

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 17th November 2008 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors
Mrs Bloomfield
Mr Horne
Mr Jacques (arrived late)
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 Pilkington and Skinner who was representing the Parish Council at another meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Councillor Bloomfield – KIG Planning.

3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

The minutes were discussed and agreed (Waite/Horne), 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.

She informed the meeting that speed checks had been undertaken along Caring Lane and as a result four drivers had been issued with warnings, and 1 ticket had been given. PCSO Baulf stated that speed of vehicles might have been reduced due to the visible presence of the police officer.

Councillor Sandford suggested that the checks would have been more effective if undertaken at a more appropriate time. PCSO Baulf confirmed that more checks would be undertaken in the future.

She reported on the planned police surgeries for Thurnham and the location of these. Councillor Morley stated that he would attend these with her.

6. Heritage Award.

Councillor Horne reported that this matter was still being regressed.

7. Public Comments and Observations.

No public matters were raised.

8. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques gave a report to all present; he reported that it was likely that a further public consultation would take place in the near future.

Members discussed the most effective way of informing residents of the consultation process and it was agreed that a mail shot would be undertaken by the Clerk at the appropriate time.

9. 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.

It was suggested that the parish council would benefit from a parish tour in the New Year and this was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to progress.

10. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

11. External Reports:

a. Ward Councillor's Report.

Councillor Horne gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the recent Joint Transportation Board meeting and the proposals for the crossing at Ware Street.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to MBC and KCC to try to establish the current situation and time scale for the crossing.

Councillor Smith stated that he would assist with this letter

Action: Clerk to write to KCC.

Councillor Horne also reported on the current situation regarding the planning application for the old Thurnham School site, he informed members that this application had been approved with conditions. Councillor Sandford stated that he had attended the planning hearing and he reported further on this matter.

b. Liaison with outside parties.

Councillor Sandford reported on the consultation document for Travellers and he asked members to give their views on which option they preferred to enable the Parish Council to make representations to the consultation document. This was discussed by all present and it was agreed that the PC would favour option C.

Action: Clerk to respond accordingly.

Councillor Smith reported on a meeting that he had attended with the Church. He spoke of the plans of the church and the discussion with the vicar regarding its links with the school.

Councillor Smith stated that he would like the PC to explore the links with the school and the church and he asked if Mrs Kinsman could be invited to attend a future PC meeting to discuss these issues.

Action: Clerk to progress.

12. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

The financial statement was agreed by members. (Smart/Horne).

Members approved the payment to Bloomfield and it was agreed that the PC would finance this element for the opposition of the KIG. (Jacques/Sandford)

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

It was reported that this matter had not progressed this month.

Members discussed the history of this site and the options open to the Parish Council. It was suggested that the PC may have rights to the area due to its past actions, it was agreed that this should be explored further by members.

Action: Clerk to action.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

Councillor Morley spoke regarding the bridleway at the White Horse Woods.

c. Website.

The Clerk circulated the site map for the new website to all members. This was discussed and agreed by all present, subject to some further suggestions.

Action: Clerk to liaise with web designer and accept site map.

14. Committee Reports.**a. Planning.**

MA/08/2107 West Wing, Cobham Manor, Water Lane, Thurnham.
Erection of a single storey front extension.
No Objections.

b. Highways.

Nothing to report.

15. Village Design Statement.

Councillor Waite reported on the meeting that had taken place on Saturday 15th October. He stated that this had been very positive and the opinion was that a VDS should be undertaken and should follow the groundwork undertaken by the Parish Plan Group. He informed the meeting that Roger Vidler had offered to assist with this project in January 2009.

It was agreed that this project should be progressed in January 2009.

16. Freedom of Information Act.

The Clerk circulated the Model Freedom of Information Act to all present and informed members that this needed to be adopted by the PC by 1st January 2009. It was agreed to place this item on the next agenda for consideration.

Action: Clerk to place on next agenda.

17. Future Items.

The Clerk was asked to place Parish Plan recommendations on the next agenda.

Action: Clerk to action.

18. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – 15th December 2008.

