

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIG JOINT PARISHES GROUP
Held on 2nd July 2008 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was chaired by Richard Jacques - TPC

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Lenham Parish Council.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted by all present.

3. Working Groups

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the possible format of the MBC KIG hearing and he updated members on the current situation with regards to the Highways Agency.

He stated that MBC was due to contact RPS regarding the determination of the planning application, he warned that it was possible that the planning hearing could take place at any time and suggested that the JPG should be prepared.

Richard Jacques stated that this information changed the direction of the group and the need for an organised approach.

He spoke regarding the 30 minutes allowed for the JPG with 15minutes allocated for Peter Cooper and the remaining 15minutes for individual speakers to talk at local level.

It was reported that the planning hearing was likely to be held at Mote Hall. Councillor Horne spoke regarding the usual procedure of the planning hearing and informed the meeting that the applicant would be given equal time to address the committee.

Further discussions took place regarding the possible outcomes of this application. It was reported that the Article 14 Direction from the Highways Agency runs out on 13th July 2008.

Members discussed the role of Mark Watts and suggested that the JPG may need his guidance in order to enforce the arguments of the group. Richard Jacques suggested a meeting with Peter Cooper and Mark Watts in order to prepare for the hearing. This was agreed by the JPG.

Action: Richard Jacques to progress meeting with Mark Watts and Peter Cooper.

John Horne spoke further regarding the Article 14 Direction and stated that the Highways Agency may renew this however at present this was unknown.

John Horne spoke regarding an article in Kent on Sunday regarding local water demands and the draft water plan deadline for submissions. He suggested that the KIG site could be used for a reservoir. A discussion took place regarding this suggestion and members gave their views on this matter.

It was agreed that at present the group needed to remain focused at opposing the KIG proposals and it was not appropriate at this point in time to suggest alternative uses as this could be seen as a weakness and destroy the arguments of the JPG.

Richard Jacques spoke regarding the working groups and the specific areas which needed to be discussed and prepared for the planning hearing. He suggested that suggested that each group should have a coordinator and a lead contact as follows:

1. Employment and traffic issues – June Harrison.
2. Finance and investment – Jeff Licence and Patrick Walton.
3. Business and logistics – Terry Laing.
4. Environment and social impact – Sarah Goodwin and John Horne.

It was agreed that each group would work on their specific issues and report back to the next meeting.

A further discussion took place regarding the planning hearing and the time limits available to the JPG and to other interested parties wishing to put their objections forward. The Clerk was asked to contact Neil Harris of MBC to clarify this matter further.

Action: Clerk to contact MBC re planning hearing.

4. Future Finances re KIG.

This item was deferred until a future meeting.

5. Other Items.

No matters were raised.

6. Date of next meeting.

To be arranged.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm