

**ANNUAL STATUTORY**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Councillors  
Mrs Bloomfield  
Mr Horne  
Mr Jacques  
Mr Morley  
Mr Pilkington  
Mr Skinner  
Mr Waite

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Morley.

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

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Councillors Sandford, Smith and PCSO Wood.

**2. To elect a Chairman.**

Councillor Horne nominated Councillor Morley as Chairman; this nomination was seconded by Councillor Waite, and agreed by all present. Councillor Morley accepted this position; this was agreed by all present.

**3. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

Councillor Morley signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**4. To elect a Vice-Chairman.**

Councillor Horne nominated Councillor Waite as Vice-Chairman for a further year; this nomination was seconded by Councillor Waite, and agreed by all present. Councillor Waite accepted this position.

**5. To appoint Committees and Representative to Outside Bodies.**

**Planning**

Cllr. Pilkington (reserve)  
Cllr. Waite  
Cllr. Sandford (Chairman)  
Cllr. Skinner

**Finance**

Cllr. Smith

**Representatives for Outside Bodies**

Footpaths - Cllr. Smith & Mr Perring.  
Memorial Hall - Cllr. Bloomfield.  
St Mary's Church - Cllr. Smith.  
Police Liaison - Cllr. Morley.  
Tree Warden - Cllr. Waite.  
A249 Action Group - Cllr. Morley, Jacques, Horne & Cllr. Waite.  
School Governor - Mrs Kinsman.  
Highways - Cllr. Pilkington.

KALC - Cllr. Bloomfield & Morley.  
ACRK - Cllr. Waite.  
Kent Downs - Cllr. Waite & Cllr. Jacques.  
Website - Cllr Jacques.  
M20/CTRL - Cllr. Waite & Cllr. Horne.  
KIG - Cllr. Jacques, Waite, Sandford and Horne.

**6. Declaration of Interests.**

Councillor Waite – Planning, personal interest.  
Councillor Jacques – Planning, personal interest.

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

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

**8. Matters Arising from Minutes.**

No matters were raised.

**9. Public Comments and Observations.**

The Chairman invited members of the public to address the parish council regarding parish matters:

A resident asked the Parish Council when it was due to undertake the work at Avenches Road Play area. The Chairman explained that this was a long term project.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the G Forces planning application. He informed members that this was due to go before the Planning Committee on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May; however there had been a number of issues and confusion with regards to the representations from members of the public.

Mr Clifford attended the meeting and spoke regarding this matter. He asked the Parish Council about their views and the Chairman confirmed that the PC had objected to the application.

Councillor Waite stated that MBC were legal with the way in which they dealt with the planning application, however their actions did not show good practice with regards to the administration.

Councillor Morley spoke of the history of the site and their future plans for development. He spoke of the concerns regarding the increase in traffic that this would create.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding the planning application for Summer Place in Caring Lane which had been considered by the Planning Inspector and dismissed; he spoke of the reasons why and stated that MBC had clearly not considered the reasons whilst looking at the G Forces application.

He stated that he felt that the Borough Council should defer this item on the agenda until a later planning hearing.

Mr Clifford spoke on behalf of the Bearsted and Thurnham Society.

A resident from the Caring Lane Conservation Society attended the meeting; he spoke regard a 55 signature petition that had been hand delivered to MBC objecting to the application which had not been included in the planning report.

Members advised the resident to liaise with MBC to establish where the petition was.

Members considered this matter further and it was agreed that they would wish to have the planning application deferred from the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May until the next planning meeting enable MBC to amend the report.

June Harrison from Leeds Parish Council attended the meeting and spoke in support of Thurnham Parish Councils concerns; she stated that there was a danger that this would set a precedent should MBC approve the planning application.

Following further discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to MBC requesting that the item be deferred until the next planning committee meeting. This was proposed by Councillor Jacques, seconded by Councillor Skinner and agreed by all present.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending the meeting and for their interest in this matter.

**10. Police Report.**

Apologies were received from PCSO Wood. The Chairman read the police report to all present.

**11. Review of Parish Plan.**

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

Councillor Waite spoke regarding the Parish Plan Action Plan and the Parish Councils progress at reviewing this.

**12. Kent International Gateway.**

Councillor Waite gave members a report on this item.

**13. Heritage Award.**

Councillor Horne reported on the progress of this matter.

**14. Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

**15. Clerks Report.**

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

A copy of the draft Annual Report was circulated to all members for comments.

**16. External Reports:**

*a. Ward Councillor's Report.*

Councillor Horne gave his report to the meeting.

*b. KCC Councillor Report.*

KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle gave her report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding the recent A249 meeting and asked members their views on the speed limit along the road.

Members discussed the various speed restriction options from a 50mph limit to a variable speed limit.

- c. Liaison with outside parties.  
Councillor Bloomfield informed members that she was due to attend a King George V Memorial Hall meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

**17. Financial Matters:**

- a. Financial Statement.  
The financial statement was agreed by members. (Jacques/Waite).
- b. CPRE Membership.  
The Clerk informed members that the cost of the annual membership for the CPRE was £29.00. Members considered the benefits of this and agreed to join for the year 2010/2011.  
**Action: Clerk to progress.**
- c. 2009/2010 Annual Accounts.  
The Clerk informed members that the accounts had been inspected by the Parish Councils Internal Auditor and circulated these to all present.

The Accounts, Annual Return and Statement of Assurance was then inspected and approved by members.

It was proposed by Councillor Skinner and seconded by Councillor Jacques to accept the accounts and annual return.

These were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

**Action: Clerk to forward accounts to Audit Commission for audit.**

**18. Parish Matters.**

- a. Play Area Improvements.  
Councillor Waite informed members that this matter was still being progressed.
- b. Footpaths and Bridleways.  
No matters were raised.
- c. Overgrown Vegetation.  
Members discussed the overgrown vegetation along Caring Lane and the need for this to be cut back. It was agreed that the Parish Council should seek a quotation to have this cut back as Kent Highways had failed to action this adequately.  
**Action: Clerk to progress.**

**19. Committee Reports.**

- a. Planning.  
No planning applications were received during the course of the month.
- b. Highways.  
Councillor Pilkington gave a report to all present.

**20. Future Items.**

It was agreed that the Annual Report should be placed on the next agenda.

**21. Planning related matters – confidential item.**

**22. Date of next meeting.**

Date of next meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

*There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.43pm*

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

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