial Park and down Church Road.

Land North of Bicknor Wood application is being called in to the planning committee, with the closure of Gore Court Road under discussion.

School places have been announced for September with 97% of children having obtained the school of choice.

Children's Services. The Ofsted result was good.

KCC is still under financial pressure.

Cllr Cooke agreed to investigate and provide update for the following items:

Junction of New Road, Honey Lane, Avery Lane.
Collection of silt on the corner of Honey Lane and Stoneacre Lane.

Avery Lane flooding due to a problem with drains.

Reflector damaged in Honey Lane adjacent to Otham Hole.
Simmonds Lane/Otham Street posts

10 COMMUNICATIONS: Training is required for the Wordpress platform (website) as the new system is more difficult to use. Cllr Cooke to investigate.

Enquires also to be made with Downswood PC, as they are using a different platform.

RAGSTONE: Issues distributed during May and June.

NOTICEBOARDS: The WH board is in need of refurbishment (mending/painting).

11 VILLAGE HALL: The current pre-school has left the village but it is understood that a new pre-school will be established later in the year.
Downswood pre-school is also understood to be closing.

Kent Police has been using the hall for training the last 2 weeks.

Volunteers are being sought to paint the windows.

12. FINANCE.

12.1 Statement of Account: Cllr Trench proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Newton.

RESOLVED: The council approved the following payments.

ACRK	Annual Membership	50.00
KALC	" "	253.66
CPRE	" "	36.00
Came & Co	Insurance Premium 2017/18	318.26
Commerical Services	Ragstone Printing	115.00
MBC	Repairs to Multiplay Equipment	120.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (May)	520.04
KCC Re. Kent Pension	Employer/Employee Pension (May)	121.08
KALC	Training - K. Hipkins Employer/Employee Pension	72.00
HMRC	(June)	157.40
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses (June)	403.52
KCC Re. Kent Pension	Employer/Employee Pension (June)	121.08
		2,288.04

Receipts

Nil

Balance of Current Account: £19,039.35 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd

Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,903.41

Total Funds: £23,942.76

12.2 Annual Return: No news from external auditor.

12.3 Other Matters to Report: Increase in precept to cover additional housing needs to be addressed.

13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: RECEIVED/GRANTED/LOCAL PLAN:

New Applications

17/502411/FULL - 3 Senacre Cottages.

Erection of an orangery to rear.

No comment

17/502560/FULL Ivy Cottage Green Hill

Construction of two-storey extension to permit disabled living

Whilst the council is sympathetic with what the owners are trying to achieve, we feel the proposed extension is too large and appears to over complicate the existing appearance.

It is the council's view that the original listed building which is in a conservation area- must be protected and therefore we object to the application

17/503043 – Land South Of Avery Lane and Land South Of Sutton Road
Demolition of existing pack house located at Sutton Road, Langley and erection of replacement agricultural/horticultural building with ancillary facilities, yard, drainage works, and alterations to existing access and landscaping at land at Avery Lane.

Otham Parish Council wish to see this application refused due to concerns relating to an increased movement of vehicles accessing and using Avery Lane and due to the size and scale of the proposed building, both of which we believe will harm this rural area and harm the visual amenity of local residents and the adjacent public footpath.

Avery Lane is a narrow, poorly maintained, single track road and it is felt that any increase in traffic would be detrimental to highway safety and will harm this rural location. An alternative access from Sutton Road or via Rumwood's garden centre would make more sense.

We feel that the design and appearance of the proposed building is unsympathetic to the local area and will harm visual amenity.

The Parish Council would wish for this application to be reported to planning committee if the officer is minded to approve it.

Awaiting Determination by MBC

17/501449/FULL - Land North of Bicknor Wood, Sutton Road

The committee will need to be lobbied for a village hall when a date is set for the application to be heard by the planning committee.

16/506349/FULL - Bearsted Football Club

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

Application withdrawn

17/500674 – Springdene

Planning Breaches – Awaiting Action by MBC:

16/500326 - Madam Taylors

16/506074 - Bramley

Clerk to be requested to make enquiries about S106 & CIL payments.

CPRE designation “Quiet Lanes” could be a possibility – request Clerk to investigate.

14 RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED: None to report

15 URGENT MATTERS: Not applicable.

16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

16.1 Burning of waste in Holly Farm Road.

The Environment Agency has advised that no residents have been in touch recently.

A call was received in April, but the caller said that he couldn't be sure where the actual burning was taking place. As a result of the call, the owner of Holly Farm was contacted by the EA. The owner stated that only green waste had been burnt, following cutting down hedges.

The only other incidents on file are from;

2014 – Following a meeting with residents, the EA visited Holly Farm resulting in the owner receiving a warning.

2011 – The farm was visited by an EA Officer.

If industrial waste is being taken to the farm and being burnt there, it will need to be reported to the EA's Incident Line on; 0800 807060.

17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:

- The consultation process is currently taking place and will close on 28 July. Otham parish has been designated a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

- It was agreed that the original village questionnaire should be delivered to new residents, living in The Coppice.

- It was reported that the steering group have drawn up 4 priority areas to base the Neighbourhood Plan around:

- ❖ A new village hall/leisure facilities (primary focus).

- ❖ Improved green links through the village

- ❖ Design of new housing

- ❖ Protecting views from the Conservation Area.

These key areas were presented to the public at the fete and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

18 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION: The judging has taken place with the winners being announced as; Under 16's – Lauren Smith, Adult - Mr Ken Brinsley.

19 OTHAM FETE REVIEW: Congratulations to the committee on another successful fete.

The OPC stand received traffic and housing ideas from residents.

Cllr Newton to request bollards for between The Coppice and Imperial Park to prevent delivery vans/lorries making shortcuts.

20 CONSIDERATION TO PERSONALISE WREATH (AS SUPPLIED BY RBL): It was agreed have a personalised wreath for an additional £15. A photo will be required for the artwork, which will be kept electronically for use whenever needed.

Thanks were given to Cllr Newton for his donation of wreaths.

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

22 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING (11 September 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.