

Orsett Community Forum

Minutes of the Open Committee Meeting held on 17 Sep 2008

Present:

Graham Monk: (Chair) Matt Jackson (Secretary) Anjie Gaywood
John Vesey (Treasurer) Joanne Cooper (Minutes Secretary)
PC Nick Luff PCSO Eileen Marvin

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.45pm.

1. **Apologies:** Wendy Mayo from Ngage. Orsett ward Councillors Diane and Mike Revell.

2. Minutes of Closed Meeting held 09 July 2008

Minutes of meeting 09 July 2008 were distributed and agreed.

3. Funding Requests from 2007/8

The forum has received no response from Grays Chief Superintendent re Essex Police funding of PCSO vehicle due to Orsett's rural status. The Chair will pursue this with Chief Inspector Alan Cotgrove. A vote was taken as to whether the forum should continue to look at external funding for the vehicle from the ward forums and Fords Sponsorship. The majority voted against looking at external funding at this present time.

The survey has still not been completed for the Welling Road 30mph speed sign. The Chair has passed this matter over to the ward councillors.

The Thurrock Play Network play scheme took place in Orsett over the summer holidays. It was agreed that we would like the scheme to come to Orsett again next year.

The forum has now received funding forms for 2008 and the Orsett Bowls club are now able to progress their funding request. Sheila Fursedonne will be making a funding request for upgrading of street lights and David Kooyman (Orsett Cricket Club Chairman) will be making a funding request for benches for the recreation ground.

4. Bus Routes

Anjie has asked Faye Cox whether the Thurrock Transport Strategy plan includes bus routes for Orsett but has not yet received a response. Anjie has requested to the council that details of any future Orsett bus route consultations are brought to the forums attention.

5. Play Area

Joanne briefed everyone about the progress of the Play area project.

In response to reports of two child accidents that had occurred recently on the playground, the Council took down the logworld over the summer holidays.

Unfortunately the community spaces funding application made in July was unsuccessful. A member of the Friends group will be writing to the programme to find out more information.

The council have advised that the Friends group can apply for year 2 funding from the Playbuilder Government scheme, providing the location of the new playground has been decided. Therefore the group will be holding a consultation process with residents and other interested parties to obtain people's views on the location.

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A council approved playground contractor has estimated the cost to build a play area on the recreation ground to be £60,000 plus VAT.

David Shaddock (Orsett in Bloom) said that the Chairman of the Bowls Club Derek Carter had spoken to him about the possibility of using the tennis courts as a car park area for bowls club members.

6. Crime

PC Nick Luff and PCSO Eileen Marvin advised that there has been an increase in burglary offences in the ward. The plan of action is to utilise beat walking and door knocking together with leaflet drops to deter offenders.

There will be a crime prevention community safety day on 20 September 2008 at the Whitmore Hall, Bristowe Drive, 10-4pm.

A resident asked about scrap metal vans being a continuing nuisance in the area. The resident had reported the licence plate to the Police. PC Nick Luff confirmed that unfortunately they had been unable to trace the vehicle owner.

A resident asked about continuing parking problems where cars are parking on the pavements and causing an obstruction, in particular in Pound Lane. The resident had tried to contact the council about it but with no success. There was a discussion about who was responsible for taking action against these cars – council parking officers or the police?

Another resident asked about a vehicle that was continually being parked outside their property in Rowley Road on double yellow lines. PC Nick Luff advised the resident to send details of the vehicle licence number to the police. A question was also raised about whether residents could photograph offending vehicles.

PC Nick Luff agreed to find out who could take action against these offences and if residents can legally take and submit photos of vehicles when reporting offences. He also advised residents that every time an incident is reported to the police they should ensure that they receive an incident number. A resident mentioned that recent incidents are advertised in the Grays police station foyer.

The Chair presented the latest neighbourhood watch weekly reports. PC Nick Luff mentioned that they would like to re-launch the neighbourhood watch scheme in Orsett. There was a discussion about whether a formal scheme would be any better than the current situation where individual residents are reporting problems. It was agreed that a neighbourhood watch officer would be invited to a forum meeting to talk about how Orsett could benefit from the scheme.

Matt is continuing to look into who owns the Orsett quarry entrance boundary where travellers have removed fencing.

The Chair mentioned that there will be a Thurrock Community Safety Partnership meeting on Friday 25 September at 1pm.

PC Nick Luff confirmed that policing over the 3 villages for Orsett ward has been reduced due to the loss of a PCSO, reduction of another's hours to 3 days a week and the fact that he has often been called out to an emergency response. The Chair will take up this issue with the Chief Inspector Alan

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Cotgrove liaising with the other 2 village forum Chairs and copying in MP Angela Smith.

