

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Councillors  
Mrs Bloomfield  
Mr Horne  
Mr Jacques  
Mr Morley  
Mr Sandford  
Mr Smith

The meeting was Chaired by Councillor Jacques.

Also in attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington – Clerk, Members of the Public and Press.

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Councillors Waite and Pilkington.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

Councillor Bloomfield – Planning application MA/08/0322.

Councillor Jacques – Parish Plan.

**3. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.**

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

**4. Matters Arising from Minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Parish Councillor Vacancies.**

The Clerk reported on the current situation regarding the councillor vacancies. She advised members that there was currently one vacancy on the Parish Council.

The second vacancy was filled at the previous meeting by Mrs Bloomfield. The Clerk asked Mrs Bloomfield to sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

This was signed and Councillor Bloomfield took her place around the table.

**6. Public Comments and Observations.**

A resident from Thurnham Lane attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the amount of surface water that was constantly running along Thurnham Lane. She stated that the Highways Authority should do something to rectify the situation as in her view the drainage was inadequate to take surface water.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Highways again to seek action regarding this ongoing problem.

***Action: Clerk to write to KCC***

A discussion also took place regarding the parking restrictions along Thurnham Lane. The Chairman confirmed that this matter was in the process of being progressed by the Borough Council.

A resident of Caring Lane attended the meeting to speak regarding a piece of land formally of 22 Caring Lane, which had been sold by the owner. The resident reported that this land had been fenced, an access made, and two caravans had now occupied the

land. He stated that this was now an illegal encampment and was in breach of planning regulations.

The residents in attendance at the meeting stated that they wished to see this stopped, they asked the Parish Councillor assistance in this matter.

The Chairman spoke regarding this issue, he stated that Planning Enforcement needed to be contacted along with the police.

**Action: Clerk to contact MBC Planning Enforcement and Police.**

This matter was discussed further and it was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with MBC to ascertain the current situation and any action being taken.

Councillor Morley referred to the problem with surface water along Thurnham Lane, he stated that the same problem existed along Water Lane, he stated that the water was causing a problem with potholes and as a result the speed limits along Cold Blow Lane had been restricted to 10 miles an hour.

A general discussion took place regarding potholes in rural areas.

**7. Kent International Gateway.**

Councillor Jacques reported on this matter.

He referred to an email regarding TPO's on the KIG site and the suggestion from Peter Waite that the PC should respond to the application. The Chairman stated that the item was due to be discussed at a forthcoming planning meeting and he asked the Clerk to liaise with Peter Waite regarding speaking at this meeting. Councillor Bloomfield stated that she would be attending this meeting and offered to speak regarding the TPO's; Councillor Jacques thanked her for the offer and stated that the Clerk would speak with Peter Waite regarding this.

**Action: Clerk to liaise with Councillor Waite.**

**8. Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting and reported on the recent correspondence.

He informed members that he and Councillor Horne had attended a meeting with Steve Wilcock of MBC regarding air pollution and the affects on Thurnham.

Councillor Jacques reported on the increase in parking charges at the White Horse Woods.

This was discussed by all present and members questioned how much was raised during the previous year and the cost of enforcing this area. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to KCC to question these issues.

It was also noted that the correspondence had been once again addressed to Detling Parish Council when the Country Park was in Thurnham.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the recent application granted by the Licensing Committee for the burger bar in the lay-by of the White Horse Woods, he question what effects this would have on the Country Park and what action KCC had taken regarding this matter. This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to include this in the letter regarding the White Horse Woods.

**Action: Clerk to write to KCC as requested.**

**9. Clerks Report.**

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

1. A letter from the police was noted by members. This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to respond to Inspector Sandwell.

***Action: Clerk to respond as requested.***

**10. External Reports:**

a. Police Report.

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

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the criminal damage that had occurred to notice boards and asked about compensation for such damage. PCSO Baulf stated that she would look into this matter and report back.

b. Ward Councillor's Report.

Councillor Horne gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the recent Joint Transportation Board Meeting that he had attended, at which the safe crossing at Ware Street had been discussed. He stated that a petition of 200 signatures had been presented to the JTB

He also spoke regarding the LDF Document Advisory Board and an item regarding 106 agreements.

