Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of Otford Parish Council held in the Club Room, Otford Village Memorial Hall on Monday 10th March 2014 at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: 6 members of the public

PUBLIC FORUM
A resident explained that the Darent Catchment Improvement Plan was near completion. Cllr. Mrs Ward had attended a meeting re this. The AONB Valley of Visions proposal to improve the Darent Valley is being revised in an attempt to obtain lottery funding.
A resident reported that 4 fellow residents had contacted him objecting to the proposed siting of the VAS on Shoreham Road. Cllr. Mrs Marsh had also been approached by residents on the same matter. Cllr. Edwards-Winser explained that Kent Highways had investigated potential sites in Shoreham Road but the site at the bottom of Greenhill Road was the only one that satisfied the necessary criteria. He will query this at the next SDC joint transportation board. Cllr. Leicester requested more frequent speedwatch activity to help combat the issue of speeding cars. The Clerk read out the results of the recent survey of car speeds along Shoreham Road. It was suggested that the erection of signs indicating use by pedestrians would be helpful on the three main roads in Otford.
In the February meeting there had been a discussion on the bollards erected next to the One Stop shop. This was not recorded in the minutes at it did not take place in the public forum and was not elsewhere on the Agenda. Cllr. Cracknell is looking into any issues re rights of way. One Stop has offered to fund signs requesting no long term parking. Cllr. Edwards-Winser will contact SDC to ask if they would be willing to take over the KCC area so that parking patrols could be introduced. Cllrs. Mrs Evans and Mrs Ward noted that delivery lorries were parking on the verge outside the shops and damaging it.

1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
1.1 Cllr. Whitehead

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (not already declared) – None.

3. MINUTES
7.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2014 were approved, subject to an amendment at 4.1, and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING
4.1 Actions from previous meetings:
5.5 - Completed - The Highways committee had checked the parking requirements of the cricket league
9.5 - Continuing - It was recommended and resolved that in the interests of improving observation of the existing speed limit, teams of 4 should be

Assistant
organised on a scheduled basis.

12.4 - Continuing - The necessary quotes for access works at the front of the Parish Office will now be obtained.

2.2 – Completed - It was recommended and resolved that the quote from Oakland Roofing for the removal of a chimney at School House was accepted. This is subject to planning permission. The Clerk had contacted the company.

2.3 – Completed - A request from a resident for a charity collection of foreign notes and coins in the Parish Office was discussed. It was decided that it was not advisable for the office to hold additional cash and therefore request was turned down. The Clerk had informed the resident.

2.4 – Continuing - Cllr. Mrs Ward will write a piece for the April newsletter requesting that residents collect litter dropped outside

2.5 – Continuing - A resident reported that rubbish sacks put out along Station Road the night before collection were being ripped open by foxes. Cllr. Edwards-Winser will contact the residents.

2.6 – Continuing - The recommendation re a litter bin at the station was deferred pending a request to the station to put another litter bin on the down platform.

2.7 – Completed - A request from a resident to use the Chalk Pit for two parties including the erection of a marquee and toilets was discussed and turned down. The Clerk had informed the resident.

2.8 – Completed - The SDC offer of a family fun day was considered and Cllr. Mrs Marsh had arranged this with SDC.

2.9 – Continuing - Cllr. Cracknell suggested that a Health Committee be established to include Councillors and local health professionals. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Services committee.

2.10 – Continuing - Cllr. Edwards-Winser will ascertain if the defibrillator at Yvonne's can be connected to electricity so that the cabinet can be heated. This is the case at the other locations

2.11 – Continuing - A training session by the First Responder will be organised at the village hall and advertised in the Newsletter.

5. CLERK’S REPORT
5.1 Issues no 827 and 828 of Information Service had been received from NALC
5.2 Various agendas, reports and press releases had been received from SDC and KCC. Details were with the Clerk.
5.3 SLCC news bulletins had been received.

6. OVERSEERS’ REPORTS
6.1 Cllr. Mrs Evans reported that the road surface on Pilgrims Way East from Row Dow to the junction with Station Road required resurfacing. Cllr. Edwards-Winser will discuss this at the next meeting of the Joint Transportation Board.

6.2 Cllr. Mrs Evans reported that the new pavement surface in Tudor Crescent was very slippery in icy conditions especially as the pavements slope. The Clerk will speak to the Highways Steward.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS
Minutes OPC Meeting 10.03.2014

7.1 Cllr. Edwards-Winser reported that SDC had allocated £150,000 of funding to those affected by flooding. Details are on their website and this would be detailed in the Church and Parish Newsletters.

8. KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS
No report was given.

9. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

9.A. Services
9.A.1 There had not been a meeting of the committee since the last Council meeting.
9.A.2 Cllr. Mrs Lawrey reported that at the next committee meeting on 24th March the setting up of a Health Committee would be considered. The next social gathering of the Twinning Committee would be on 24th March at The Woodman, there would be a visit by the French to Hever Castle on 3rd May and on 19th July a children’s coach trip to France was being arranged. A resident had queried changes in bus services and Cllr. Edwards-Winser reported that Go would be taking over services from Arriva.
9.A.3 An email had been received from KCC re young persons travel pass consultation.
9.A.4 An email had been received from SDC re Economic Development workshop to be held 3.4.14.

