

<b>OTFORD</b>	Parish Clerk:	The School House
<b>PARISH</b>	Sharon Palmer	21 High Street
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**MINUTES of a MEETING of OPC RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

at The School House on Monday 21 March 2016 from 7:30pm

Present: Cllr M Evans (in the Chair)  
Cllrs N Fothergill, J Lawrey, and I Roy

Also Present: Mr M Richards (OAA)

Clerk: Mrs S Palmer

Public Forum: No items were raised.

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr P Clucas. Mrs K Drake (OSA) and Mrs E Ward (co-opted)
2. Declarations of Interest – None.
3. Minutes – The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2016 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting with the following alteration to the first sentence of Item 12, Village Green, Pond and Palace Field – Cllr Roy had previously recommended that children are running down the footpath and through the area by the shops.
4. Matters arising from the previous meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
  - a Working Party:
 

Remove ivy from the Willow at the pond (Mr Otto)	1/16 All
Remove ivy from three Acacia trees in the Recreation Ground	Continuing
Remove vegetation from The Palace Stream (Spring 2016)	Continuing
Tidy the shrub bed running from Palace Approach to the Church gate (Councillor Evans to consult with Mr Brian Thomas)	Continuing
Village Green/Palace Approach/Palace Field Footpath. A decision on work to be carried out in this area will be considered in Spring 2016.	Continuing
  - b Planter at the One Stop Shop. The plaque has been fitted. Completed
  - c Memorial Bench for Mr Hewitt 3/16 Clerk  
Relatives of Mr Hewitt have purchased a bench and delivery is awaited. Continuing
  - d Leaning telegraph pole in the bottom left hand corner of Mill Meadow. The owner has been notified of the potential risk to adjoining phone cables. Completed
  - e Dog Poo Day. The dog poo clean-up day went well and Cllr Evans thanked the volunteers. 30/16 BT  
During the clean-up it was noticed that a dog poo bin was concealed in the hedge behind the cricket nets. It was agreed that this will be moved the footpath running between Bubblestone Road and the Church close to the noticeboard. At least one litterbin is also concealed within the hedge. It was agreed that this will be moved to near the Eric Dilley Pavilion.
  - f Planter on the Traffic Island outside The Crown Pub. Kent County Council has inspected the site and approval to proceed is awaited. 29/16 Asst Clerk
5. Allotments
  - a A written report was received from the Allotments Association.
  - b There are currently four vacant plots (three of which are half plots). Interest has been shown in the vacant plot in Mill Meadow.
  - c The water supply serving the allotments will be turned on again in the last week of March.
  - d Grass mowing. The first working party will take place on the first weekend in April. Brian Thomas will be asked to mow the paths during the week of 28<sup>th</sup> March. 31/16  
BT/Clerk
  - e The sign on the gate from the Recreation Ground to the Allotments asking people to keep dogs on a lead in the Allotments has gone missing. OAA are looking into a possible replacement. 32/16 OAA

