

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held at the Ashford Road Social Clubhouse, Ashford Road, on Monday, 12th September 1988 at 8 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mr. C. H. Church, Mr. G. Page, Mr. R. Eden, Mrs. V. Sanders, Mrs. P. B. Laddman, Mrs. L. New, Miss S. Knott, Miss Amanda Woolley, Kent Rural Community Council, and two other Local Government electors.

APOLOGIES: Councillors. Mr. J. Bertram who is seriously ill in hospital and Mr. C. H. Day who is away on holiday.

The Chairman, Councillor Mr. C. H. Church reported that Councillor Mr. J. Bertram has now returned to the Kent & Canterbury Hospital. He has visited him and while he is unable to speak he is able to hear and understand when spoken to. Flowers had been sent to Mrs. Bertram which were much appreciated. As Councillor Mr. J. Bertram had commenced work on the Parish Appraisal with great enthusiasm Councillor Mr. C. H. Church sought the approval of the Council that the Parish Appraisal should be dedicated to Councillor Mr. J. Bertram. This was gladly given.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING where confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING:

CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING: A letter received from Councillor Mr. K. Ranger, Kent County Council, in which he stated that it is difficult to make any comments on the two points raised without more detailed information. He had consulted the County Surveyor who will ask Canterbury City Council, as Agent for the Kent County Council, to fully investigate both points as a matter of urgency and reply to the Parish Council direct.

Follow this, a letter received from Canterbury City Council Technical Director who states that the site has been investigated and all bollards and beacons are illuminated and functioning well. A series of road markings are provided to guide motorists to either side of the islands and these have been implemented with reflective studs to aid drivers in poor visibility conditions. He is satisfied that the location is as safe as it could be and until he receives details of any personal injury accidents via the Police and County Surveyor he cannot consider any action.

Continuing, he says that he too has received complaints from local residents about the difficulty of reversing into driveways. The provision of the refuges are intended to assist the people of Thanington in crossing the A28, and unfortunately the benefits to many have resulted in disbenefit to a few. There is really no solution he can offer these people who have been adversely affected, other than to say that the current highway authority standards for providing new driveways onto main traffic routes require that turning facilities within the property must be provided to enable motorists to drive forwards both when entering and leaving their driveways. He will recommend that those local residents who are experiencing this difficulty, consider providing this facility to enable them to enter and leave their properties in greater safety. These letters to be acknowledged.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD: The Clerk reported that the notice board has now been sited adjacent to the telephone kiosk near the junction of St. Nicholas Road/Thanington Road.

Regarding the footpath sign, Councillor Mr. R. Eden reported that he has seen footpath signs which had just the outline of a walker on them and he would make further enquiries on behalf of the Parish Council.

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MATTERS ARISING cont:

BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER STOUR AT TONFORD: Councillor Mrs. P. Blackman reported that there had been no further movement to complete the bridge. Children had been throwing stones from the bridge after scrambling up on to it and had broken glass in Nr. & Mrs. Abbott's greenhouse. This to be reported to K.C.C. The Clerk had also received a report that someone had been seen pushing a pram with a child in it through the river to reach the opposite bank.

ASHENDEN CLOSE/STRANGERS LANE: Reply received from Canterbury City Council that many complaints are received about parked cars obstructing garage accesses in residential areas, on inspection these problems are found to be caused by residents themselves. This area is unlikely to be patrolled constantly by traffic wardens, and past experience has shown that waiting restrictions are unlikely to be observed by residents.

With reference to our request for waiting restrictions at the junction of Ashenden Close/Strangers Lane, this had been added to the list of investigations which will be carried out later this year and reported to the Public Works Committee in December.

STREET LIGHTING - TRANSFER TO PARISH COUNCIL: The Clerk had not been able to receive any assurance that this would be completed in the near future. The Chairman asked that a letter be written to the City Chief Executive and also Seeboard, stating that the time is getting near when the Parish Council will be making its Precept for 1989/90, and it would be placing an unnecessary burden on parishioners who would then be paying twice for rates for street lighting. The Parish Council consider that the City Council is guilty of maladministration and are thinking of calling on the Ombudsman in order to get this matter settled.

