Minutes of the 10th meeting of 2012 of Otford Parish Council held in the Club Room, Otford Village Memorial Hall on Monday 8th October 2012 at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Clerk and three members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM – Mr Shelton, the Chairman of the Village Design Statement Committee, reported that the revised version of the village design statement had been reviewed by individual members of the planning committee and would shortly be put before the community for comment. Cllr.Mrs Ward expressed the thanks of the Council for the work carried out by Mr Shelton. A parishioner suggested that the Otford Parish newsletter be sent to the Mayor of Sevenoaks Town Council so that he was aware of the vibrant community in Otford.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
1.1 Cllrs. Leicester and Verrall

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

3. MINUTES
3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2012 were approved subject to amendments of the numbered action points from 9.9 onwards.

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. 5.6 EW

7.1 – Completed - 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 was considered via the F&GP committee and will be pursued once the lease and playground are finalised and completed.

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

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

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

9.1 – Completed - Cllr. Mrs. Lawrey reported that there was rubbish around the scout hut. The clerk had contact the scout leader.

9.2 – Completed - Cllr. Mrs. Evans reported that there was a damaged drain cover on SDC land at the bottom of Tudor Drive. The Clerk had contacted SDC. The drain is not the responsibility of SDC. SDC have contacted Southern Water and Thames Water to determine ownership and repair.

9.3 – Completed - Cllr. Cracknell reported that the hedges on the corner of Ryecroft were overhanging the road and required cutting. The Clerk had contacted KHS and they have now been cut.

9.4 – Completed - Cllr. Mrs. Evans reported that a branch was hanging from a tree in pilgrims Way East opposite Row Dow. The Clerk had contacted KHS.

9.5 – Completed - Cllr. Mrs Lawrey reported that the bushes on the Sevenoaks Road just past the VW garage were overhanging the path. The Clerk had contacted KHS.

9.6 – Completed - Cllr. Leicester reported that paving slabs on the Shoreham Road footway were uneven and dangerous. The Clerk had contacted KHS.

9.7 – Completed - Cllr. Mrs Lawrey reported that the footpath between the station and the church was overgrown. This had been cleared.

9.8 – Continuing - Cllr. Verrall will be sending fire safety instructions to all users of Council property.

9.9 – Completed - The chairman had obtained confirmation from the legal team at SDC that OPC has no responsibility for the sides of the chalkpit.

9.10 – Completed - 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. The Clerk had actioned this.

9.11 – Continuing - The Kent Men of Trees had made some recommendations. These will be copied to Mr Thomas.

9.12 – Completed - The Clerk had sent round details of revised rules for the tip at Dunbrik.

5. CLERK’S REPORT

5.1 Issues no 792 and 793 of Direct Information Service had been received from NALC.

5.2 Various agendas, reports and press releases had been received from SDC and KCC.

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

5.4 The September 2012 edition of the Otford Society newsletter had been received.

6. OVERSEERS’ REPORTS
6.1 Cllr. Mrs Evans reported that there is subsidence in the road outside 21 Tudor Drive, 2/4 Tudor Drive and the junction with Pilgrims Way East. The Clerk will contact KHS.

6.2 Cllr. Mrs Evans reported that fly tipping is taking place next to the footpath at the bottom of Tudor Drive. The Clerk will email Cllr. Edwards-Winser in order that he speaks to SDC. SDC have sent a letter to local residents.

6.3 Cllr. Knight reported that one of the lights on the zebra crossing is not working. The Clerk will contact KHS.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

7.A. Environment

7.A.1 The report of the committee meeting held on 11th September 2012 was received.

7.A.2 The chairman reported that the recent dog poo flag day had revealed only 6 offences and this improved situation was to be reported in the newsletter.

7.A.3 There were no recommendations.

7.A.4 A copy of the tree inspection by FCS had been received.

7.A.5 Details of the Kent Downs AONB Countryside Day on 12th October 2012 had been received.

