

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at
ST FAITH'S HALL'S, 36 NEW HOUSE LANE, THANINGTON WITHOUT
on
Tuesday, April 16th, 2002,

PRESENT: - Councillors Mrs P. Blackman, T. Maple, G. Page, and the Parish Clerk plus 9 Parishioners.

CHAIRMAN: - Councillor G. Page

1) WELCOME:

Cllr. Graham Page welcomed all to this meeting and expressed appreciation of the support. He introduced Bob Britnell from Canterbury City Council and the new Parish Clerk Mr Roger Cheeseworth.

2) APPOINTMENT OF CLERK:

It was agreed that Mr Roger Cheeseworth, Clerk to the Parish Council, should take the Minutes of the Meeting.

3) APOLOGIES:

Cllr I. Bain, Cllr K. Goddard and Mrs Sue. Knott

4) NOTICE CALLING THIS MEETING:

The Clerk read out the notice. He confirmed that it had been posted on various Parish notice boards and had been entered in the local press.

5) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

The Clerk read out the Minutes of the last meeting, It was proposed by Cllr Terry Maple and seconded by Cllr Pam Blackman and unanimously approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

6) MATTERS ARISING:

- a) The Chairman stated that there was still no new news on the disabled friendly footpath.
- b) The elevated footpath in Hollow Lane. The Clerk stated that he had received an email from CCC showing that it was now under Dover District Council.
- c) St Faith's hall was to be covered by the report from the Chairman of the Hilltop Community Association.
- d) Two crossing points were now in place on the A28
- e) The Chairman said the Parish Council still continues to deal with complaints concerning potholes, damaged pavements on a regular basis.

7) CHAIRMANS REPORT:

On a sad note, Cllr Jack Potts resigned from the council in October 2001 due to ill health, and died in December. He made a vital contribution to the council over a number of years and is much missed.

In December 2001, Mr Dennis Gould parish clerk retired after 12 years. The Parish council is deeply indebted to his sterling service over this period.

Our new clerk is Mr Roger Cheeseworth (New House Lane) who took over from 1st January 2002.

The parish council remains deeply concerned over planning applications relating to equine activities, particularly in the south ward, and has expressed its objections to a number of these proposals.

Road surfaces throughout the parish continue to be a major cause for concern, as does the north side of Ashford Road pavement, which has required major attention since work was completed in the summer of 2000.

The parish council continues on a daily basis to bring matters that require attention to the relevant authorities, and will pursue them until the matter is successfully concluded.

The hollow lane elevated footpath remains a continuing battle to ascertain ownership to try to get remedial work done, in particular with regards to the lack of adequate fencing.

8) FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Chairman referred to the Balance Sheet provided on the back of the agenda. He worked through all the items of the Receipts and Payments columns, giving explanations on each of the items. He invited question. There were none. He thanked the Clerk for preparing the accounts.

9) **HARRIS CHARITY FUND:**

The Chairman referred to the details of this fund and its history; he then went through the accounts. He explained how 2 pensioners known as pensioner A & pensioner B were given £3 per quarter apart from Xmas when it was £5 per quarter. He also said there had been no pensioners since 1997.

10) **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Bob started by saying 20 minutes was a long time on just planning procedures, so he had decided to start at the beginning. And talked about the following:

- a) Hierarchical Structure –
 - i) Government guidance & Legislation
 - ii) Regional Guidance
 - iii) Kent structure plan from KCC
 - iv) Canterbury District local plan
- b) Regional planning not yet quite with us but Govt green paper moving that way
- c) The importance of individuals having their say
- d) LP reviewed regularly
- e) He stressed again the importance of having your say
- f) Letters are welcome. Parish views are always welcome
- g) If Parish council hold a contrary view, it must go to committee
- h) If more that 3 residents object, it must go to committee
- i) If Ward Councillor hold a contrary view, it must go to committee
- j) Site visits
- k) Letters better that petitions
- l) He finished by explaining the make up of City Council planning dept
 - i) 11 DC Officers & 2 Cons Officers deal with 1990 applications
 - ii) 5000 letters of representation
 - iii) 6200 general letters
 - iv) 5000 telephone calls

So you can see we are very busy.

The Chairman thanked Bob and there was a round of applause.

11) **REPORTS:**a) **Ashford Road Community Association**

No Report

b) **Woman's Institute**

No report

c) **Hilltop Community Association**

Mr Colin Smith Chairman of HCA said Hilltop Community Association has been operating for over a year now and having just had our first Annual General Meeting it is time to reflect on a very successful year and to look at the prospects for the future. There was an excellent attendance at the AGM.

The Trustees have been working hard to obtain charity status and a year after our first application we are close to achieving that goal. The Charity Commission for England and Wales have now agreed that our organisation will be acceptable for registration as a charity subject to some minor changes to our constitution. Our constitution includes the retention of our community hall but to provide education, leisure-time and pastoral care in our community.

The hall exterior has been fully restored although we will have to address the roof problem at some time in the near future. We had paused on the interior because of the responses from the PCC but effective from the 6th April we are starting to refurbish the interior.

This initial period has been hard work but most rewarding and particularly so by the help and teamwork of the main Committee, Trustees and Residence of our Community who have given their support throughout. Without a team we will not secure the prize of our own community hall belonging to the Community for the Community and most importantly for all future generations.

He thanked the Parish Council for its grant of £1000 towards the children's play area and said that it showed that the Parish council did not forget the South ward.

d) St Nicholas Church and St Faith's

No report

The Chairman then asked if there were any other Parish organisations wishing to report, There were no others.

12) QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Sarah Guest asked if any thing was being done about speeding in New House Lane? The Chairman stated that the highways were aiming on making more of New House Lane a 30MPH zone. The Clerk explained that under instruction from the council he was in contact with Kent Constabulary on this matter and was at this time awaiting a reply.
- b) There being no other business the Chairman thanked Cllr Blackman and Mrs Macmillan for their help with the light refreshments which would be served after the meeting.

13) **CLOSURE:** The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:10