

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 16th November 2009 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors
Mrs Bloomfield
Mr Jacques
Mr Morley
Mr Sandford
Mr Skinner
Mr Smith
Mr Waite

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Morley.

Also in attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington – Clerk, KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle, PC Ian Loader and members of the public.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Pilkington and Horne.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

The minutes were discussed and agreed (Smith/Skinner); 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.

Roger Vidler spoke regarding the Joint Parish Group and he asked questions regarding how much money it had spent, what share related to Thurnham Parish Council, how much had been spent to date and what the criteria was that the JPG had adopted.

The Chairman considered these matters and informed Mr Vidler that these would be considered under the agenda item for KIG.

6. Village Design Statement.

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Mr Eastham as agreed at the previous meeting, and he had asked for a representative of the Parish Council to contact him to discuss the needs of the Parish Council in more detail.

This was discussed by all present and it was suggested that the focus of the Parish Council should be on the Parish Plan at this time so as not to weaken the mix by undertaking the Village Design Statement. This was agreed by all present.

The Chairman stated that he would liaise with the Clerk regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk and Chairman to action.

7. Review of Parish Plan.

Councillor Smith spoke regarding the Review of the Parish Plan.

He referred to a spreadsheet that he had drafted with the Clerk identifying the recommendations from the Parish Plan and their time scales. He proposed that the Parish Council spend 15 to 20 minutes on reviewing the plan at each meeting and confirmed that he was happy to lead this item and co-ordinate at the meetings.

He stated that there was a need for volunteers from the local community to assist with the implementation of the recommendations.

The recommendations numbers one to twenty-one were discussed by members and these were allocated to councillors for action.

The agreed actions were noted and Councillor Smith stated that he would update the spreadsheet to reflect the decisions of members.

It was agreed that this item should be placed on the next agenda for further review.

Action: Councillor Smith and Clerk to progress.

8. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques reported on the progress of the Kent International Gateway Public Inquiry.

He referred to the questions put to the Parish Council by Mr Vidler regarding the JPG. He informed him that the finances of the JPG were allocated to each parish on a pro-rata basis, based on the number of households in each parish, with the exception of Boxley who based their share on the percentage of properties in the Grove Green area.

He spoke regarding the criteria adopted by the JPG and the work the group had undertaken to date, such as preparing its evidence for the Public Inquiry and the preparation of its proofs.

He confirmed that as yet the JPG had not allocated any funds beyond December 2009 and that a meeting of the JPG was due to take place to discuss this.

Mr Vidler spoke regarding the overall cost to the parishes. Councillor Jacques stated that he could only comment on the business of Thurnham Parish Council and confirmed the amount that Thurnham had input.

Councillor Jacques thanked all interested parties for their input into the Public Inquiry.

9. Heritage Award.

The Chairman deferred this item until the next meeting.

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 members.

She spoke regarding the recent decision of KCC Members to delay the safe crossing of Ware Street.

She informed members that although this scheme was approved by the JTB and she had pledged her support in principle for the crossing she was now questioning the proposed location.

She informed members that an objector had contact Paul Carter regarding the location of the crossing and he had called for the project to be put on hold. Councillor Whittle stated that she had been uneasy about the location; she confirmed that although the project had been put on hold, the money for this was still safe. She apologised for the delay to members.

Councillor Waite expressed his surprise at the actions of KCC.

Councillor Smith asked about the proposals for the new location, he stated that it would not be desirable for children to cross Edlin Road in order to reach the crossing. Members expressed their concerns at the new proposed location for the crossing.

Councillor Jacques spoke of the need for the crossing and the initial proposed location. He spoke regarding the history of the project and the Parish Councils attempts to have the crossing before the houses at Edlin Road were built. He stated that there was an issue with this dangerous road and the proposed location was identified as the optimum point for the crossing in terms of sight lines.

Following these discussions it was agreed by members that a letter should be written to both Kent Highways and Councillor Jenny Whittle supporting the need for the crossing in its original agreed location and expressing the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the delays in its implementation.
Action: Councillor Smith and Clerk to action.

c. Police.

PC Loader attended the meeting. He gave a crime report to all present.

He reported on the speeding of vehicles along Caring Lane and informed members that speed checks would be undertaken. Councillor Sandford asked for these to be carried out at peak periods.

d. Liaison with outside parties.

Councillor Bloomfield reported on the recent meeting of King George V Memorial Hall.

13. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. 2010/2011 Budget Report.

The Clerk informed members that the budget would be placed on the next agenda for formal consideration.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

14. Parish Matters.

a. Play Area Improvements.

No matters were raised.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

No matters were raised.

15. Committee Reports.

a. Planning.

MA/09/1882 Thurnham Keep, Castle Hill, Thurnham.

Erection of a detached double garage.

Members discussed this planning application and raised objections to the proposed development.

b. Highways.

No matters were raised.

16. Future Items.

No matters were raised.

17. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – 14th December 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 10:00pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____