Minutes of the 9th meeting of 2012 of Otford Parish Council held in the Club Room, Otford Village Memorial Hall on Monday 10th September 2012 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs
- J. Edwards-Winser (Chairman)
- D. Cracknell
- Mrs. M. Evans
- Mrs. J. Howe
- R. Knight
- Mrs. J. Lawrey
- H. Leicester
- Mrs. C. Marsh
- J. Verrall
- Mrs. E. Ward
- M. Whitehead

In attendance: Clerk and four members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM – A member of the public queried whether the reeds in the pond were impacting on the sight line for pedestrians and cars. Mr Thomas will investigate.

1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

3. MINUTES
3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING
4.1 Actions from previous meetings:

5.6 – Continuing - A member of the public suggested that the Otford Society be approached for donations towards planters and Cllr. Mrs Ward will do so.

7.1 – Continuing - Cllr. Cracknell had queried why there had been no support from SDC for the Hale Lane recreation ground becoming a QEII playing field. He had looked further into the requirements and considered that the way was clear. This would be further considered via the F&GP committee.

8.1 - Completed - Cllr. Edwards-Winser reported that a hedge on the corner of Telston Lane and Hale Lane required cutting. The Clerk had contact KCC again re this.

8.2 - Completed - Cllr. Cracknell reported that there had been a rowdy party of young people in the playground on 11th August. The clerk had informed the PCSO.

8.3 - Completed - Cllr. Cracknell had reviewed the draft 99 year lease for the recreation ground from SDC so that any issues can be resolved before the playground is ordered.

8.4 - Continuing - It was noted that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations would now need to be reviewed to ascertain the extent of
8.4 Clerk

8.5 - Completed - The committee recommended and it was resolved that the Clerk investigate the community right to bid under the Localism Act 2011.

8.6 - Completed - The Committee recommended, and it was resolved that under the Community Governance Review SDC be requested to accept the original recommendations of both Shoreham and Otford Parish Councils so that the properties in Row Dow Lane no longer have part of their land in Otford and part in Shoreham.

8.7 - Continuing - The chairman of the environment committee reported that The Woodland Trust had offered free trees and this would be investigated.

8.8 - Continuing - A meeting of the Darent Valley consortium would be organised for September.

8.9 - Continuing - Kent Wildlife had carried out a moth survey in the garden of the Chairman of the Environment Committee and collected 729 moths overnight, with 94 species being present and 4 of those being nationally scarce. The Chairman will write an article for the newsletter on this.

8.10 - Completed - An email had been received from a resident requesting a dog bin. There is no budget for buying and emptying another bin and no sponsorship had been forthcoming. The clerk had informed the resident.

8.11 - Completed - A letter had been received from SDC re informal consultation on changes to parking arrangements in Otford. Cllr. Edwards-Winser had ascertained from SDC why the proposals had been changed and the Council’s views had not been taken account of. Cllr. Edwards-Winser reported that it had now been decided that yellow lines would only be put down on the corner of Warham Road and to fill in the parking space by the bus stop.

5. CLERK’S REPORT

5.1 Issue No 791 of Direct Information Service received from NALC had been received.

5.2 Various agendas, reports and press releases had been received from SDC and KCC. Details were with the Clerk.

5.3 Various advertising brochures had been received. These were available from the Clerk.

5.4 SDC Inshape magazine had been received.

6. OVERSEERS’ REPORTS

6.1 Cllr. Mrs. Lawrey reported that there was rubbish around the scout hut. The clerk will contact the scout leader.

6.2 Cllr. Mrs. Evans reported that there was a damaged drain cover on SDC land at the bottom of Tudor Drive. The Clerk will contact SDC.

6.3 Cllr. Cracknell reported that the hedges on the corner of Ryecroft were overhanging the road and required cutting. The Clerk will contact KHS.

6.4 Cllr. Mrs. Evans reported that a branch was hanging from a tree in pilgrims Way East opposite Row Dow. The Clerk will contact KHS.

6.5 Cllr. Mrs Lawrey reported that the bushes on the Sevenoaks Road just past the VW garage were overhanging the path. The Clerk will contact
KHS.

6.6 Cllr. Leicester reported that paving slabs on the Shoreham Road footway were uneven and dangerous. The Clerk will contact KHS.

6.7 Cllr. Mrs Lawrey reported that the footpath between the station and the church was overgrown. The Clerk will ask the community warden to arrange a working party to clear the path as it had received the two cuts that are financed by KCC.

