

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Councillors  
Mrs Bloomfield  
Mr Horne  
Mr Morley  
Mr Sandford  
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 Skinner, Pilkington and Jacques.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

No interests were declared.

**3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.**

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

**4. Matters Arising from Minutes.**

Councillor Sandford spoke regarding the ancient bridge along Caring Lane, he reported that this had now been inspected by KCC and they had found no problems.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the heritage issues associated with the bridge.

**5. Police Matters.**

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

She reported on the police speed enforcement checks undertaken by PC Cumberland in Caring Lane and Ware Street, Councillor Horne asked for the statistics relating to these checks.

Councillor Sandford suggested that the checks along Caring Lane may have been more appropriate at peak times.

**6. Village Design Statement.**

Councillor Morley spoke regarding the draft document circulated by Councillor Waite. It was agreed that an informal meeting of Councillors should be arranged to further this matter.

**7. Public Comments and Observations.**

A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns about the parking in Averanches Road, he asked if some thought could be given to the reasons why the parking of vehicles had increased along this route.

He spoke about the opening of Averanches Road and stated that in his opinion this would solve a number of problems.

Councillor Horne briefed the meeting on the history of the ransom strip and the decision taken by MBC to keep the road closed.

He stated that both Thurnham and Boxley Parish Councils wished to see the road remain closed, but stated that the resident's personal view had been noted. Councillor Sandford spoke further regarding this matter.

**8. Kent International Gateway.**

Councillor Waite spoke regarding the KIG planning application.

He stated that the Joint Parish Group was now working towards the MBC Planning Hearing.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the appeal hearing and the need for the parish council to submit its comments to the Planning Inspectorate by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

**9. Heritage Award.**

Councillor Horne showed members the Heritage Award for Thurnham.

Councillor Morley praised the award and the work of Councillor Horne. He spoke further regarding this and asked where and when it would be presented, and how the day would be marked.

Councillor Waite questioned how the applications for the award would be submitted and about the terms under which the award would be presented.

Councillor Horne suggested that the award would be presented to the Parish Council and the Parish Council would then present it to the winner at a separate event.

Councillor Smith suggested that it may be advantageous to combine the two events.

Councillor Bloomfield agreed with this suggestion.

Councillor Morley suggested that there needed to be a clear criteria for the award, this was agreed by all present.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding his intentions for the award and agreed that the first step was to have a clear criteria for the award, he reminded all members of the English Heritage support for the award and their criteria.

Councillor Smith stated that he would progress this matter.

***Action: Councillor Smith to progress.***

**10. Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

He informed the meeting that the parking restrictions along Thurnham Lane were still being progressed by MBC and were expected to be implemented in the new financial year.

He spoke regarding the progress of the potholes along the lane.

**11. Clerks Report.**

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

**12. External Reports:**

*a. Ward Councillor's Report.*

Councillor Horne gave his report to the meeting.

*b. Liaison with outside parties.*

Councillor Bloomfield informed members that she was due to attend a meeting of the King George V Memorial Hall in the very near future.

**13. Financial Matters:**

a. Financial Statement.

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

**14. Parish Matters.**

a. Play Area Improvements.

Nothing to report.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

Councillor Sandford spoke regarding the footpath crossing the golf club at the Tudor Park Hotel; he reported that it was in need of remarking. He also suggested that notices should be given to golfers to remind them that footpaths crossed the fairways and therefore they should be aware of walkers. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Tudor Park Hotel regarding this matter.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

c. Website.

The Clerk reported that this matter was being progressed.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

**15. Committee Reports.**

a. Planning.

Councillor Sandford reported on the planning applications received by the Parish Council.

b. Highways.

Concerns were raised regarding the pot holes along Caring Lane and the poor state of the verges near to 22 Caring Lane.

**Action: Clerk to write to Kent Highways.**

**16. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.**

The Clerk circulated draft Standing Orders and Financial Regulation to all members. These were discussed and it was agreed that this item should be placed on the next agenda for further consideration.

**Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda as agreed.**

**17. Future Items.**

No matters were raised.

**18. Date of next meeting.**

Date of next meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

***There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.45pm***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_