9.B. Finance and General Purposes
9.B.1 The report of the committee meeting on 24.02.2014 was received.
9.B.2 Cllr. Edwards-Winser had nothing further to add to the report.
9.B.3 It was recommended and resolved that OPC support the Sevenoaks Town Council submission to sustainable communities re business rates. The Clerk will respond to KALC. 
9.B.4 It was recommended and resolved that any unspent budgets for 2013/2014 except the following be transferred to general reserves: Cemetery Reserve £3166, Contribution to Allotment parking repairs £500, School House Chimney works £6000, School House Repairs £803.
9.B.5 Orders for payment were approved.
9.B.6 A letter had been received from a resident re Parish Council Casual Vacancy.
9.B.7 A letter had been received from a resident re Parish Council Casual Vacancy.
9.B.8 A copy of a report of KCC Flood Risk Management Committee informal meeting on 15.1.14 had been received.
9.B.9 A letter had been received from SDC re change of payment date for business rates.
9.B.10 An email had been received from Sevenoaks Conservative Association re Local Government Policy paper.
9.B.11 A letter had been received from St Bartholomew’s Church re use of The Green for Palm Sunday Service and the use was agreed. The Clerk will contact the Church.
9.B.12 An email had been received from KCC re Local Government Pension Scheme Bulletin.

9.C Planning
9.C.1 The reports of the committee meetings on 19.02.14 and 5.3.14 were received.
9.C.2 Cllr. Edwards-Winser summarised the applications and results considered at the above meetings.
9.C.3 There were no recommendations.
9.C.4 An email had been received from KCC re Property and Planning Newsletter.
Spring 14.

9.D. Environment
9.D.1 The report of the committee meeting on 4.03.2014 was received.
9.D.2 Cllr. Ward summarised the report. The Clerk will request that the Grounds
Maintenance supervisor inspect a large ash tree in the Chalk Pit and to
ascertain which property in Tudor Drive was tipping garden waste.
Cllr. Edwards-Winser reported that he had spoken to the dog warden who
would attend the dog poo flagging event on 1st April.
9.D.3 The siting of a bench at the side of the Pond was discussed and it was
resolved that a bench should not be sited on the Pond for safety reasons.
9.D.4 An email had been received from Kent Downs AONB re Darent Valley
Landscape Scheme - the next stage
9.D.5 An email had been received from a resident re increased aircraft and
helicopter noise. It was noted that helicopters generally follow the line of the
motorway and frequently fly to Chevening, Fort Halstead and City airport.
9.D.6 An email had been received from a resident re duck house
9.D.7 A letter from OPC was noted and an email received re Telston Park
9.D.8 A copy of a Tree Inspection Report Winter 13/14 had been received from
FCS.

9.E. Highways
9.E.1 The report of the committee meeting on 24.02.2014 was received.
9.E.2 Cllr. Mrs Howe reported that the Pay and Display contract and regulations
were being finalised before submission to SDC for final legal scrutiny. A
member of the public will be submitting comments on Appendix 1 of the
minutes and that point 8 of the Appendix refereed to the A225 and not to the
entrance into Sainsburys. A member of the public reported that traffic was
queuing from Row Dow to Shoreham Road every morning and asked
whether a roundabout could be installed at the junction to improve traffic
flow. Cllr. Mrs Ward explained that this had been considered in the past but
did not proceed due to lack of lighting.
9.E.3 An email had been received from Kent Cricket league re parking for visiting
teams.
9.E.4 An email had been received from KCC re Lorry Watch.
9.E.5 An email had been received from KCC re traffic survey results.
9.E.6 An email had been received from Unipar Services re Road Safety-
Speedwatch Seminar to be held 14.4.14.

9.F. Recreation
9.F.1 The report of the committee meeting on 3.3.2014 was received.
9.F.2 Cllr. Mrs Howe summarised the above report. It was recommended and
resolved that the Petanque club proposals for surfacing their area around the
bench be accepted. It was recommended and resolved that the mowing quote
from County Landscapes be accepted.
9.F.3 A copy of the OAA spring newsletter had been received.

KALC/ACRK/NALC
An email had been received from KALC re Update on Flooding - public
health letter sent to GP’s.
An email had been received from KALC re South and South East in Bloom.
An email had been received from KALC re events focusing on Kent Police
and Ambulance Service.
A copy of Rural News Issue 134 had been received from ACRK.
A copy of an Agenda had been received from KALC for Sevenoaks Area
Meeting to be held 14.3.14 and Council Tax spreadsheet.
An email had been received from NALC re Policy Consultation.
An email had been received from KALC re letter from Brandon Lewis MP on
council tax support grant.
An email had been received from KALC re Planning Conference to be held
22.3.14.

The meeting was then closed to public and press at 9.10pm.

10 **CO-OPTION** – The applications to fill the casual vacancy were reviewed
and it was resolved that Mr. N. Fothergill be co-opted. The Clerk would
notify applicants of the outcome.  
Action 3.7
Clerk

11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The date of the next meeting was noted as 14th April 2014 at 7.30pm.

Signed…………………………………………Chairman

Dated……………………………………