9.6 Clerk

9.7 Clerk

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

7.A. Highways

7.A.1 The committee had not met since the last Council meeting. Cllr Cracknell reported that he was obtaining the outstanding information from parking companies and would report at the next meeting of the committee.

7.A.2 There were no recommendations.

7.A.3 A letter had been received from SDC re proposed parking restrictions in Sevenoaks Road.

7.A.4

7.A.5

7.A.6

7.B. Recreation

7.B.1 The committee had not met since the last Council meeting. Cllr. Mrs Evans is to meet the District Valuer on 18th September to show him the tennis courts in order that he can arrive at a rental value. The committee will discuss the arrangements for payment of outstanding sums for water and electric by OUFC.

7.B.2 There were no recommendations.

7.B.3 A copy of the Wickstead play area safety inspection had been received.

7.B.4 An email had been received from Chris Hennis re Playplace Family Fun days.

7.B.5 A letter had been received from DVS re grant of new 50 year lease to Otford Tennis Club.

7.B.6

7.B.7

7.C Services

7.C.1 The committee had not met since the last Council meeting. Cllr. Mrs Lawrey explained that the next twinning event would be on the weekend of 16/17th September when the French were to visit followed by a return trip on 6th October. A family with children aged between 8 and 10 were sought to accompany a French family on 17th September. Cllr. Verrall will be sending fire safety instructions to all users of Council property.

7.C.2 There were no recommendations.

7.C.3 A copy of VAWK Autumn 2012 training programme had been received.

7.C.4 It was agreed that the next services committee meeting would discuss whether a public meeting be held re future library services. Cllr. Leicester emphasised that there should be a model established for how to get residents involved at a practical village level.

7.C.5 Minutes of a meeting held on 21st August 2012 with Kent Libraries had been received.

7.C.6 A letter had been received from a resident re library services.

7.C.7 An asbestos report re School House had been received from SL Environmental.

9.8 JV
7.C.8 A letter had been received from West Kent Housing Association re Rural Housing Week.

7.C.9 An email had been received from Southeastern on Services update for the Olympic/Paralympic games.

7.C.10 An email had been received from KCC re Community Emergency Plan.

7.C.11 An email had been received from Sevenoaks District Arts Council re AGM to be held on 25th September 2012.

7.D. Finance and General Purposes

7.D.1 The minutes of the meeting of the F&GP Committee on 3rd September 2012 were received.

7.D.2 The chairman will meet with Cllr. Verrall and Mr Latheron from SDC to ascertain ownership of the sides of the chalkpit. Cllr. Verrall expressed concern that the support for Pilgrims Way East appeared not to be inspected on a regular basis by Kent Highways.

7.D.3 The Committee recommended, and it was resolved that, OPC go ahead with finalising the funding for the Hale Lane playground and ordering the playground on the basis that SDC legal department had confirmed there were no ‘show stoppers’ in the proposed 99 year lease agreement.

7.D.4 The Committee recommended and it was resolved that the Clerk attend the KALC Finance conference on 20th October.

7.D.5 Orders for payment were approved.

7.D.6 The August 2012 report of Otford Heritage Centre was received.

7.D.7 A letter had been received from the Audit Commission re the appointment of an external auditor.

7.D.8 Notification had been received of the completion of the annual audit.

7.E. Planning

7.E.1 The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings on 22nd August and 5th September 2012 were received.

7.E.2 The chairman of the committee gave a summary of applications and results since the last Council meeting.

7.E.3 There were no recommendations.

7.E.4 A copy of ASHTAV summer 2012 magazine had been received.

7.F. Environment

7.F.1 The committee had not met since the last Council meeting.

7.F.2 The Kent men of trees had made some recommendations. These will be copied to Mr Thomas. The Clerk is to send round details of revised rules for the tip at Dunbrik.

7.F.3 There were no recommendations.

7.F.4 A copy of the Management Plan Review 2012-2013 had been received from Kent Downs AONB.

7.F.5 A letter had been received from KCC re Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way.

KALC/ACRK

An agenda had been received for the Sevenoaks Area meeting to be held on 14th September 2012.

An email had been received from KALC re Council Tax base and
funding consultation.
An email had been received from KALC re the Kent Lane Rental Scheme.
An email had been received from KALC re new government consultations.
An email had been received from NALC re Social Care White Paper.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The date of the next meeting was noted as 8th October 2012 at 7.30pm
There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.27 pm

Signed…………………………………………Chairman

Dated…………………………………………