TONFORD LANE: Councillor Mrs. P. Blackman reported that the dumped grit etc. had been removed. It was noted that more remedial work had taken place in Tonford Lane today.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 1989: Councillor Mr. K. Ranger had replied that he would be pleased to accept our invitation but queried the date - He assumed that the date was 1988. The Clerk had written to say that 1989 was correct.

ELEVATED FOOTPATH, HOLLOW LANE: Councillor Miss S. Knott reported that this had been tidied. Councillor Mr. C. H. Church also reported that he had received a letter relating to the accident to his daughter's car in which it stated that a further search was being made at the Land Registry Office to ascertain the ownership of the western side of Hollow Lane.

POTHoles: 56 New House Lane: No repairs made, but as this is private ground the matter to be left in abeyance.

FLOODING, COCKERING ROAD: Councillor Mr. R. Eden reported that there is now a cover on the silt trap.

BUS STOP, STRANGERS LANE: The bank in Strangers Lane had been cleared and has been put on the schedule for 16 cuts per year by the Works Service Dept., which should keep the nettles in check during the growing season. Councillor Mrs. P. Blackman drew attention to the piece of angle iron on this bank which could be a danger to pedestrians. A letter of thanks to be sent to Canterbury City Council, and also asking if this angle iron could be removed.

STREET LIGHTING, COCKERING ROAD: Councillor Mr. R. Eden reported that this had been dealt with.

LITTER, THANINGTON ROAD: A request had been made for this to be cleared by the Public Health Dept., but as yet there is still a lot in the area of the Community Centre.

David H. Church
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PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS: Commercial Union - increase in premium £12.97
It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. L. New, seconded by Councillor Mr. G. Page and carried, that this be paid.

FINANCE, TRIENNIEL AUDIT: The Clerk reported that this had been satisfactory. The Auditor had queried the change from National Westminster Bank who deal with the majority of Council accounts, to Midland Bank. He also suggested that if there is a large sum of money on deposit this should be put into a National Savings Investment account where the interest is much higher. The Chairman said that difficulties could arise if money was needed quickly as National Savings needed a month notice for withdrawals.

The Auditor also said that the City Council appeared to be dragging its feet regarding the transfer of lighting to the Parish Council. Chairman's allowance - few Councils made any allowance to their Chairman and this Parish Council to be congratulated on this point.

The Audit would continue to be a triennial one and would not revert to annually.

The Clerk was thanked for dealing with this on behalf of the Parish Council.

Lottery Fund: Letter received from Canterbury City Council that a contribution of £2,000 is to be made from the proceeds of local Lotteries to the Rural Area Lottery Fund for the provision of safety surfaces on playgrounds in the various villages throughout the rural area.

Parish History: The Chairman, Councillor Mr. C. H. Church, reported that the Parish History compiled by Councillor Mr. C. H. Day was to be typed on a word processor which could then be updated as necessary. He asked that an appropriate sum of money could be earmarked for this and also for the production of the Parish Appraisal. It was proposed by Councillor Mr. C. H. Church, seconded by Councillor Miss S. Knott and carried, that this should be done.

CORRESPONDENCE:

K.A.P.C. Parish News Nos. 155 and 156. Items noted.
Car Insurance. Noted.

Councillors Meeting - 15th October 1988. Noted.

Annual Meeting, 22nd October 1988. Up to four representatives invited but only two authorised to vote. The Clerk to attend. Due to the illness of Councillor Mr. J. Bertram, Councillor Mr. G. Page to attend in his place.

K.R.C.C. Sport in villages conference. Noted.

K.C.C. New proposals to improve the environment in main road villages. Noted.
1988/89 Budget. Noted.
Land and property brochure. Noted.

Kent Police Authority: Meeting of the Police Advisory Committee on 22nd Sept. at 7.30 pm. at British Legion Hall, Chartham. Councillor Miss S. Knott to attend.