- f Allotment Car Park. The OAA agreed at their meeting on 20 February 2016 that at present the car parking area should be left as it is to retain the rural and unspoiled feel of the area. It is RECOMMENDED that the Parish Council is asked to consider meeting the cost of two one-tonne bags of Type 1 Granular Material that could be used to make up pot holes etc on the main track to Mill Meadow and other areas at an estimated cost of £114 (delivered). Members noted that a provision had been set aside by the Parish Council for assistance with the car park. As this will no longer be needed it is suggested a proportion of this is used to fund the recommendation. 33/16  
OPC to Consider
6. OSA – To receive the report from the OSA
- a A written report was received from the Otford Sports Association.
- b A meeting has not been held since the last Recreation Ground Meeting. The AGM of the OSA will take place on Tuesday 29 March at 7:30pm. Nominees for the Kirsch Cup will be considered at this meeting.
- c The Football Season ends at the beginning of May. The PCSO will be reminded that she needs to speak with Mr Cunningham if a Police Charity Match is taking place this year. 34/16 Clerk
- d New Lease for the Eric Dilley Pavilion. This is progressing.
7. High Street Recreation Ground
- a A written report was received from Brian Thomas.
- b Progress is being made on the new lease for the Eric Dilley Pavilion.
- c Keep Fit classes appear to be held on the Recreation Ground. The organiser will be reminded that permission is required from the Parish Council and membership of the Otford Sports Association is also required. The Parish Council also requires sight of the insurance policy for these classes.
- d Moss has been noted on the tennis court.
8. Chalk Pit
- a A written report was received from Brian Thomas.
- b Fencing along the Pilgrims Way boundary has been completed. There is an area of boundary between the land on the corner owned by Mr Stirling and the Chalk Pit that is unfenced. Ownership of the boundary will be investigated prior to any decision being made on fencing this area. 35/16 IR
- c The south end of the large grass/woodland area has a large amount of litter lying around, including two tents and a bike. Cllr Roy will speak to SDC to see removal of the large items. Litter collection can be considered for a working party. The Scouts will be asked to remove the bicycle on their land. 36/16 IR
9. Hale Lane Recreation Ground/Pavilion
- a There were no items to report.
10. Oxenhill Wood
- a A written report was received from Brian Thomas.
- b The report was received from the Management Committee. It was noted that the rides are being cut back and the arisings are being left in situ to dry out.
- c Kent Police will be advised that all the 'Nuisance Biker' notices have been ripped down. The Clerk will request replacements. 37/16 Clerk
- d Mr Thomas attended a meeting with SDC to discuss the Bund. A written report is awaited from SDC on proposed improvements to this area prior to SDC taking over the area from OPC. 38/16 SDC
- e A motorbike has been riding across the site. This will be reported to the PCSO. 39/12 Clerk
- f There is a very muddy area at the top end near the entrance to Kemsing Recreation Ground. It will be very expensive to improve this area and would require a membrane and a considerable amount of road stone. A similar problem in the lower south-western corner needs the same treatment. SDC will be looking at a number of grant opportunities to cover the cost of this work.
11. Village Green, Pond and Palace Field
- a A written report was received from Brian Thomas.
- b A request has been received from St Bartholomew's Church to hold their Summer Fair on The Green. This has been agreed.
- c Vegetation around the pond has been cut down.
- d The duck house has been fitted with new floats to raise it further out of the water. The interior has been cleaned.

- e A recent crash caused minimal damage. New reflective triangles will be installed. 40/16 BT
- f The pond bollards will be painted when the weather improves. 41/16 BT
- g One of the gate posts to the duck enclosure is rotten and needs replacing. 42/16 BT
- h Old Duck House. BT/NC will try and refurbish the duck house. If the damage is too bad, a replacement will have to be considered. 43/16 BT/NC
- i The roadside hedge on Palace Field will be cut within the next few weeks. 44/16 BT
- j The Red Horse Chestnut has been inspected and is very diseased. It will have to be felled in the near future. 45/16 BT
- k Mrs Ward (co-opted member) will be preparing an article for the newsletter on plans for the management of this area. 46/16 Mrs Ward
- l Cllr Evans and Cllr Lawrey will meet to consider the best area to install the foot scraper close to the footpath.
12. Cemetery/Palace Park Wood
- a A written report was received from Brian Thomas.
- b A number of fence posts are beginning to rot at the base and are coming loose. Replacement will need to be considered in the autumn. 48/BT
13. Youth Activities
- a To receive an update and make any necessary recommendations.
- b Family Fun Day – Wednesday 27 July 2016. Otford Village Memorial Hall has been booked in case of bad weather. It is RECOMMENDED that Bo Jangles is booked for the event. 49/16 OPC to consider
14. Clean for the Queen
- a The event went very well overall but the number of volunteers was somewhat disappointing. Several footpaths are still in a bad state. The poster competition was very successful with one winner from Otford Primary School and one winner from Russel House School. A variety of entries have been placed on the noticeboards,
- b The McDonald's Litter Day was very well attended, especially by members of staff from McDonalds.
- c The Scouts did a lot of work cleaning street furniture in the village.
15. Correspondence
16. Other Matters
- a Footpath that still require cleaning – Consider for work parties. Footpath from level crossing to station; footpath from station to churchyard; footpath from Evelyn Road to level crossing; clearing of suckers from trees in grass verge along Pilgrims Way West.
17. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 16 May 2016 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9:55pm.