

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at
ARCA Hall, ASHFORD ROAD, THANINGTON WITHOUT
on
Tuesday, April 15th, 2003,

PRESENT: - Councillors G. Page, K. Stokes and the Parish Clerk plus 5 Parishioners.

CHAIRMAN: - Councillor G. Page

1) WELCOME:

Cllr. Graham Page welcomed all to this meeting and expressed appreciation of the support. He introduced P.C. Ken Bradshaw

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, Cllr T. Maple, Cllr P. Blackman & Cllr G. Furness

4) NOTICE CALLING THIS MEETING:

The Clerk confirmed that a notice had been posted on various Parish notice boards and had been entered in the local press.

5) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

The Clerk issued all parishioners with a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting, They were unanimously approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

6) MATTERS ARISING:

- a) The Telephone kiosk had been removed from the bottom of Strangers Lane. The PC had objected.
- b) The PC had also complained about the closure of the Post Office.
- c) North side of Ashford Road had been repaired at last.
- d) The elevated footpath in Hollow Lane. This had now had its dangerous hedges repaired.
- e) The Chairman said the Parish Council still continues to deal with complaints concerning potholes, damaged pavements on a regular basis.

7) GUEST SPEAKER

PC Ken Bradshaw started by giving example of how Thanington Without fitted into the local crime figures. He pointed out that these were made up of reported crimes only. Elderly people tend not to report crimes.

Kent is the top rated police service in the country, and has the lowest crime rate in England, and Canterbury has the lowest reported crime in Kent. This has been held for the last 5 months.

Local figures for the past 11 months are 9936 reported crimes, this is against around 20,000 in 1994. The target is to get under the 10,000 per 12 months.

Most crime figures were down with only violent crime up because of Home Office changes which now include a threat of violence as well.

He showed a new sticker which were being given to the elderly, stating "we do not buy at the door".

PC Bradshaw then took a question and answer session from the floor.

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

8) CHAIRMANS REPORT:

The Chairman thanked the work of Tony Pringle who was retiring, and welcomed the two new Cllrs, who would be joining the PC in May. Mr Tom Von Etdorf (Ashford Road) and Mr Terry Davis (Iffin Lane).

Following pressure from the parish council over many years, work has now been completed on hedging the Elevated footpath - cb491 (hollow lane).

Work is now complete to make safe the Tonford Lane railway crossing, which had fallen into disrepair.

The parish council has sought to improve drainage in Tonford Lane and Grays Way in association with Kent highways.

The council has been pressing for some time for improvements to be made to the bus shelter in Stranger's Lane, and it has been agreed that this will be replaced.

After two years of complaints the north side footway on Ashford Road has finally been completed, the original work was not to a satisfactory standard.

The parish council has vigorously opposed those planning applications that it considers to be detrimental to the residents of the area, and warmly supports those that enhance it we are always grateful for the views of residents in determining applications.

Potholes in the parish continue to be a major concern, and these are always promptly reported when made aware of. The parish council has consistently pressured for some form of crossing, albeit pelican or zebra design along Ashford Road for nearly twenty years. We have recently been advised that Kent Highways have put in a bid for funding for a scheme of traffic islands centre hatching and a zebra crossing on Ashford Road with the possibility of extending the 30 mph speed limit.

9) **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.

10) **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.

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 HCAC founded two years ago to save the village/church hall from being sold

Last year I stated we were close to gaining charity status this year we are even closer.

Following the second AGM we have two new Trustees both young mums and we are looking forward to working with them. Two previous Trustees standing down this year.

The aim is to develop the facilities for the next generation and to take young pre-school children through to their teenage years encouraging them to be in the hall rather than outside.

We now have a Library open and although modest it is a service being used. The Library was formed following the KCC turning down our request for the Mobile service to be extended to the hall.

Last summer we opened the hall FOC for all residents and was successful with young Mums and Dads with their children, playing table tennis etc. as well as the more senior of us. The hall will shortly be open again throughout the summer.

- 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) Miss Beecher - Asked about the hedges on the boundary of flint cottages.
Chairman stated that this was ongoing, clerk to write to CCC and flint cottage.

13) **CLOSURE:** The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:05