**Ospringe Parish Council**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 7th September 2016in the Church Rooms, Church of St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: A Keel – Chairman

B Flynn – Vice Chairman

J Dean-Kimili

A Greason

H Williams

S Wright

L Melville – Clerk

Apologies: R Simmons

Cllr A Bowles

Cllr C Prescott

**095/16 Dispensations**

Councillors B Flynn, A Greason and A Keel have been granted dispensation to deal with matters related to Champion Hall.

**096/16 Public Participation**

Mrs Joan Tovey attended to report on the outcome of the first day’s use of the Speedwatch speed indicator device (borrowed from Newnham PC) for the Ospringe parish speed watch scheme. The session covered morning rush hour outside Brogdale Collections. 38 drivers were identified as driving over the 30mph speed limit. In order to continue the Speedwatch scheme, volunteers are urgently needed as 4 people are needed to use the device and identify all the information required. On behalf of the parish council the Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Tovey and their volunteers.

**097/16 Signing of minutes**

All were in agreement for the Chairman to sign the Minutes as a true record of the business transacted at the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2016.

**098/16 Matters Arising**

Highway matters: Vicarage Lane has been resurfaced and various potholes have been marked up around the parish for repair. Coxett Hill debris on the road remains; Chairman is unsure if this issue will be resolved before the winter rains. There are outstanding potholes and defects which the Chairman will seek to have repaired.

Plot 3 Land adj. to Baybanks – councillors are unhappy with the response from Swale planning enforcement so Clerk will contact Cllr Bowles for an opinion as to whether the matter is worth pursuing.

Perry Court (Section 106 funding) – Clerk to contact Cllr Bowles for advice; he had suggested some Section 106 funding could be available for the parish which will surely be impacted by this development, but Swale had responded negatively to OPC’s request to be considered.

**099/16 Parish Councillor Vacancies**

There are two parish councillor vacancies and the Chairman urged councillors to continue to encourage suitable applicants.

**100/16 Planning**

16/506452/FULL – land adj. to White Timbers Demolition of garage and shed and erection of new two bedroom house with associated parking. The parish council object to this application. The location is too cramped and would detract from the street scene. It would create an extra dwelling but no additional parking in actuality is being provided. It will impact on the amenity of White Timbers and also the proposed ‘jigsaw’ type boundary between the two properties is problematic.

16/506403/FULL - Two Thatch Cottage, Water Lane Removal of rear thatched porch, erection of detached cloakroom and lobby with glazed link. The parish council approves of this revised design and commends the applicants for working to create such an attractive proposal.

16/505707/LBC – Barkaways Site, Ospringe Street – Listed building consent for demolition of outbuildings and development of 6 new dwellings, conversion of existing stables and cold store. (Outside of the parish). The parish council objects: 1) Air quality along that part of the A2 is a massive concern and we are mindful that all the other developments to be built in the area will greatly exacerbate air quality issues and the danger to health of local residents. 2) The development would contribute to the traffic bottleneck at the junction of the A2 with Water Lane. 3) If the development does go ahead, it should be ensured that any archaeological remains of value that are found on site be preserved.

16/501870/FULL – Slips Cottage, Painter’s Forstal Road – 1st floor and conservatory extension. OPC did not object but application was refused and has now gone to appeal.

16/503948/FULL – The Old School, Painter’s Forstal Road – additional accommodation. This was approved at a July meeting of Swale Planning Committee.

15/501312/CHANGE – The Retreat, Elverland Lane - Enforcement Notice. The applicant has appealed to Planning Inspectorate.

15/509545/FULL – Hilltop Farm - Clerk to ask Graham Thomas for an update on the situation.

Land at Mutton Lane – suggestions for development of sheltered housing and a village hall. This is just outside the parish boundary. The developers proposed the funding of an independent housing survey. Clerk will write to them to say the council’s views have not changed, namely that serious traffic issues would ensue and that the site is too remote from transport and facilities for elderly residents.

Hansletts Lane CA17 notice – this is a map and statement deposited with KCC by the landowner to protect the land against further rights of way being established. Councillors agreed there were no putative rights of way or access that would be affected.

Little Kennaways – the parish council has received reports concerning possible planning issues. It was agreed the parish council will continue to monitor but not at this stage to report the matter to Swale Planning Enforcement.

16/506237/OUT Land for development at Lynsted on A2 (outside of parish) copied correspondence from local residents to Cllr Bowles protesting the proposals.

Dunkirk PC re planning enforcement – Dunkirk vice chairman had written to local parish councils asking if all parishes experienced the same lengthy delays over enforcement matters. Ospringe councillors agree that Swale do not have a vigorous, effective enforcement system and so Clerk will write back to Dunkirk copied to Faversham Town Clerk suggesting that all parish councils get together to ask Swale what can be done; while being aware of the critically underfunded nature of local government currently, this should be one area they prioritise. OPC suggest coordinating the response via KALC Swale Area Committee.

**101/16 Finance**

*Current Account payments*

Chq No 1247 Playsafety Ltd – annual ROSPA safety inspection £92.40

Chq No 1248 Ospringe Parish Church – room hire OPC mtg 07.09.16 £20.00

Chq No 1249 Newnham Parish Council – hire of speed indicator device 2 wks Sept 2016 £40.00

Chq No 1250 Liz Melville – Clerk purchase of 2xprinter toners £29.95

Chq No 1251 Cllr Harvey Williams – prizes for Ospringe in Bloom £50.00

*Allotment Account payments*

Chq No 0287 Mr Fix It – Tony Hoile concrete for allotment track and road repairs £386.40

Chq No 0288 Tony Hoile for grass cutting and strimming £100.00

Chq No 0289 Pawley Farm for mowing Joyce Field £120.00

Swale BC – consultation on mileage rates for councillors. OPC had responded to suggest using the lowest mileage rate for all cars, to encourage economical car use.

Note from Kevin Funnell to say he has retired and suggesting Mr Lionel Robbins as a possible internal auditor. Clerk to keep on file for 2016/17 audit.

**102/16 Correspondence**

ROSPA Annual Safety Inspection – Chairman had received the report and there are no serious safety issues; the ‘medium risk’ items will be undertaken by Tony Hoile.

Highways England – notification of consultation on lorry parking areas

Mummery Court streetlight – Clerk had been contacted by local residents to say the street light has still not been repaired despite our reminders. Clerk to contact Cllr Balfour at KCC to see if he can help.

UK Power Networks – notification of new 105 number for reporting power cuts.

KCC Waste Disposal Strategy – notification of consultation.

Swale Green Grid Partnership – notice of meeting to be held Wednesday 21st September.

Swale Youth Development Fund – newsletter.

Kent and Medway NHS newsletter – to Cllr Dean-Kimili.

*Countryside Voice* – to Chairman.

**103/16 Members’ reports**

Cllr Williams reported on Ospringe in Bloom gardens judging and prize giving.

**104/16 Any other business**

Cllr Greason – the industrial sized bins at Lorenden School are still at the front of the school. Clerk to write and ask if the bins could be taken to the back of the buildings.

Clerk will be retiring on 30.11.16 and so a new clerk is being sought. The clerk and chairman will work together to ensure a smooth handover.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 7.30pm