

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 19th April 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors
Mrs Bloomfield
Mr Horne
Mr Morley
Mr Sandford
Mr Skinner
Mr Waite

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Morley.

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

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Jacques, Pilkington and Smith.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

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

4. Matters Arising from Minutes.

No matters were raised.

5. 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 about an article that appeared in the Downs Mail with comments from Chris Garland regarding the KIG site.

He spoke regarding the G Forces planning application and asked the PC whether it considered the job situation when looking at planning applications.

Councillor Morley spoke in response to this question.

6. Police Report.

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Wood to the meeting.

She gave the apologies of PC Loader and gave a crime report to the meeting.

She informed members of the planned police surgeries for the parish and stated that she would forward posters to the Clerk as soon as possible.

PC Wood spoke regarding the Community Contact System that she had put in place in order to alert residents of incidents by email. It was agreed that the Clerk should forward the details of councillors for this system.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Councillor Sandford spoke regarding the recent speed checks along Caring Lane.

PCSO Wood informed members that during these checks two warnings were issued to vehicles travelling in excess of 30mph.

Councillor Sandford questioned whether the 30mph speed limit would be enforceable if the signs were obscured by vegetation. PCSO Wood stated that she would liaise with PC Loader regarding this matter and report back to a future meeting.

7. **Review of Parish Plan.**

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

8. **Village Design Statement.**

Members spoke regarding the Village Design Statement, they agreed that it was unlikely that this project would be initiated in the near future and agreed to earmark the grant given towards this for Community Plans.

9. **Kent International Gateway.**

Councillor Waite gave members a report on this item.

10. **Heritage Award.**

Councillor Horne spoke regarding this item and he suggested that the Parish Council considers a date for the presentation of the award.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the deadline for applications for the award would be 31st July with a presentation planned for September 2010.

The Clerk was asked to ascertain the availability of the Mayor for September.

Action: Clerk to progress.

11. **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

12. **Clerks Report.**

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

13. **External Reports:**

a. **Ward Councillor's Report.**

Councillor Horne gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the appointment of Alison Broom as Chief Executive of MBC.

He reported on the progress of the Core Strategy and the emerging directives regarding development in the area.

Councillor Sandford asked about the enforcement action being taken on the gypsy site along Caring Lane. He stated that the eighteen month deadline expired in the autumn and he asked questions regarding the progress of this.

Members discussed this further and the Clerk was asked to liaise with MBC regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to action.

b. **KCC Councillor Report.**

KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle gave her report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding the potholes in rural areas and stated that these roads were now being given priority.

She informed members of the new Chief Executive of KCC.

She reported that she had now submitted an application for new salt bins within her division and these should be in place by October.

A general discussion took place regarding the highways within Thurnham and it was reported that the Averanches Road sign was currently missing.

c. Liaison with outside parties.

Councillor Bloomfield informed members that she was due to attend a King George V Memorial Hall meeting on 16th April 2010.

14. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

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

Councillor Sandford asked members to consider becoming a member of CPRE. It was agreed to place this item on the next agenda for further consideration.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

15. Parish Matters.

a. Play Area Improvements.

Councillor Waite informed members that the land registry search for this area was being progressed by Land Registry and he would report back on this matter when the results were available.

A resident spoke regarding his wish to see the ransom strip opening and he stated his reasons for this.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the history of the road and his knowledge of this.

Councillor Skinner spoke regarding the dangers to children should the road be opened. Councillor Bloomfield supported this view.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

No matters were raised.

16. Committee Reports.

a. Planning.

MA/10/0386 Barty House nursing home, Roundwell, Bearsted – No Objections.
An application to remove condition 5 and 14 of planning permission MA/09/0490 relating to a glazed link and the BREEAM standards rating.

MA/10/0417 10 Fulbert Drive, Thurnham – No objections.
Planning application for a single storey front extension to garage.

Councillor Sandford reported that to date there had been no progress from MBC regarding the planning application for G Forces.

b. Highways.

Councillor Waite informed members that he had cleared the vegetation from the sign along Caring Lane, however there was still some to be cut back. Councillor Waite stated that he could undertake this with the permission of the Parish Council.

Members questioned whether this was the responsibility of the PC and whether it was able to take on such a responsibility. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into this matter and report back to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to action.

Councillor Skinner spoke regarding the location of the crossing of Ware Street and his surprise at it being located next to a junction.

17. Future Items.

No matters were raised.

18. Planning related matters – confidential item.

19. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – 17th May 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.10pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____