7.A.6 An email had been received from the ‘Trees to Treasure’ project.

7.A.7 A complaint had been received from a resident re train noise and bonfire nuisance. The Clerk will contact the station re trains whistling in the night.

7.B. Highways

7.B.1 The report of the Committee meetings held on 1st October was received.

7.B.2 The chairman of the committee reported that at a recent meeting re the siting of new classrooms at the school it had been confirmed that the number of children was to increase from 340 to 420. Currently 141 children in the school did not come from Otford. This was causing traffic congestion and parking problems. Plans for a school drop off are to be discussed with the head teacher.

It was noted that the pond had again been damaged by a lorry. Cllr. Mrs Evans queried who owned the pond and Cllr. Cracknell confirmed that it is owned by OPC.

7.B.3 It was recommended and resolved that the Gateways project was to be progressed as soon as possible. It was hoped that the gateways would be installed by the end of the year with Nick Chard, the KCC member obtaining the balance of the funds from KHS.

7.B.4 An email had been received re M25 Junction 5-7 managed motorway improvement works.

7.B.5 An email had been received from KCC re a Parish and Town Council Survey.

7.C Recreation

7.C.1 The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17th September 2012 were received.
7.C.2 The chairman reported that the contribution of the football club to the running costs of the Eric Dilley Pavilion was still under discussion.

7.C.3 There were no recommendations.

7.C.4 A copy of the OAA Autumn 2012 newsletter had been received.

7.C.5 A letter had been received from Play Place re youth provision 2013.

7.C.6 An email had been received from OUFC re Pavilion maintenance and utility costs.

7.D. Services

7.D.1 The minutes of the Committee meeting on 24th September 2012 were received.

7.D.2 The Chairman reported that the visit from the French and the return trip to France had been enjoyed by all. A drop-in session for residents to give their ideas about the library will be organised for the morning of 17th November to coincide with the coffee morning.

7.D.3 There were no recommendations.

7.D.4 A letter had been received from SDC re Community plan consultations.

7.D.5 A copy of the notes of a meeting held on 21st August 2102 re the future of the library had been received from KCC.

7.E. Finance & general Purposes

7.E.1 The minutes of the F&GP Committee meeting on 1st October 2012 were received.

7.E.2 The Chairman had nothing further to report.

7.E.3 There were no recommendations.

7.E.4 It was resolved that orders for payment be approved.

7.E.5 A copy of the notice from OPC to terminate the PHS contract was agreed.

7.E.6 A copy of a letter from OPC to a transport company re damage to the pond was received.

7.E.7 A letter from Bank of Ireland re changes to its banking operation was received.

7.E.8 An email from SDC re localising support for Council Tax had been received.

7.E.9 An email from Otford Scouts re Bonfire Night in the chalkpit to be held on 3rd November 2012 had been received.

7.F. Planning

7.F.1 The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 19th September and 3rd October were received.

7.F.2 The Chairman explained that the planning application for the proposed new classrooms at Otford Primary School should cover adequate parking provision. He thanked the Chairman of the VDS for his work on the revision and his review of current planning regulations.

7.F.3 There were no recommendations.

7.F.4 A notice of the AGM of the Association of Small Historic Towns And Villages to be held on 3rd November had been received.

7.F.5 A letter from Otford Primary School re a meeting re new classrooms development in place of the swimming pool development held on 3rd October had been received.

KALC/ACRK
A copy of the minutes of the KALC Sevenoaks Area meeting held on
14th September had been received.
An email had been received from KALC re Council Tax base and funding.
An email had been received from KALC re KCC Budget Consultation
An email had been received from KALC re the Social Care White Paper
An email had been received from KALC re Kent Fire and Rescue Workshop to be held on 27th October.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The date of the next meeting was noted as 12th November 2012 at 7.30pm
There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10.35 pm

Signed…………………………………………Chairman

Dated…………………………………………