7. Pound and Lock Up

The Chair has spoken to English Heritage who have confirmed that they can put an enforcement notice on Thurrock Council to maintain the pound and lock up. The Chair will send this information to Ed Vokes in Highways and copy in Neil Rockcliffe.

David Shaddock mentioned that he has spoken to Simon Black who says that there may be money available in the arts and leisure budget this year for the maintenance. Simon has asked whether there would be a group in the Orsett community who would be willing to take over the responsibility of up keeping the pound and lock up. The forums view is no, the pound and lock up is the council's responsibility. David will take this view back to Simon Black. The Chair will seek a meeting with Neil Rockcliffe to address the lack of maintenance.

8. Road Safety

Matt briefed everyone about the progress of road safety issues.

The twin yellow kerb ticks have been installed in School Lane outside the hospital. However the contractor did not re-paint the double yellow lines at the same time, as requested to Julie Nelder (Senior Traffic Engineer in Highways).

The new parking system for Orsett hospital (where the first 45 minutes is free) is still planned for autumn.

Other issues to be resolved but not specifically mentioned at meeting:

- High Road junction with Pound Lane/Rowley Road – double yellow lines and kerb ticks on all four corners to highway standard on each approach to this junction
- Extending yellow lines from mini roundabout by Rectory Road
- Warning Chevrons to be painted on road at junction of high road and rectory road
- Users of the village hall cutting through from the new development- needs proper path to be constructed

A resident mentioned about youngsters doing wheelies on quad bikes down High Road. PC Nick Luff advised residents that we should continue to report these incidences to the police every time we see them.

Another resident asked whether the council had agreed that the position of the mini roundabout at School Lane/Rectory Road was wrong. The Chair confirmed that all the council had agreed to do was look at it, which they haven't so far. The Chair will take this issue up directly with Neil Rockcliffe.

The Chair had requested for the council to carry out a traffic survey and was told that there was no funding for the survey. This is incorrect as there is funding available from the £158,700 given by Bryant Homes to improve highways in Orsett. The Chair was also told that the survey would need the approval of cabinet member Neil Rockcliffe. The Chair will take this issue up directly with Neil Rockcliffe.

NOTE: David Shaddock mentioned that he had received an email from Ed Vokes on 12 September promising to give an update on the use of the £158,700 Bryant fund. The Chair asked David to forward the email to him and he will take the issue up directly with Neil Rockcliffe.

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Re resident who had complained to the council about uneven paving by the village hall after twisting ankle – the Chair had contacted highways to find out why they are classifying the area as unadopted, private land. No answer has been received. The Chair will take this issue up directly with Neil Rockcliffe.

9. Youth Issues

Joanne confirmed that she had helped fill in the Safer Thurrock Partnership funding application together with PC Nick Luff and PCSO Eileen Marvin and that the application was now back with the Youth Club Leader to progress.

Joanne also mentioned that she was having difficulty finding someone from the council to check her youth worker CRB application form. The Chair advised to speak to Wendy Mayo from Ngage.

The Chair mentioned that the Scouting clubs in Orsett Ward were going from strength to strength and that there are plans for extending them into Bulphan village.

10. A.O.B

A resident stated that he was very dissatisfied with the general lack of response and support from Orsett Ward councillors to residents' issues. It was proposed for meeting attendees to vote upon whether they agreed with the resident's opinion. 2 abstained, the remainder were in agreement. The Chair will take the result forward to the ward councillors.

Re the resident concerned about illegal commercial activity in Pound Lane – no further information has been received as yet.

Meeting notices:

- McMillan Coffee morning at the Beehive in Grays on Friday 26 September
- Free Christmas fun night at the civic hall on Monday 08 December 4-8pm, for children aged 3 to 11 years
- Forums Christmas social event on 04 December
- Networking event on Monday 22 September by Thurrock CVS

Two planning applications received for Orsett ward in September are: use of Baker St garage land for domestic/commercial storage in steel shipping containers and replacement of existing dwelling in Laindon Rd, Horndon.

PC Nick Luff has confirmed that the Babies Life saving course is planned for 09 October at the Orsett Cricket Club, from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Anjie will contact the Toddler and Playgroup about the course. A community life support course for adult CPR is planned for a later date.

David Kooyman asked whether the forum could look into the fact that there are no litter bins on the recreation ground and only one dog bin available. Joanne will take this up with Street Services.

Orsett in Bloom brought along the Gold award dish that Orsett Village has won again this year in the Anglia in Bloom awards – a great result!

The Treasurer John Vesey confirmed that there was still the full amount of forum funds available.

The next open meeting will be the AGM in November, planned for the Village hall, date to be confirmed. The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.27pm.