

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 20th September 2010 at 7.35pm.

Present: Councillors
Mr Bloomfield
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, PCSO Woods and members of the public.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillor Horne and KCC Councillor Whittle.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

The minutes were discussed and agreed (Waite/Pilkington); 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.

Mr Saunders from Crismill Lane attended the meeting to thank all parties for their efforts in opposing the Kent International Gateway.
The Chairman thanked him for his views.

Mr Vidler attended the meeting to ask a question regarding an article published in the Downs Mail concerning the KIG site and future development. He stated that the article reported that Thurnham Parish Council would be holding talks with Hollingbourne and Leeds Parish Councils regarding this. He asked Councillor Waite for his views on the article and Thurnham's standing regarding development at this site.

Councillor Waite stated that Thurnham's view was to have no development; however the land needed to be protected. He stated that the parish council was aware that there was an agenda for development by MBC, and the they was concerned about the quality of development on the site.

He confirmed that the Parish Council wanted to keep the area free from development but at the same time have a fall back should development come.

Roger Vidler questioned this stance and the views of Hugh Robertson and Jenny Whittle, he spoke of his fears should development become an option. He stated that the conclusions included in the Inspectors Report strengthened the case for no development.

Councillor Waite accepted this view; however he stated that the Parish Council would be foolish not to consider that there would be no development.

Councillor Bloomfield spoke regarding a paper that she had drafted for the Parish Council and stated that the best option would be to have no development; however the Parish Council was looking towards the next best option.

Mary Richards asked members what discussions had taken place to date. Councillor Waite confirmed that none had taken place at present.

Roger Vidler spoke regarding the views reported in the Downs Mail from Councillor Garland suggesting that the site could have commercial development. He stated that the proposals from TPC should not be seen as aiding and abetting these suggestions which had already been put into the public arena.

Mr Denham addressed members regarding the grit bins within the parish and the need for an additional one in Averanches Road. The Chairman stated that this matter was being dealt with by KCC Councillor Whittle.

Mr Denham spoke regarding the road surface in Averanches Road and the decision by KCC not to resurface this as it was a cul-de-sac. He asked for more attention to be shown to Averanches Road as this was the most populated area within the parish.

6. Police Report.

PCSO Lindsay Woods gave a crime report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding the recent problems at Bearsted Gold Club and the regular meeting that were taking place in order to manage the youth problems in the area. She spoke regarding the problems at the Old School House along Thurnham Lane.

PCSO Lindsay Woods reported on the Community Day that had taken place on 16th August.

She reported on a problem along Crismill Lane regarding an area of land being used by off road bikes. A discussion took place regarding this matter and the future long-term use of the land.

She reported on the changes to the Neighbourhood Team.

7. Planning Ahead – Richard Eastman Project.

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

8. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Jacques reported on the decision by the Secretary of State to refuse the KIG application. He thanked all parties involved.

9. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the meetings he had attended during the course of the month.

10. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

Councillor Waite reported that the JPG met the previous week and the view was that the group would continue with its own constitution.

Members noted a letter from Bearsted Cricket Club regarding their training ground.

Roger Vidler spoke in support of this letter.

This was noted by members and the Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

11. External Reports:

a. Ward Councillor's Report.

Councillor Horne gave his apologies to the meeting.

b. KCC Councillor Report.

KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle gave her report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding the KIG site and informed members that she was seeking an extension of the Kent Downs AONB; she explained the process of undertaking this. She stated that she would not support industrial development at the site as put forward by Councillor Chris Garland.

She informed members that KCC had launched a review of SAT NAV Systems in order to try to stop HGV's from using rural roads and the work was in progress.

She spoke of her disappointment at the decision of MBC to approve the church applications along Crismill Lane.

Councillor Sandford thanked Councillor Whittle for her help with the Crismill Lane application. He raised concerns about the way in which this application was dealt with by the Planning Committee and stated that he felt that the Planning Officer recommendation had carried the decision.

This was discussed further and it was agreed that Councillor Sandford should draft a letter for the Clerk regarding the planning process.

Action: Councillor Sandford to progress.

Councillor Sandford spoke regarding the traffic along Caring Lane and an incident involving a lorry. It was agreed that the PC should write a letter fetching this to the attention of the authorities.

Action: Cllr Sandford to draft letter for Clerk.

Councillor Whittle explained the situation regarding the salt bins to all present.

c. Liaison with outside parties.

Councillor Bloomfield reported on the progress of the King George V Memorial Hall.

12. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. BTCV Request for annual donation.

Members considered a request from BTCV for a donation of £100 towards the Tree Warden Scheme. This was proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Jacques and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to place cheque on next month's financial statement.

c. Concurrent Functions Grant.

The proposal by MBC to withdraw the concurrent functions grant over the course of the next three years was discussed by members. IT was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Councillor Smith to look at this reduction to the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Councillor Smith.

13. Parish Matters.

a. Play Area Improvements.

Councillor Skinner explained the ownership of the ransom strip to members. A general discussion took place regarding this.

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

Councillor Waite spoke regarding the free trees scheme and the opportunity to have 75 trees to plant along footpath KH123. This was discussed and agreed by members. It was further agreed that Councillor Waite would arrange to have these planted by a contractor.

Action: Councillor Waite to progress.

14. Committee Reports.

a. Planning.

MA/10/0824 Cobham Manor Riding Centre – Objections.
Creation of new access and relocation of existing hay barn and stables, mobile office and three storage containers.

MA/10/1472 4 Yarrow Court, Weaving – objections.
Erection of first floor side extension.
Cllr Skinner declared an interest in this application.

MA/10/1500 The Coach House, Ashford Road, Bearsted – passed to Planning Committee.
Listed Building Consent for the conversion of the existing garage/workshop and coach room into additional living accommodation and other internal alterations.

b. Highways.

Councillor Sandford reported on the flash floods that had occurred in Caring Lane. He stated that the drainage was inadequate to cope with the surface water.

Members discussed the Gypsy site along Caring Lane and the action taken by MBC to date to ensure that the site was vacated within the agreed period.

15. Annual Report.

The draft annual report was circulated to all members for their consideration. This was approved by members and it was agreed that a coy should be placed on the website.

Action: Clerk to action.

16. Parish Council Elections.

The Clerk explained that the decision by MBC to charge Parish Councils for their election costs had now been rescinded.

17. Future Items.

No matters were raised.

- 18. **Date of next meeting.**
Date of next meeting – 18th October 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 10.05pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____