

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 18th January 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors
Mrs Bloomfield
Mr Jacques
Mr Pilkington
Mr Sandford
Mr Skinner
Mr Waite

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Waite.

Also in attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington – Clerk and members of the public and PC Ian Loader.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Morley, Smith, Horne and KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

The minutes were discussed and agreed (Bloomfield/Pilkington); these were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

The Chairman invited members of the public to address the parish council regarding parish matters:

A resident spoke regarding the parish newsletter and stated that this was useful to inform residents about parish issues.

He spoke regarding the lack of salt bins in the Bearsted Park area.

Councillor Bloomfield referred to an email from KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle seeking new locations for salt bins.

This was discussed by all present and it was agreed that raise this with Councillor Whittle in order to seek an additional salt bin in the Bearsted Park area.

Residents attended the meeting to speak regarding the planning application for the former Pound Stop building in Crismill Lane.

Councillor Bloomfield declared an interest in this item.

Councillor Waite stated that this was on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting and stated that he would allow public comments whilst this was discussed.

6. Police Report.

PC Loader gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the crimes within the parish over the past month.

He spoke regarding the recent speed checks he had undertaken along Caring Lane and informed members that he had given two warnings to motorists.

Councillor Sandford asked whether the speed signs obscured by vegetation would impact on the enforcement of the speed limit.

PC Loader stated that at present these were not a problem; however he would keep an eye on the situation.

7. **Review of Parish Plan.**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

8. **Kent International Gateway.**

Councillor Jacques gave a report regarding the Kent International Gateway Public Inquiry; he informed members that this ended on 23rd December 2009.

He stated that the indication was that that the outcome would not be known until after the elections.

9. **Heritage Award.**

Councillor Waite reported on this item in the absence of Councillor Horne.

He stated that Councillor Horne had proposed some changes to terms of reference for the award.

He read out the wording and this was discussed by all present. Members suggested that the pane should be made up of a sufficient number of people to ensure that a majority vote was always maintained.

It was therefore suggested that a member of the Bearsted and Thurnham Society should be invited to join the panel. This was agreed by all present.

Councillor Waite stated that he would liaise with Councillor Horne regarding this matter.

Action: Councillor Waite to progress.

10. **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

11. **Clerks Report.**

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

12. **External Reports:**

a. **Ward Councillor's Report.**

Councillor Horne gave his apologies to the meeting.

b. **KCC Councillor Report.**

KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle gave her report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding the Ware Street Crossing and stated that the JTB would make a decision on the location for this following a public consultation process.

She apologised to members for the delay in this matter.

She spoke regarding the salt bins in the parish and the gritting during the snow.

She asked members if further salt bins were needed in the area.

This was discussed by members and Councillor Waite suggested that members consider this further and liaise with Councillor Whittle.

Members discussed the potholes within the parish and Councillor Whittle urged the PC to report these as soon as possible.

Members informed Councillor Whittle of the problem areas within the Parish. Councillor Whittle spoke regarding funding opportunities that were available for churches. This was discussed by members and the issues relating to St Marys Church were highlighted.

- c. Liaison with outside parties.
No reports were given.

13. Financial Matters:

- a. Financial Statement.
The financial statement was agreed by members. (Bloomfield/Sandford).

14. Parish Matters.

- a. Play Area Improvements.
Councillor Waite informed members that the land registry search for this area was being progressed.
- b. Footpaths and Bridleways.
It was reported that there was a tree obstructing footpath KH130. The clerk was asked to report this problem to KCC.
Action: Clerk to progress.

15. Committee Reports.

- a. Planning.
MA/09/2072 Former Poundstop Warehouse, Crismill Lane, Thurnham.
Change of use and alterations of warehouse to a Church and Meeting Hall.

Councillor Bloomfield declared an interest in this matter and left the room.

Councillor Sandford spoke regarding this application and informed members that the planning committee had recommended an objection on the following grounds:

1. The development falls within a Special Landscape Area.
2. Additional movement of traffic.
3. Private Road.
4. Not sufficient on site parking.
5. Road classified as a bridleway.
6. Large concentration of vehicles in one area.

Members discussed this application further, concerns were raised regarding the use of the building as a meeting hall, the use of this at other times during the week and the concentration of vehicles associated with this.

Councillor Waite asked the residents from the area if they wished to make comments regarding this application. The residents spoke regarding the current problems with traffic associated with Pegasus Gym and their concerns that the new development would increase these problems.

Members considered this matter further and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would object to this application for the reasons identified by the Planning Committee.

Action: Clerk to object to application.

b. Highways.

Councillor Pilkington passed on his thanks to KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle for assisting with the replenishment of salt in Coldblow Lane.

He spoke regarding the problems with potholes along Pilgrims Way and stated that on some places the road was subsiding.

A general discussion took place regarding the responsibilities of the Highway Authority during snowy weather.

16. **Future Items.**

No matters were raised.

17. **Date of next meeting.**

Date of next meeting – 15th February 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.00pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____