

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at
St Faiths Hall, New House Lane, THANINGTON WITHOUT
on
Tuesday, April 13th, 2004

PRESENT: - Councillors Mrs Pam Blackman, G. Page, T. Maple, T. Davis, T. Von Etdorf and the Parish Clerk plus 7 Parishioners.

CHAIRMAN: - Councillor G. Page

1) WELCOME:

Cllr. Graham Page welcomed all to this meeting and expressed appreciation of the support. He introduced Colin Carmichael of Canterbury City Council.

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:

None

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 under Parish affairs.

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) GUEST SPEAKER

Colin Carmichael – Chief Executive of Canterbury City Council

Spoke about workings of District and Parish Councils. As returning officer he had visited St Faiths Hall on many polling days.

- a) Traffic congestion and road repairs, whilst the responsibility of Kent Highways they worked very closely with CCC. Communication was very important.
- b) Planning Control was an important part of PC's and District councils working together.
- c) O.D.P.M. now set house levels, he felt new train service starting in 2007 would have some effects on housing in the area.
- d) Capital Grants, Parish Forum and Communication were ways that CCC stayed in touch with Parishes. He also said he was happy to get e-mails
- e) White Friars starts opening July 2004 fully open July 2005
- f) A2 slip road now a priority, would reduce ring road traffic by 15%
- g) Wincheap by-pass ongoing
- h) Improve the Marlowe to take 200 to 300 more people cost 9 Million

Questions

Sarah Guest – State of roads at Wincheap end of Hollow Lane

Answer – Developers are bad at putting things right, but CCC would keep checking.

Colin Smith – How vulnerable are green fields sites

Answer – Not very as Canterbury has lots of Brown field sites

David Swain – Iffin Lane and Merton Lane lots of pot holes and very dangerous drops with no bollards.

Answer – CC would check with Highways

Roger Cheeseworth – Dennis Button is looking at car in river. And Children's bus was wanted but could not get up to New House Lane because of over grown hedges.

TVE – Entrance from Ashford is very dirty and gives a bad impression, over grown hedges onto pavement. Also crash barriers were missing in lots of places.

Answer - CC would check with Highways

Chairman – Who's responsibility is parking on Pavements

Answer – Traffic Wardens and Police

Chairman – Bikes without Crash helmets along Cockering Road

Answer – Police again, The New head Mike Fuller is very keen on Intelligence lead policing. Also Sup Joanna Young.

7) **MATTERS ARISING:**

- a) Car in River Stour.
- b) The Kent Task Force has been used by PC to do work not carried out by CCC
- c) Ashford Road joints still not up to standard, PC watching repairs
- d) The elevated footpath in Hollow Lane and New House Lane is being cleaned up at moment.
- e) The PC now had a plan of action in which it laid out what it felt it could do in the future.
- f) The Chairman said the Parish Council still continues to deal with complaints concerning potholes, damaged pavements on a regular basis.

8) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The Parish Council lost the services of two long-standing- councillors during the year Tony Pringle who had represented the South Ward, decided not to seek re-election Terry Davis has succeeded him. Ken Goddard (NorthWard) decided to resign during the year for health reasons. We have a candidate for this vacancy, and we co-opted at the April meeting. Dr Chi Chi Uwadi. Following the resignation of the late Jack Potts, a vacancy had remained unfilled in the North Ward for a considerable period of time. Tom Von Etdorf has filled this.

The Council has replaced the notice board in the South Ward, which had been in a poor state of repair for some time.

The Parish Council now has its own web site, which has been created by our Clerk Roger Cheeseworth. This can be viewed at www.thanington-pc.gov.uk. Please do take the time, if you have the facility, to have a look. I am sure you will find it most informative. (Sponsored by Brett)

I am pleased to advise that the Clerk was runner-up in the 2003 NALC/AON Clerk of the year awards. This was particularly impressive in view of the very high standard of nominations this year.

Hassall Reach drainage, problems have been an on-going saga for many years. Following a site meeting, we have been advised that it is hoped that this will be resolved during 2004.

Resurfacing of parts of Thanington and Ashford Roads overnight was not particularly successful, and the Parish Council are continuing to press for the work to be corrected to a proper standard.

After almost 20 years, the Parish Council is pleased that traffic measures are commencing along the Ashford Road. New 30-mph signs have recently been erected near the Hanging Banks lay-by, and it is proposed that there will be two traffic islands on the Ashford Road. Our request for an interactive speed sign to be installed has been met with approval, and this should be put in place during 2004.

The tree at the top of Grays Way was removed some years ago, and after much campaigning a replacement tree has been planted in February 2004.

An abandoned burnt-out car in the River Stour (nearly opposite the Hanging Banks lay-by has caused much frustration to the Council for a considerable period of time. The matter is currently with the Environment -Agency.

The removal of the badly damaged bus shelter in Strangers Lane means that the Parish Council is looking to arrange a replacement. Firstly, we are seeking some form of sponsorship to set against the cost of providing one. (City Council to replace)

Pavement at the top of Grays Way - Canterbury side - is in need of repair, we have been assured that this is scheduled for repair in due course.

The Parish council is deeply concerned that the pavements at the top of Grays Way and St Nicholas Church do not have dropped kerbs to allow wheelchairs and Prams to pass with ease. This matter has been referred to Kent Highways.

The Parish Council is to arrange a sign to indicate the route of the elevated footpath leading from New House Lane to Hollow Lane.

There is a considerable amount of litter in the Parish, in particular along the main Ashford and Thanington Roads, recent site meeting with Canterbury City Council has revealed the extent of the problem. It is hoped to arrange clearance of a large amount of litter that has built up along the riverbank on the outskirts of Ashford Road. Kent Highways have been consulted concerning; the deplorable state of the protective fencing on the north side of Ashford Road. This has been the site of

A number of serious accidents, and on each time the fencing has not been replaced, leaving gaping holes. We will continue to pursue this matter to a successful conclusion.

The post box outside the former post office in Ashford Road was removed at short notice, but fortunately a replacement was sited at the top of Grays Way.

During the year, Thanington lost its Post Office, despite much local opposition. The red phone box at the bottom of Strangers Lane was removed by BT, and will not be replaced. This has deprived residents of yet another important facility.

The issue of raw sewage caused much distress to residents in the South Ward and the Parish Council have made strong representations to the relevant authorities, as it is considered totally unacceptable.

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. Proposed by David Swain, seconded by Ian Bain. 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
Report by David Swain
- b) Woman's Institute
Report read by Chairman
- c) Hilltop Community Association
Report by Mr Colin Smith Chairman of HCA
- d) St Nicholas Church and St Faith's
Report read by Chairman

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**

13) **CLOSURE:** The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.45