

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 16th June 2008 at 7.04pm.

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

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

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

4. Matters Arising from Minutes.

The committees and representatives to outside bodies were discussed by all present. It was agreed that these should be placed on the next agenda for further consideration.

Action: Clerk to place on next agenda.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

Mrs Savage from Thurnham Lane attended the meeting to speak regarding the condition of Thurnham Lane. She stated that although some of the potholes had been filled in there was still a problem with the road.

The Chairman spoke regarding Kent Highways pothole blitz and the number that had been repaired in Thurnham and Bearsted and he asked the Clerk to make contact with Kent Highways to try to establish the number of repairs that had taken place in Thurnham.

A resident spoke regarding the situation regarding the land adjacent to 22 Caring Lane. Councillor Morley informed the meeting of the action taken to date by MBC, he stated that the planning application had now been validated and was due to be passed to the Parish Council within the next few days.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding this matter; he confirmed that the local residents were happy with the level of information that they had received to date.

The resident spoke further with regards to the application and the consultation process.

A resident spoke regarding the Parish Plan and the action that Thurnham would be taking to implement to Action Plan. This was discussed and it was confirmed that this was an item to be placed on the next agenda for further consideration and to enable the parish Plan to be formally adopted by the PC.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

Mary Richards spoke regarding the Kent International Gateway and the forthcoming KIG JPG meeting. She spoke regarding the advantages of the group meeting with StopKIG to exchange information.

6. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques gave members a report of the progress of the Joint Parish Group.

7. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting. He spoke regarding the King George V Memorial Hall and the importance of having a representative on their committee. He informed members that Roger Vidler had offered to take on this role, this was discussed by members and it was suggested that this role was one which would be suitable for a new Parish Councillors should they wish to be considered.

The Chairman confirmed that this was an item on the next agenda for consideration.

The Chairman referred to a meeting with St Mary's Church planned for 25th June 2008 at 8pm. He asked for the parish council to be a fully represented as possible. Councillor Smith stated that he would coordinate all members with regards to the meeting.

Action: Councillor Smith to progress.

8. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

9. External Reports:

a. Police Report.

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

b. Ward Councillor's Report.

Councillor Horne gave his apologies to the meeting.

c. County Councillors Report.

Apologies were received from Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart.

d. Liaison with outside parties.

No reports were given.

10. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. Banking Arrangements.

The Clerk circulated a report on the Parish Councils current and proposed banking arrangements to all present. The report recommended that the PC switch its banking arrangements from NatWest to Coop as the NatWest was due to start charging for their services, this recommendation was agreed by all present. (Smith/Jacques).

Action: Clerk to progress.

c. Chairman's Laptop.

Members debated the need for the Chairman to have a laptop computer and the benefits of having this means of communication. Councillor Jacques spoke

regarding his time as chairman and the amount of emails that he would receive. The points were noted by all present.

It was proposed by Councillor Jacques to purchase a laptop and printer for the use of the chairman, this was seconded by Councillor Bloomfield and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to progress.

11. Parish Matters.

a. Averanches Road Ransom Strip.

The Clerk reported on the progress of this matter to date.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

Councillor Waite spoke regards Japanese Knotweed.

c. Website.

The Clerk reported that the website was being progressed by G Forces.

12. Committee Reports.

a. Planning.

Councillor Waite reported on planning matters.

b. Highways.

Councillor Waite spoke regarding the overgrown hedges along Thurnham Lane. He stated that these were the responsibility of the golf club and asked the Clerk to write to the club to ask them to programme in a cut in the near future.

Action: Clerk to progress.

c. Parish Plan.

Councillor Morley gave a report on the Parish Plan.

13. M20/A249.

Nothing to report.

14. Village Design Statement.

Councillor Waite reported on this matter and the date of the VDS meeting on 5th July 2008.

15. Location for New Notice board.

Councillor Waite informed the meeting that this item was still being progressed.

Action: Councillors Morley and Waite to progress.

16. Bimbury Castle and the Sound Mirror.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

17. Future Items.

The following items were agreed for the next agenda:

1. 23 Caring Lane.
2. Parish Plan Adoption.
3. Parish Plan Action Plan.
4. Parish Council Representatives.

18. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – 14th July 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9:05pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____