

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 18th May 2009 at 7.00pm.

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

No apologies were received.

2. To elect a Chairman.

Councillor Jacques nominated Councillor Morley as Chairman, this nomination was seconded by Councillor Smith, 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 Jacques nominated Councillor Waite as Vice-Chairman for a further year, this nomination was seconded by Councillor Sandford, 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 & 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.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the Parish Councils representation on the Governing Body of Thurnham Infants School. This was discussed by members and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to John Wale, the Chairman of the Board of Governors to ask how the PC could assist further with the school.

Action: Clerk to progress.

6. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

7. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

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

8. Matters Arising from Minutes.

No matters were arising.

9. Police Matters.

No police attended the meeting.

10. Village Design Statement.

Councillor Waite stated that he was due to meet with Jim Boot regarding the Village Design Statement and he would report back to the next meeting.

11. Public Comments and Observations.

Councillor Horne introduced Lesley Figg from the Lenham Archaeological Group to the meeting. She spoke regarding the Kent International Gateway and the possible archaeological sites within the proposed area. She informed members that some surveys were currently being undertaken by the KCC Archaeologist.

She suggested that a key issue was to establish whether there was any archaeological sites within the proposed KIG area of development and a Lidar Survey could identify these.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the last archaeological survey to be undertaken by CTRL and he stated that the artefacts from had never been displayed.

He stated that he was keen to have some action taken to survey the KIG site and he suggested that Thurnham Parish Council would be pro-active in trying to push this forward.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding the time scale for the KIG appeal and he referred to the preliminary appeal hearing taking place on 12th June 2009.

A further discussion took place regarding the KIG and the archaeological possibilities associated with this.

Councillor Horne suggested that the Joint Parish Group could draw on this; however evidence was needed to support this further.

Lesley Figg spoke further regarding the possible findings and the preliminary surveys that had been undertaken.

Councillor Horne asked Lesley to keep the Parish Council informed of any developments, Members delegated authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to act on behalf of the Parish Council should any immediate action be necessary.

Councillor Morley thanked Lesley Figg for attending the meeting.

12. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding the KIG planning application.

He reported that the position taken by MBC was to refuse the planning application.

He spoke regarding the next stages and the work to be undertaken by the Joint Parish Group.

He informed members that the 12th of June was the date of the Inspectors Preliminary Hearing.

He reported that the Joint Parish Group was due to meet on Wednesday and it was anticipated that they would work on presenting the community element at the Inquiry.

The Parish Council discussed its budget and the expenditure for KIG and members voted to support the fight against the Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques reported that the Joint Parish Group was now a Rule 6 Party in the Inquiry and he spoke regarding the benefits of this.

Councillor Sandford spoke in support of the comments raised by Councillor Jacques and he praised the work of the Joint Parish Group.

It was formally proposed by Councillor Sandford that the Parish Council would continue to support the opposition to KIG as a member of the Joint Parish Group; this was seconded by Councillor Bloomfield and agreed by all present.

13. Heritage Award.

Councillor Horne spoke on this matter and the presentation to hand the award over to the Parish Council.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that a full report should be brought to the next Parish Council meeting for full discussion.

Action: Clerk to draft report for next meeting.

14. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

15. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

16. External Reports:

a. Ward Councillor's Report.

Councillor Horne gave his report to the meeting.

b. Liaison with outside parties.

No matters were reported.

17. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. 2008/09 Accounts.

The Clerk informed members that the accounts would be inspected by Councillor Smith and placed on the next agenda for formal consideration.

18. Parish Matters.

a. Play Area Improvements.

The Averanches Road Play Area was discussed by members. It was agreed that Councillors Smith and Jacques would liaise and look to progress this matter.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

Councillor Sandford informed members that he had the footpaths map and would get a copy of this for the Parish Council. Members discussed this and asked Councillor Sandford to get 12 copies of the map to enable each member to have a copy for their reference.

c. Website.

The Clerk reported that this matter was being progressed.

19. Committee Reports.

a. Planning.

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

b. Highways.

No matters were raised.

20. Future Items.

No matters were raised.

21. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – 15th June 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.30pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____