

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

Present: Councillors
Mr Horne
Mr Jacques (arrived late)
Mr Morley
Mr Sandford
Mr Skinner (arrived late)
Mr Smith (arrived late)
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 Councillor Bloomfield.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

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

4. Matters Arising from Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Police Matters.

PCSO Baulf attended the meeting and gave a crime report to all present.

Councillor Morley spoke regarding the recent police surgery that was held in he Bearsted Park area and he praised PCSO Baulf for her work in undertaking this.

He reported on a recent police liaison meeting that he had attended.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

Mr Perring spoke regarding the work currently being undertaken at St Mary's Church and the finances for this.

Mr Vidler spoke regarding the request for financial assistance from King George V Memorial Hall.

Councillor Jacques arrived at the meeting at 7.15pm.

7. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques gave a report to all present; he reported that the Highways Agency had extended the Article 14 Direction for a further six months and the effects that this may have on the planning application.

He spoke of the importance of publishing precise information for residents regarding KIG. He reported that the JPG was meeting during the week to discuss this matter further.

8. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the meetings that he had attended on behalf of the Parish Council during the course of the month including the memorial service for Lord Bruce-Lockhart.

Councillor Sandford spoke regarding Lord Bruce-Lockhart and his work within the community. He spoke regarding his work for KCC and the now vacant post and informed members that he had written to KCC as an individual regarding this matter.

Councillor Morley reported that two applications for financial assistance had been received by the PC, one from The Bearsted Woodland Trust and one from King George V Memorial Hall. He invited the applicants to speak regarding their requests.

It was agreed that these items should be placed on the next agenda for formal consideration.

Action: Clerk to place on next agenda.

9. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

10. External Reports:

a. Ward Councillor's Report.

Councillor Horne gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the forthcoming budgets of MBC and the anticipated percentage increase.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding his Devolved Budget and informed members that he was due to hold a meeting to determine how to allocate this in late December.

He spoke regarding the Ware Street Safe Crossing and circulated details to members. This was discussed and it was agreed that Councillor Horne should write to Paul Carter regarding this and the Section 106 associated with this.

Councillor Smith suggested that the Parish Council should write a letter of support to Paul Carter, this was agreed.

Action: Councillor Horne to progress and PC to write letter of support as agreed.

b. Liaison with outside parties.

No reports were given.

11. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. 2009/2010 Budget.

The 2009/2010 Draft Budget was circulated to all members.

Councillor Smith spoke regarding this, and proposed a precept of £11,646.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Jacques and agreed by all present.

Action: PRECEPT AGREED £11,646.

12. Parish Matters.**a. Averanches Road Ransom Strip.**

Councillor Skinner reported on the legal situation regarding Averanches Road. This was discussed further and it was suggested that the agenda item should be renamed 'Play Area Improvements', this was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to place new item on the next agenda.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

No matters were reported.

c. Website.

The Clerk reported that this matter was being progressed.

13. Committee Reports.**a. Planning.**

MA/o8/2310 Barty House Nursing Home, Roundwell, Bearsted.

An application for listed building consent for the demolition of garage/store building.

Councillor Jacques spoke of his concerns regarding the camera on the A20 that had been knocked down, he stated that when it was first erected the consultation process was overlooked and the PC received an apology for this. Now the camera was being re-erected and again the PC had not been informed of this action. He asked the Clerk if she could follow this matter up with the relevant authorities, and he passed the information over to the Clerk.

Action: Clerk to progress as agreed.

b. Highways.

Nothing to report.

14. Parish Plan.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding the recommendations from the parish plan and he suggested that a group could be set up to ensure that the recommendations were implemented. This was discussed further and it was agreed that members should discuss this further at a future meeting.

Roger Vidler spoke regarding the Parish Plan recommendations.

15. Village Design Statement.

Roger Vidler spoke regarding this matter.

16. Freedom of Information Act.

The Clerk circulated the Model Freedom of Information Act to all Councillors at the previous meeting. Members confirmed that they wished to adopt the model code and Councillor Waite proposed to adopt it, this was seconded by Councillor Horne and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to follow up as necessary.

17. Future Items.

No items were raised.

18. Clerks Salary Review – to be discussed as a confidential item.

To be discussed as a confidential item excluding press and public.

19. **Date of next meeting.**

Date of next meeting – 19th January 2009.

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

Signed: _____

Chairman

Dated: _____