

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 19th May 2008 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors
Mrs Bloomfield
Mr Horne
Mr Jacques
Mr Morley
Mr Sandford
Mr Smith

The meeting was Chaired by Councillor Morley.

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

1. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

2. To elect a Chairman.

Councillor Horne nominated Councillor Morley as Chairman, this nomination was seconded by Councillor Waite, and agreed by all present. Councillor Morley accepted this position, this was agreed by all present.

3. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Morley signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Morley spoke regarding the role of the Chairman and the history of the Chairmanship of Thurnham Parish Council.

He thanked Councillor Jacques for his past four and a half years as Chairman and the strength that he had given to the Parish Council.

4. To elect a Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Jacques nominated Councillor Waite as Vice-Chairman for a further year, this nomination was seconded by Councillor Sandford, and agreed by all present. Councillor Waite accepted this position.

5. To appoint Committees and Representative to Outside Bodies.

Planning

Cllr. Pilkington
Cllr. Waite
Cllr. Sandford (Chairman)

Finance

Cllr. Smith

Representatives for Outside Bodies

Footpaths	Cllr. Smith & Mr Perring
Memorial Hall	Vacant
Police Liaison	Cllr. Morley
Tree Warden	Cllr. Waite
A249 Action Group	Cllr. Jacques & Cllr. Waite
School Governor	Mrs Kinsman
Highways	Cllr. Pilkington

KALC	Cllr. Jacques
ACRK	Cllr. Waite
Kent Downs	Cllr. Waite & Cllr. Jacques
Website	All Councillors
Quiet Lanes	Cllr. Jacques
M20/CTRL	Cllr. Waite & Cllr. Horne.

6. Declaration of Interests.

Councillor Waite spoke regarding the possible planning application for land in Caring Lane. He stated that in light of the rumours regarding this matter he felt that he should declare an interest. Councillors Jacques and Sandford also declared an interest in this matter.

7. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

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

8. Matters Arising from Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

9. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

The Clerk informed members that an application had been received for the Parish Councillor vacancy from Daniel Skinner. Councillor Smith spoke regarding Mr Skinner's application and proposed that he be co-opted onto the Parish Council. This was discussed by all present and seconded by Councillor Waite. Mr Skinner was therefore co-opted onto the Parish Council.

He then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place around the table.

10. Alison Broom – Director of Operations MBC.

The Chairman welcomed Alison Broom of MBC to the meeting.

Alison Broom explained her role within the Borough Council with regards to administration, frontline services and planning and building control.

11. Public Comments and Observations.

A representative from the Caring Conservation Society spoke on behalf of the resident of Caring Lane with regards to the land adjacent to 22 Caring Lane, and he asked what action the Borough Council was going to take with regards to the problem with the illegal encampment on this site.

Alison Broom spoke in response to this question, she confirmed that there was no planning consent, a planning application had been received for the site, however this had not yet been validated by the Borough Council, as further details were required from the applicant.

Residents asked the question why MBC had not stopped activities on the site when they were first notified of the situation. Alison Broom confirmed the steps that had been taken by the Borough Council and the process that needed to be followed in order to pursue this matter. She confirmed that enforcement action had been initiated by the Borough Council and was currently being undertaken and a temporary Stop Notice was due to be served on the applicant and MBC would consider a full Stop Notice on the expiry of the 28-day temporary notice period.

A discussion took place with regards to the enforcement action being taken and the problems that the illegal encampment was causing in Caring Lane.

Mr Clifford spoke regarding this matter and sought clarification of this matter. Alison Broom spoke further regarding the current situation.

Action: Clerk to write to KCC

12. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques invited Alison Broom to update all present on the current situation regarding the Kent International Gateway.

Alison Broom briefed the Parish Council on the situation regarding the Article 14 Direction and the process of this. She confirmed that the Borough Council had also requested further particulars regarding the application however as yet this information had not been received.

Further questions were raised concerning the Article 14 Direction and clarification of the implications that this may have on the application. Alison Broom clarified these matters.

Richard Jacques spoke of the work undertaken by the Joint Parish Group, he spoke of the electorate that it was representing and the need for the group to work in cooperation with the Borough Council.

A discussion then took place regarding the Local Development Framework and the need for a second consultation. Councillor Jacques stated that the former Leader of MBC had attended a PC meeting and confirmed that a second consultation would take place. Alison Broom stated that she would take this matter up with the new Leader of the Council.

Members thanked Alison Broom for attending the meeting and she left at 9:15pm.

13. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

14. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

A letter from St Mary's Church was discussed by all present and their offer to attend a meeting to discuss the future of St Mary's Church.

Councillor Jacques briefed members on the background of the letter and the reasons for it.

A discussion took place with regards to the church and it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged in due course to discuss the church further.

15. External Reports:

a. Police Report.

PC Cumberland attended the meeting and gave the latest crime report to all present.

Councillor Pilkington referred to a problem of people looking for scrap in the rural area. PC Cumberland stated that the vehicle details should be forwarded to the police if possible for further investigation.

Councillor Horne asked if it was possible for police contact numbers to be forwarded to the Parish Council.

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Councillor Sandford spoke with concern regarding the speeding traffic using Caring Lane. PC Cumberland stated that he would undertake checks in this area.

b. Ward Councillor's Report.

Councillor Horne gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the new administration of the Borough Council and suggested that the new Leader of the Council should be invited to attend a future meeting.

c. County Councillors Report.

Apologies were received from Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart.

d. Liaison with outside parties.

No reports were given.

16. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

The financial statement was agreed by members. (Waite/Jacques).

The Clerk spoke regarding the new bank charges being imposed by NatWest and suggested that this should be placed on the next agenda for further consideration. This was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to place on next agenda.

17. Parish Matters.

a. Averches Road Ransom Strip.

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Wimpey's, however as yet a response had not yet been received.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

It was reported that there was currently a problem with footpath KH119. The Clerk was asked to fetch this to the attention of KCC

Action: Clerk to action as requested.

c. Website.

Councillor Waite spoke with regards to the website.

18. Committee Reports.

a. Planning.

MA/08/0804 The Retreat, Ware Street, Thurnham – Objection.
Erection of one three bedroom bungalow.

b. Highways.

Councillor Sandford informed members that the vegetation at the top of Caring Lane was overgrown and in need of cutting back as it was obstructing the visibility of drivers.

Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways.

c. Parish Plan.

Councillor Morley gave a report on the Parish Plan; he stated that the final meeting was due to take place on 20th May 2008.

19. M20/A249.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding a meeting that had taken place with Steve Wilcock of MBC regarding noise issues.

20. Village Design Statement.

Councillor Waite reported on this matter and the date of the VDS meeting on 5th July 2008. He stated that he would draft a newsletter to send out to all residents.

21. Location for New Notice board.

Councillor Waite suggested that the new location for the notice board could be on land at the Bell Public House, this was agreed by all present, subject to gaining the permission of the landowner.

Action: Councillors Morley and Waite to progress.

22. Heritage Award.

Councillor Horne reported on the progress of this matter.

23. Future Items.

No matters were raised for the next agenda.

24. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – 16th June 2008.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____