

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at 135 Ashford Road, Thanington Without, on Monday, 9th April 1984 at 7 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Mr. C. H. Day, Mr. G. Page, Mrs. M. Kite, Mrs. V. Sanders, Mrs. J. Woods, Miss S. Knott.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mr. C. H. Church.

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Mr. C. H. Day.

FREE NEWSPAPERS: The Clerk reported that Mr. T. Williams, of Property Mail had been to see her and had admitted that on a number of occasions bundles had been dumped. The distributor had been traced and sacked. It was hoped that the distribution would be better in future.

CANTERBURY EXTRA: The Clerk read letter from the Kent Messenger, owners of this paper and also from their distributing service. The distributing service wished to be provided with detailed information such as addresses and dates where papers have been dumped and/or left sticking out of letter boxes, and also the names of the very young children delivering them.

In his letter the Managing Director said it was not the policy to employ anyone below the age of 16 years except where special permission had been obtained, and this was very rare. Concern was expressed at the incident in the Club House, and a query whether the Parish Council objected to the boys entering the premises, nor could he tell whether the boys crating a nuisance along the Ashford Road were the same as those delivering the newspaper or others. He assumed that we had reported the matter to the police and asked for details of the station to which the report had been made. The Clerk then read draft letter in reply for Councillors to consider. Unfortunately details could not be supplied.

ADSEEN E: The Chairman reported that the Distribution Manager had been to see The Clerk and himself and had explained the method in which distribution was carried out, which was very helpful. When distribution was at fault they did all they could to rectify errors, and if necessary the distributor was sacked.

The Clerk reported that she had later received a very irate telephone call from the Managing Director saying that an intensive spot check had been made, and as no complaints had been received he considered that a false accusation had been made. This telephone call was followed by a letter which was read to the Parish Councillors. The Clerk then read a draft letter in reply.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mr. C. H. Day, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Kite and carried, that these letters be written to the two newspapers concerned.

It was stressed that should Parish Councillors receive complaints such as this in future, those making the complaint must be asked to put it in writing for presentation to the Parish Council, or else make their complaint direct to those concerned.

It was noted that since the letters from the Parish Council to the newspapers, the young children had not been delivering, and in some cases no deliveries had been made.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

*16.4.84*