

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 18th February 2008 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors
Mr Jacques
Mr Horne
Mr Morley
Mr Pilkington
Mr Sandford
Mr Smith
Mr Waite

The meeting was Chaired by Councillor Jacques.

Also in attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington – Clerk, Members of the Public and Press.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillor Pilkington who stated that he may be late.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Councillor Horne – Heritage Award.

Councillor Jacques – Parish Plan request for financial assistance.

3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

The minutes were discussed and agreed (Waite/Horne), these were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

The Clerk reported that the notices for co-option onto the Parish Council had now been posted onto the parish council notice boards.

This was discussed and the Clerk explained the procedure for co-option to all present.

The Clerk was asked to approach any interested parties regarding these vacancies.

Action: Clerk to progress as requested.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding the potholes along Thurnham Lane. This was discussed along with other outstanding highway matters.

The problem with excess water along Thurnham Lane was discussed; Councillor Morley stated that this was a danger on icy days.

Mary Richards stated that this problem had been reported to the water authorities and was due to be inspected by the Highways Authority.

The Clerk was asked to report this matter to the relevant authorities to establish what action was being undertaken to deal with this problem.

Action: Clerk to action.

7. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding this matter. He referred to the report circulated to all councillors by MBC regarding the proposed arrangements for the hearing of the planning application.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding this matter and stated that he felt that the Joint Parish Group should deal with this and he had put this to MBC, he stated that in his view this was not a matter for the Parish Council to debate.

Councillor Waite agreed with Councillor Horne's comments and stated that the report should be circulated to all JPG members for formal consideration.

8. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting and reported on the recent meeting that he had attended at the Showground and of their plans for the future development of the business.

Councillor Horne reported that the industrial estate was still an issue and this would be taken up with MBC. He reported that the LDF Consultation would address this and it would be included for comment.

9. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

1. KALC Planning Information Day – 15th March 2008 – noted.
2. Thurnham Lane Proposed Parking Restrictions – Clerk to respond.
3. ACRK – Kent Village of the Year 2008 – passed to Councillor Waite for action.

10. External Reports:

a. Police Report.

Apologies were given by the police.

b. Ward Councillor's Report.

Councillor Horne gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the updated planning policies for PPS12 and the effects that the change would have on the LDF.

Ragstone Place Crossing – It was reported that this matter was now being progressed with MBC; he confirmed that the S106 money had been ring fenced for use within Thurnham, and the Legal Department was looking into the legalities of this matter.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Horne in his new role as Historic Environmental Champion.

Councillor Horne reported that Alison Broom was now the Director of Operations and he suggested inviting her to attend a site visit with adjoining parishes along the North Downs. This was discussed and Councillor Horne stated that he would progress this further.

Action: Councillor Horne to progress.

He spoke regarding the ongoing development at Junction 7 and the issues raised regarding Gidds Pond Cottages, he spoke with reference to the parking in that area and the road problems that would impact on the residents.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding the problems that the additional traffic would have on the whole area.

Councillor Horne reported on a review currently being undertaken by MBC on Gypsy Sites in the Borough. He stated that it was his view that the Parish Council should be consulted regarding the sites within its parish, as there appeared to be more sites than those identified by MBC.

This was discussed further and it was agreed that Councillors Sandford and Morley would look at this review and the sites within Thurnham and report back to the next meeting; following this the officer involved with the review should then be invited to attend a PC meeting.

Action: Councillor Sandford and Morley to progress and report back to the next meeting.

c. County Councillors Report.

Apologies were received from Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart.

d. Liaison with outside parties.

Councillor Morley reported on the recent police meeting that he had attended and the poor attendance by Parish Councils.

He spoke regarding Parish Plans and the lack of knowledge that the police had regarding this matter.

11. **Financial Matters:**

a. Request for financial assistance from the Parish Plan Committee.

Councillor Jacques referred to a report circulated to all members from the Parish Plan Committee asking for financial assistance for the printing a final production costs of the parish plan. The request was for a total of £3500.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that the parish plan would be a comprehensive document.

Councillor Morley spoke in favour of the parish plan and the Committees request for financial assistance. Following discussions it was proposed by Councillor Smith to give a donation of £3500, this was seconded by Councillor Horne and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to raise cheque for £3500 as agreed.

b. Request for financial assistance from St Mary's Church.

