

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 15th September 2008 at 7.00pm.

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

The meeting was Chaired by Councillor Morley.

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

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Horne and Bloomfield.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

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

4. Matters Arising from Minutes.

Caring Lane – Councillor Jacques spoke of his letter to Kent Highways regarding HGV lorries using the lane. He stated that KCC were undertaking a lorry strategy in the spring.

5. Police Matters.

Apologies were received from the police.

The Chairman gave members the crime figures received from the police and spoke regarding the lack of police presence at parish council meetings.

Councillor Sandford spoke of his disappointment that the police promise of speed checks had not been undertaken along Caring Lane. This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to take this matter up with the police.

Action: Clerk to liaise with police.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding the speeding traffic along Caring Lane and the use of this as a short cut and a link to other parishes. It was agreed that although Kent Highways were due to undertake a HGV Strategy in the mean time signs to deter lorries from using the lane would assist with the problem. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should write to Kent Highways to ask for an HGV restriction sign in Caring Lane.

Action: Clerk to write to Kent Highways.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

Mr Perring raised concerns that footpath KM81 and KH114 were currently impassable due to the field being ploughed and not reinstated.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

Mr Perring also informed members that Japanese Knotweed was thriving within the parish and needed to be controlled.

He stated that marker posts were needed at the footpath that crossed The Tudor Park Golf Course.

Mr Pilkington spoke regarding a problem with a footpath/bridleway neat Frinningham Farm, he stated that a gate had been erected making it difficult for horses to use.

7. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques reported on this matter, he stated that he and Councillor Waite had met with StopKIG representatives and Councillor Waite had offered to be the link with the group,

Councillor Waite stated that StopKIG had asked if the parishes of the JPG would consider a link from their websites to StopKIG.

At this point Councillors Skinner and Smith arrived at the meeting.

8. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

He reported that he had received a letter from the Vicar of St Mary's Church suggesting that there should be an appointed Councillor to act as a liaison between the church and the Parish Council. This role was discussed and it was suggested that Councillor Smith might wish to undertake this role. Councillor Smith agreed with this and it was therefore resolved that he would represent the PC.

Action: Clerk to inform the vicar of Councillor Smith's appointment.

Councillor Morley informed the meeting tat Roger Vidler had been looking into village design statements and had offered to assist the PC with this project.

Councillor Waite stated that a date for the VDS meeting with Phil Turner had been scheduled for November and he suggested that he and Roger Vidler should meet to discuss this further.

The Chairman spoke regarding a meeting that was in the process of being arranged to discuss the future of the coal yard with KCC, Bearsted Council and Rail Track. The current situation with regards to parking was discussed by al present and concerns were raised with regards to the current parking in the area and the need for additional parking.

The Chairman reported on the meetings that he had attended during the past month.

9. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

10. External Reports:

a. Ward Councillor's Report.

Councillor Horne gave his apologies to the meeting.

b. Liaison with outside parties.

No reports were given.

11. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

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

12. Parish Matters.

a. Averanches Road Ransom Strip.

Nothing to report.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

Nothing to report.

c. Website.

Nothing to report.

13. Committee Reports.

a. Planning.

Councillor Sandford reported on planning matters.

He informed members that he had been informed that the planning application for Summer Place had been refused by the Borough Council. The Clerk stated that she had not received any notification with regards to this matter. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Alison Broom regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Alison Broom regarding the current situation.

b. Highways.

Nothing to report.

14. Village Design Statement.

Councillor Waite proposed that the Parish Council accept the offer from Roger Vidler to assist with the Village Design Statement, this was seconded by Councillor Sandford and agreed by all present.

15. St Mary's Church Representative.

Nothing further to report.

16. 23 Caring Lane Planning

This matter was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would meet with Councillor Jacques to draft a report for the next meeting regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to meet with Councillor Jacques.

17. Heritage Award.

Members were reminded that Paul Cummings from KCC would be attending the next meeting to speak with members on this matter.

18. Future Items.

Councillor Waite asked for the Chairman's Role to be placed on the next agenda.

19. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – 20th October 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.35pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____