Councillor Smith referred to the petition submitted by residents regarding the Ware Street crossing and the route that it should take where people would most use it; he raised concerns that the location put forward was not the one that was wanted.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding this matter and suggested that the Parish Council should liaise with KCC to clarify the location of the proposed crossing prior to the next JTB meeting. This was agreed by all present.

***Action: Clerk to write to KCC.***

c. County Councillors Report.

Apologies were received from Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart.

d. Liaison with outside parties.

No reports were given.

**11. Financial Matters:**

a. Financial Statement.

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

A discussion took place with regards to a suggestion from Downs Mail regarding an additional article in the publication to present the Parish Plan. This was discussed by all present and members gave their views on the cost implications of such an article.

It was agreed that an article would give a wider audience access to the document via the website, however it was agreed that the Parish Council had already contributed substantially to the production of the parish plan. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council could not justify the cost of an article in the Downs Mail; this decision was opposed by Councillor Morley.

**12. Parish Matters.**

a. Averanches Road Ransom Strip.

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Wimpey's, however as yet a response had not yet been received. It was agreed to write a further letter to Wimpey's.

**Action: Clerk to write to Wimpeys.**

b. Footpaths and Bridleways.

The Clerk was asked to request a footpaths map from KCC.

**Action: Clerk to action as requested.**

c. Website.

The Clerk circulated a report to all present regarding the website.

This was noted by members and the option to support the professional website development was favoured above the college project option.

The Clerk was asked to progress this matter as agreed.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

### 13. Committee Reports.

a. Planning.

MA/07/2476 Land at Squirrel Wood, Rear of Lily Spice Restaurant, Stockbury Valley – **OBJECTIONS.**  
Change of use of woodland for the siting of one mobile home for a gypsy family.

MA/08/0412 Shell Highland Service Station, Sittingbourne Road, Thurnham – **No Objections.**  
Redevelopment of existing service station to include the installation of new above ground offset fills, new forecourt pumps and associated pump islands, minor kerb line alterations and forecourt surfacing.

MA/08/0677 4 Creve Coeur Close, Thurnham - **OBJECTIONS.**  
Erection of a detached dwelling.

MA/08/0629 Vodaphone, Frinningham, Thurnham - **No Objections.**  
Installation of equipment cabin in existing telecom site compound.

b. Aerodrome Pit Stop Ltd, Aerodrome Estate, Detling - MA/08/0322

Councillor Horne spoke regarding this planning application, the protection of the surrounding historical interests and the exchange of emails regarding this matter. He stated that this was an area that the Parish Council should actively progress. Councillor Jacques referred to the forthcoming tour with Alison Broom and suggested that this was an area that could be considered.

c. Highways.

Nothing to report.

d. Parish Plan.

Councillor Morley gave a report on the progress of the Parish Plan. He informed members that the Parish Plan was now being delivered and the launch was due to take place on Saturday. He reported that the final meeting of the Parish Plan Committee was due to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Members of Thurnham Parish Council asked Councillor Morley to pass on the thanks of the Parish Council for their work on the document and the completion of the plan.

Councillor Bloomfield spoke in support of the superb parish plan document.

**14. M20/A249.**

Councillor Morley spoke regarding the parking on the A249 due to the catering outlets along this route. He stated that there were no facilities available.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the absence of such facilities for lorries and the operational difficulties of having such facilities.

This was discussed further and members agreed that the Clerk should write to MBC Environmental Health regarding this matter.

***Action: Clerk to action as directed.***

**15. Village Design Statement.**

Councillor Waite reported on this matter and the suggested date of the VDS meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008. This date was agreed by all present.

**16. Location for New Notice board.**

This item was deferred until a future meeting.

**17. Annual Report/Newsletter.**

This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to liaise with \councillor Waite regarding the Newsletter.

***Action: Clerk to progress.***

**18. Quality Parish Council Status.**

**The Clerk reported on this matter.**

**19. Heritage Award.**

Councillor Horne reported on the progress of this matter.

**20. Future Items.**

Parish Council Chairman's Laptop – Agenda Item.

**21. Date of next meeting.**

Date of next meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

***There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9:25pm***

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_