

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 20th April 2009 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors
Mrs Bloomfield
Mr Jacques
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 Horne and Pilkington.

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 arising.

5. Police Matters.

PCSO Baulf attended the meeting and gave a crime report to all present.

Councillor Sandford asked whether there had been an increase in crime in rural areas in the current economic climate. PC Baulf confirmed that there had not.

6. Village Design Statement.

Councillor Waite stated that he had contacted Jim Boot regarding the village design statement.

He reported further regarding the need for public consultation and suggested that the Parish Council may need to make a statement on planning.

7. Public Comments and Observations.

Mary Richards attended the meeting and spoke with regards to the Kent International Gateway, she asked the PC to confirm whether the Parish Councils view had changed.

Richard Jacques spoke regarding this matter and confirmed that the Parish Council was still opposed to the application.

A young resident attended the meeting to speak to the Parish Council regarding her concerns about the speed limits along the A20 Ashford Road.

She informed members that the current speed limit was 60mph and she would like to see this reduced to 30mph. She stated that she had to cross the road on a daily basis and this was very dangerous.

Councillor Morley responded to her concerns and agreed that action needed to be taken by the police regarding the speeding traffic along this route.

Councillor Waite agreed that the 30mph speed limit should be extended further along the A20 and he stated that in his view it should also be 40mph up to the motorway.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding the history of the A20 speed; he stated that the PC fought for the islands and footpath near to Caring Lane. He stated that the Parish Council was duty bound to take this matter on board.

Councillor Sandford spoke regarding the necessity to have the speed controlled along this route.

Following further discussion, members agreed that a letter should be written to Kent Highways, the police and KCC Councillors regarding this matter and to seek to have the speed limit on the A20 reduced.

Action: Clerk to action as agreed.

8. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques spoke regarding the KIG planning application. He stated that the Joint Parish Group was now working towards the MBC Planning Hearing to be held on 7th May 2009.

9. Heritage Award.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

10. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

He referred to a letter from Mr Vidler and the future storage of the parish plan questionnaires. Members discussed what to do with these and it was agreed that Councillor Jacques would ascertain whether the analysis document was sufficient as a record of the questionnaires.

The Chairman referred to an article in the recent edition of the Downs Mail regarding the future of churches and he spoke regarding St Mary's Church. He stated that Councillor Smith was the parish council liaison with the church and how this role could be progressed.

Members discussed the future of the church and alternative uses and ways in which its future could be progressed.

Councillor Smith stated that there were two elements to be considered, the first was the church facilities and the second was the reasons for people not using the church.

The access to the church was discussed and the lack of parking, this was discussed further and it was agreed that Councillor Smith would try to establish further details through his contacts with the church PCC.

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. Liaison with outside parties.
Councillor Bloomfield informed spoke regarding the King George V Memorial Hall.

13. Financial Matters:

- a. Financial Statement.
The financial statement was agreed by members. (Jacques/Waite).

14. Parish Matters.

- a. Play Area Improvements.
Nothing to report.
- b. Footpaths and Bridleways.
Councillor Sandford asked whether the PC had a definitive map of the footpaths. Councillor Smith confirmed that this was held by the PC footpaths representative Mr Perring.
- c. Website.
The Clerk reported that this matter was being progressed.

15. Committee Reports.

- a. Planning.
Councillor Sandford reported on the planning applications received by the Parish Council.
- b. Highways.
No matters were raised.

16. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

The Clerk referred to the draft Standing Orders and Financial Regulation circulated to all members at the previous meeting. These were discussed by all present and it was proposed by Councillor Waite and seconded by Councillor Jacques to adopt these to replace the existing documents. This was agreed by all present.

Members then discussed the start times of the Parish Council meetings. It was proposed by Councillor Bloomfield that these should start at the later time of 7.30pm from September 2009. The newly adopted Sanding Orders allowed for this change and therefore the proposal was seconded by Councillor Smith and agreed by all present.

Action: Meetings to start from 7.30pm from September 2009.

17. Future Items.

No matters were raised.

18. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – 18th May 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.15pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____