A letter from St Mary's Church requesting financial assistance for the maintenance of their churchyard was circulated to all present. The Clerk also circulated a report on the balance of this years Concurrent Functions Grant for members attention.

Councillor Smith asked about the doubt over the future use of the church. Councillor Jacques spoke regarding this and of his view that a grant to the church should be considered.

Councillor Smith spoke further regarding the future of the church and the meeting that the PC had held with the Reverend John Corbyn. He suggested that the PC should seek confirmation from the church PCC that they were taking positive steps to progress the future of St Mary's.

Councillor Waite suggested that the PC should ask the church PCC what they were doing to look forward for the future uses of the church.

Councillor Jacques took up this point and stated that the PC needed to establish the views of the PCC regarding the churches future and how it plans to move forward as a church. He suggested that the PC should look at the request for financial assistance in terms of what the PCC is doing to increase the economic viability of the church.

Councillor Jacques referred to the unspent balance of the Parish Council Concurrent Functions Grant and he suggested that the agreed grant should be given with the request to liaise further with the Parish Council regarding what the PCC was doing to secure the future of St Mary's.

Councillor Horne suggested that the PC should invite the PCC to attend a meeting of the Parish Council this was agreed by all present.

Following these discussion it was proposed by Councillor Smith to make a donation of £750 to the church, this was seconded by Councillor Horne and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to write to St Mary's PCC and invite them to attend the next PC meeting.

c. *Financial Statement.*

The financial statement was agreed by members, subject to the addition of two cheques for the Parish Plan Committee and St Mary's Church as agreed at this evening meeting. (Smith/Waite).

12. Parish Matters.

a. *Averanches Road Ransom Strip.*

Councillor Smith reported on this matter. He suggested that the Parish Council should now write directly to Wimpeys to try to progress the transfer of the Ransom Strip. This was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to write to Wimpeys as agreed.

b. *Footpaths and Bridleways.*

It was reported that the stile was broken on the footpath from Caring Lane to Ashford Road.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

Councillor Smith reported on the condition of the footpaths on the Bearsted Golf Course.

c. *Website.*

The Clerk reported that this matter was being progressed as agreed and she would report back to the next meeting.

Action: Progress as agreed.

13. Committee Reports.

a. *Planning.*

MA/08/0141 - Valhalla, Ware Street, Thurnham - **OBJECTION**

Erection of two detached houses and garages (resubmission of MA/07/2285)

MA/08/0165 - The Coach House, Ashford Road, Thurnham – ***with Planning Committee.***

Conversion of garage/store to ancillary dwelling accomodation.

MA/08/0166 - The Coach House, Ashford Road, Thurnham – ***with Planning Committee.***

Listed Building Consent for the conversion of garage/store to ancillary dwelling accomodation.

MA/08/0095 - Cold Blow Farm, Cold Blow Lane, Thurnham – ***with Planning Committee.***

Erection of a single storey building to accommodate disabled tourists.

b. Highways.

The Chairman referred to the highway items discussed under matters arising and the agreed action points.

c. Parish Plan.

Councillor Morley gave a report on the progress of the Parish Plan. He informed members that the final draft of the Parish Plan was to be discussed at the parish plan meeting on 26th February. The official launch date had been agreed for 26th April 2008 and all residents would be invited.

A discussion regarding the arrangements for the launch took place.

Members spoke regarding the distribution arrangements for the Parish Plan and whether this should be undertaken before, at or following the launch.

Mary Richards spoke regarding this matter and clarified some details.

14. M20/A249.

Nothing to report.

15. Ordnance Survey

The Clerk circulated details on the desktop ordnance survey system to all present. Councillor Horne spoke regarding this matter and his views on the benefits that such a system would have for Thurnham.

Councillor Jacques spoke on this matter and the benefits of having a Chairman's Laptop.

Councillor Smith stated that the PC should consider the restrictions of Ordnance Survey licences; he suggested that the Parish Council should purchase a large-scale ordnance survey map.

This matter was debated further, and the following action was agreed.

Action: Clerk to liaise with MBC regarding what mapping they were able to provide to the PC.

Action: Councillor Smith to purchase large-scale ordnance survey map of parish.

Action: Clerk to ascertain the costs of the desktop mapping system.

16. Heritage Award.

The Chairman deferred this matter until the next meeting.

- 17. **Future Items.**
Village Design Statement – Agenda Item.
- 18. **Date of next meeting.**
17th March 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 10:05pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____