

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

Present: Councillors
Mrs Bloomfield
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, KCC Member Councillor Jenny Whittle, Representatives from G Forces, Members of the Public and Press.

Prior to the start of the meeting the representatives from G Forces addressed the Parish Council regarding their future plans for their business.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Horne and Jacques.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. 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.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes.

Hedge cutting along Caring Lane – Councillor Waite and Sandford reported on this matter and the action taken to cut back the hedges obstructing the speed limit signs.

Councillor Morley welcomed KCC Member Jenny Whittle to the meeting and he congratulated her on her success in the recent local elections.

Jenny Whittle spoke regarding her role and the work that she intended to undertake within the parish.

Members discussed highway matters and the condition of the roads in Thurnham.

Gypsy Consultation Document – Councillor Bloomfield circulated a report to all present and spoke regarding the consultation document circulated at the previous meeting.

Councillor Sandford spoke further regarding this matter and the situation within Maidstone.

5. Police Matters.

Councillor Morley spoke regarding the current policing situation. He informed members that PCSO Jennifer Baulf had now moved to a different area, and PC Lee Cumberland had been promoted to another patch.

He informed members that PC Ian Loader was now the new PC for the area and it was hoped that he would attend the September meeting.

6. Village Design Statement.

This matter was discussed by members and it was agreed that an informal meeting should be held by members to discuss a way forward regarding the Village Design Statement.

It was agreed that this informal meeting would take place immediately after the next PC meeting on 21st September.

Action: Clerk to arrange as agreed.

7. Public Comments and Observations.

Mr Perring spoke regarding a problem with footpath KH119.

He also reported on the correspondence received regarding the proposal to extinguish footpaths and bridleways on the KIG site.

It was agreed that the PC should respond to these proposals, and Councillor Waite stated that he would ensure that these proposals were brought to the attention of the Joint Parish Group.

Action: Councillor Smith to action.

8. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Waite reported on the progress of the Kent International Gateway and the work of the Joint Parish Group.

9. Heritage Award.

The Clerk circulated a report to all present regarding the forthcoming event to present the Heritage Award to the Parish Council.

The report was discussed and it was agreed that the event should be postponed until early next year. This was proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Skinner.

Action: Clerk to write to inform all invited parties that the event has been cancelled.

10. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

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.

No matters were raised.

13. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. Request for financial assistance from BTCV.

The Clerk informed members that requests for financial assistance had been received from BTCV for the Tree Warden.

It was proposed by Councillor Smith to give a grant of £100 to the BTCV; this was seconded by Councillor Skinner and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to raise cheque as agreed.

The Clerk informed members that St Mary's Church had also asked for financial assistance from the Parish Council. This was discussed by all present and it was proposed that this item was placed on the next agenda for formal discussion. It was agreed in principle that a grant of £2000 would be considered at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

14. Parish Matters.

a. Play Area Improvements.

No matters were raised.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

No further matters were raised.

c. Website.

The Clerk informed members that the website would be up and running by the beginning of August.

15. Committee Reports.

a. Planning.

MA/09/0830 Ex-MOD Transmission Station, Coldblow Lane, Thurnham
Erection of 3no, five bedroom detached dwellings with provision of internal roadways and revised access.
Comments were put forward by the Parish Council.

MA/09/0999 Rhinegold, Thurnham Lane, Thurnham.
Installation of a gable roof extension and 2no roof lights to rear, erection of a front entrance porch, shiplap board cladding to elevations, erection of a side conservatory, alterations to fenestration, installation of an enclosed link to garage and conversion of garage to living accommodation.
Objections were raised regarding parking issues.

MA/09/1096 24 Peveral Drive, Thurnham.
Loft conversion with insertion of front and rear dormers.

MA/09/1109 Cobham Manor Riding Centre, Water Lane.
The retention of two mobile homes for the accommodation of staff.

Councillor Sandford reported that the recent planning application for Edlin Road had been approved by MBC despite objections being raised by the Parish Council and KCC. Members discussed the national policies regarding parking.

It was also reported that two other properties along this road had similar conversions and the PC had not received any notification of the planning applications for these.

It was agreed that Councillor Bloomfield would draft a letter regarding this matter

Action: Councillor Bloomfield to progress.

b. Highways.

No matters were raised.

16. Consultation Documents.

No matters were raised.

17. **Future Items.**

No matters were raised.

18. **Date of next meeting.**

Date of next meeting – 21st September 2009.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____