Kent Trust for Nature conservation. Kent Structure Plan. Noted.

New Homes Review; Noted.

Kent Rural Community Council. Mail deliveries still not reliable. Noted.

Mr. D. V. Richardson, Thanington Post Office. Since taking over the business he has been reorganising and planning for the future. Planning permission has been granted to enlarge the premises and refit the shop. He also wishes to keep the warm friendly atmosphere. It has been noticeable that Thanington appears to have become a backwater of Canterbury, with the bypass forming a barrier. He wishes to improve the area by providing a waste bin and seat for the elderly and so improve facilities and also to have a notice stating facilities provided by the post office/shop. The Post Office will not agree to a sign on the post box. The possibility of obtaining a pelican crossing also queried.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would give some financial help towards the provision of a waste bin and seat and would also support an application for a sign board, but it is regretted that nothing can be done about a pelican crossing at present.

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CORRESPONDENCE: cont:

Canterbury City Council: Village nameplates. In order to improve the new scheme by the Traffic Management Dept., in the Canterbury area, two new nameplates will be provided in Thanington. One at the Milton Bridge end of the Ashford Road and the other at the bypass bridge in Thanington Rd. The signs removed will be available for the Parish Council to erect elsewhere. They will be stored or possibly delivered to a site when a decision is made by the Parish Council. The wrongly spelt 'Thanington Road' sign has been replaced with one with correct spelling.

Channel Tunnel Train services: Circulated to Parish Councillors.

REPORTS: K.A.P.C. Area Committee: Councillor Mr. J. Nock expressed thanks for our encouraging letter following the decision to proceed with the Rural plan.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: to be confirmed:-

CA/88/1259/THA - 116 Ashford Road. rear extension

CA/88/1152/THA - 37 Bramley Avenue; rear two storey flat roof extension

CA/88/1319/THA - 10 New House Close; extension loft conversion.

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

and carried that no objections be made to these applications.

CA/88/1191/THA - 27 New House Close: erection of one bedroom bungalow. the Parish Council unable to come to a clear conclusion and while it does not wish to oppose the proposal outright, it feels that the space is less than the plan indicated. Hence, a new building rather than an extension to an existing building could cause visual overcrowding. Neighbours must be considered and also the access should be moved from the blind corner.

CA/88/1440/THA - 12 Cockering Road: demolishing of existing bungalow and erection of four 2 bedroom flats in the form of a semi-detached dwelling. Parking conforming to current K.C.C. standards.

Councillor Mr. R. Eden declared an interest and abstained from the discussion. It was agreed that this application should be opposed as it would cause overcrowding and be overbearing on the adjoining dwellings. The map enclosed with the application is about 25 years out of date and does not show the dwellings Nos. 10, 11, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d.

Previous plans granted: 78/80 Ashford Rd. extension and joining of shop to bungalow.

18 Bramley Ave. two storey rear extn.

207 Ashford Rd. two storey side extn.

Previous plan refused: 29 New House Close. 1 bedroom bungalow

CA/88/1011/THA - 171c Ashford Rd. 2 storey extn at rear. Second application. No objections. It was agreed not to oppose this application as neighbours were not opposed to it.

PARISH APPRAISAL:

Miss Amanda Woolley, Kent Rural Community Council, explained the various ways in which a Parish or Village Appraisal could be prepared, suggesting that all parish groups should be involved. A number of Appraisals which had been obtained were passed round for Councillors to see the various ways in which they have been prepared. The Chairman, Councillor Mr. C. H. Church, had prepared a leaflet to help possible preparation.

Date of next meeting: Monday, 26th September 1988 at 7.30 pm.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Councillor Mrs. V. Sanders commented on the state of the telephone kiosk at the junction of Strangers Lane/Thanington Road and asked that something be done to clean the site. Councillor Mr. G. Page kindly agreed to get in touch with B. Telecom as this kiosk is one of the old type due for conversion.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 10th October 1988 at 8 pm.

There being no other business, the meeting was then closed at 10 pm.

Steve H Church
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