

**MINUTES OF THE OTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 11 JANUARY 2016 AT 7.45 PM  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs M. Bottle; P. Aplin; R. Gray; H. Drake; R. Gardner (part); T. Irving (Clerk); Cllr Cooke (KCC); Yasmin Gordine (MBC – Parish Liaison Officer); Dr & Mrs Vaux; Kevin Hipkins (part); 4 further members of the public.

**1 APOLOGIES:** S.Trench – conflicting appointment; V. Moon – bereavement; L. Gandotra – unwell; PCSO Timon Gurr; Cllr G. Newton (MBC); Cllr Gardner for lateness due to family commitment.

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

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllrs Bottle & Aplin re Item 10.4

**4 COUNCILLOR VACANCY/CO-OPTION:** Further to the interest expressed by Mr. Hipkins and further to a discussion by the council, it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Hipkins. An Acceptance of Office was signed – additional paperwork to follow within the stipulated 28 days.

**5 POLICE REPORT:** 14/09/2015 to 11/01/2016.  
No Crimes reported & there were no anti-social behaviour calls.

1 call regarding an abandoned vehicle on Honey Lane.  
1 call regarding a broken down lorry on Gore Court Rd/Church Rd. Road had to be closed to recover vehicle.

The meeting was adjourned for

**6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

The meeting was reconvened.

**7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2015:** The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings & were duly signed by Cllr Bottle.

**8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Not available.

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

**Verbal report:** Further budget cuts are required. It has just about proved possible to achieve £95 million savings, without cutting front line services. Rates will be increased by 3.99% and 150 jobs will be lost by natural wastage.

Checks are still being carried out on a drain in Avery Lane, as despite regular cleaning, there appears to be an ongoing problem.

The JTB supports the proposal for a relief road which is expected to cost in the region of £35 million. It will not be possible to access Otham from the relief road. Traffic modelling carried out by KCC shows traffic congestion as severe, with traffic always grinding to a halt by The Wheatsheaf on the A274. Consideration is being given to making Cranbourne Avenue one-way to improve the situation.

## 10. FINANCE.

### 10.1 Statement of Account

The council approved the following payments.

#### Cheques issued

J. Gray	Questionnaire - Data inputting	40.00
KCC Re. Kent Pension	Employer/Employee Pension (Nov)	91.90
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Nov)	372.54
S. Trench	Christmas Carols Expenses	71.30
Commercial Services	Residents Update re. Bicknor App/	
" "	Nov Ragstone	85.12
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Dec)	352.10
KCC Re. Kent Pension	Employer/Employee Pension (Dec)	91.90
MBC	Emptying Litter Bin (Oct/Nov)	48.00

#### Cheques Received

Nat West	Interest	0.62
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**Balance of Current Account: £11,623.07 credit, after all cheques sent/rec'd**

**Balance of Business Reserve Account: £4,901.18**

**Total Income: £16,524.25**

**10.2 KCC Pension Update:** Cllr Cooke to investigate.

**10.3 Budget/Precept 2016/17:** It was unanimously agreed to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation and uplift the Precept to £10,466.23 (LCT will be reduced to £524).

**10.4 Village Hall Donation:** It was unanimously agreed to donate £475 to cover the new floor shortfall and allow the work to proceed.

**10.5 Other Matters to Report:** It was proposed and unanimously agreed under S133 to make a £50 donation to St Nicholas Church as a 'thank you' and to cover expenses for the village meeting held on 2 December.

**11. PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE/ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** Following a positive presentation of responses to the village questionnaire, the next step for the Neighbourhood Plan will be determined. Headcorn PC to be approached to see how they managed the process.

## 12 PLANNING:

A new planning proposal was presented by the owners of White Horse Cottage, prior to it being submitted to MBC.

A meeting is currently being organised to take place at Maidstone Studios to discuss housing proposals.

Cllr Trench by email:

*'Planning - The invitation to comment on the planning application for White Horse Lane/Gore Court housing attracted 64 neighbour comments to the Maidstone Planning web site. This is a very good turnout and shows the effectiveness of the communications campaign. The KCC Archaeological report comment was encouraging requiring a full survey and protection measures. Southern Water also had requirements.'*

### **13 FOOTBALL GROUND:**

Cllrs Bottle & Trench to attend a meeting at the ground on 23 January. It was noted that whilst noise levels from players are lower, levels have increased from coaches/parents. Noise, litter and traffic are all topics that will be discussed.

**14 OTHAM/LANGLEY 2016 COMPETITION:** From the suggestions put forward by Langley PC; Painting, Bake-off, Knitting, Flower Arrangement, Produce (fruit and veg), Poetry or Short Stories, the Produce (fruit and veg) competition was agreed.

Clerk to notify LPC of the above and ask if they would like to host this year's event.

### **15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

- **White Lines on Carriageway:** Cllr Aplin agreed to take on the job of marking up a map and forwarding to Cllr Cooke.
- **White Horse Lane Ditch:** The lane will be closed on 20 February to allow the ditch clearance to take place. Cllr Cooke has very kindly agreed to finance the work from his Members' Grant.

### **16 REPORT OF MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED: N/A**

### **17 URGENT MATTERS: N/A**

**18 VILLAGE GREEN:** Cllr Gardner's suggestion to have reflectors fitted to the posts on the green as a safety feature was agreed. Reflectors to be sourced and fitted ASAP.

**19 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME:** It was agreed not to engage with the scheme this year.

**20 CHRISTMAS CAROLS:** The event was reported as 'very lovely if not as well attended as previously'. Cllr Gardner has written to Mr & Mrs Fisher to thank them for hosting the carols. **DINNER REVIEW:** The meal was held at the Parkgate and enjoyed by all.

**21 'CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN'/SPRING CLEAN:** As agreed, the Clerk has registered for the official event taking place on either 4, 5 or 6 March. David Betts to be asked if he can assist. Further information to be circulated.

**22 CORRESPONDENCE:** Various correspondence circulated by email as received.

Email received from a resident advising that he and a friend collected approximately 6 bags of litter in White Horse Lane. As requested, stakeholders in the village to be contacted to request action on litter.

**23 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING:**

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 9.40 p.m.

**Date of next meeting: Monday, 14 March, 2016 at 7.45 p.m.**

DRAFT