

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH (COUNCIL) which was held at the Ashford Road Social Clubhouse, Ashford Road, Thanington Without, on Monday, 15th May 1989 at 7.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Mr. C. H. Church.

PRESENT: Councillors Mr. C. H. Church, Mr. R. Eden, Mrs. F. Hughes, Miss S. Knott, Mrs. L. New, Wincheap Ward Councillors Miss L. Keen and Mr. F. Whitmore, Kent County Councillor Mr. Ken Ranger and 52 other Local Government Electors.

WELCOME: Councillor Mr. C. H. Church welcomed all to this meeting and wished to record the appreciation of the Parish Council to Mr. L. Shirley who had not been returned as a K.C.C. Councillor.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs. P. Blackman, Mr. C. H. Day, Mr. G. Furness, Mr. G. Page, also the newly elected K.C.C. Councillor Mr. Martin Vye.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK: It was agreed that Miss E. Eyles, Clerk to the Parish Council should take the Minutes.

NOTICE CALLING THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY was then read.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING 1988 were read, confirmed and signed.

The Chairman than thanked the Clerk, Miss Eyles, for her work throughout the year and also the Parish Councillors for their support. A sad note was the deaths of Councillor Mr. J. Bertram after a short illness and Councillor Mrs. V. Sanders whose death had occurred suddenly. The Parish Council was grateful to them for their interest and help in the past and condolences sent to their families.

Councillors Mr. G. Furness and Mrs. F. Hughes had been co-opted to fill the vacancies.

MATTERS ARISING:

1987 HURRICANE: Councillors had been invited by Chartham Parish Council to attend a tree planting ceremony in Larkey Valley Woods to mark the new boundary between Chartham Parish and Thanington Without Parish. It was hoped the Parish would make its own contribution in due course.

BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER STOUR: Dr. Nash, Thanington Road, asked whether anything could be done to make the treads distinct, as they are a danger. The Clerk reported that this is in hand and once K.C.C. have made a decision on what material to use, the work will be put in hand.

HOLLOW LANE: No conclusion had been reached by Canterbury City Council on the ownership of the western side of Hollow Lane.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The Chairman, Councillor Mr. C. H. Church, presented the financial statement explaining that Parish Councils had been advised to carry forward a good balance as it is uncertain at what level the financial position will be next year, as this is the last year of rates as such. ^{We have} High Interest Investment A/C with Midland Bank plc and also a High Interest Investment A/C with the National Savings for the Clerk's gratuity, when the time comes for retirement.

Dr. Nash asked that in future a break-down of expenditure is included on the agenda for this meeting. This was agreed. The Parish Council had also decided to rent a photocopier for the use of the Clerk which had proved most helpful. No decision had been made on whether the Parish Council should become responsible for street lighting in the new area and it is necessary to have sufficient money available should the street lighting be transferred to the Parish Council. The Financial Statement was passed unanimously.

C. H. Church
30.5.89

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HARRIS PENSION CHARITY FUND: The Balance Sheet was presented and approved unanimously. A vote of thanks recorded to the Vicar, Revd. Len Cox and Mr. A. R. Palmer, Trustees, for continuing to administer this fund.

PARISH APPRAISAL: The Chairman, Mr. C. H. Church, expressed his appreciation to all those who participated in the production of this, they were from children to senior citizens. The Appraisal is now available at £1 per copy. The Civil Parish is changing rapidly and the Appraisal will be useful for the future. The typing had been carried out by a former Clerk of Lower Hardres.

ST. AUGUSTINES HOSPITAL SITE: A large number of residents had attended a recent meeting of the Parish Council when this was discussed. The traffic problem appeared to be the main concern and the Parish Council was not happy as it thought that the Canterbury City Council had not thought it through before releasing the plans to the public. We were now awaiting the formal report.

Councillor Mr. F. Whitemore reported that the Planning Committee had met on the 2nd May and there would be a detailed report and review of the options. The letter which the Planning Committee had received from this Parish Council had proved very helpful. Canterbury City Council had voted for a development in excess of 500 to 600 houses, but Chartham Parish Council did not want that number. Bretts have now offered land from Cockerling Road down to the A28, the Canterbury side of Milton Bridge, but there is still the problem of increasing traffic flow. The question arose on why are Bretts keen to now make this land available, was it to improve their access? or were they planning to move their main office to that area? Canterbury City Council will be looking very carefully at this. No final decision has been made but will probably be made in the next six months. The possibility of the road coming down from Cockerling Road through the Ashford Road Social Club ground to the A28 was mentioned at this point.

Mr. Macdonald, Manor Close, passed the comment, would the easier place for the road be at Milton Bridge as more quarrying at Chartham would mean more lorries leaving there to go to Sturry. It might also open the area for tourism, the Church at Milton might be opened up for tourists to see.

Mrs. Carmody said there were three alternatives - Cockerling Road and St. Nicholas Road would not take the traffic; Milton area would be difficult to develop and the Ashford Road Social Club area which appeared to be the only access from Cockerling Road.

Councillor Mr. F. Whitemore reported that there is a strong possibility of there being a satellite shopping area in Wincheap. A 'park and ride' scheme is earmarked for part of the Bretts site. Concerned expressed that there is no 'park and ride' from the north and it would mean that people from Herne Bay and Whitstable would of necessity have to travel up Wincheap and then return that way to get home.

Mrs. Edens, Bramley Avenue queried whether the Parish Council could couple the development at the St. Augustines site with the possible closure of the Stour Valley School at Chartham and sway the decision on closure of the school.

The Chairman expressed warm thanks to Councillor Mr. F. Whitemore for the information and help given regarding this subject.

Clive H Church

30.11.80

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Dr. Nash, Thanington Road asked whether the owner of the post office or the owner of the property could be asked to keep the parking area in order.

Mr. R. Anderson, Ashford Road, asked could something be done regarding the re-surfacing of the lay-by at 143/153 Ashford Road.

Mr. J. Romer, Grays Way, reported that where the road had been repaired following the new buildings in Grays Way and Tonford Lane was loose and crumbling.

Mrs. Nash, Thanington Road, expressed concern about the wheelie bins being likely to be in general use.

Councillor Mr. F. Whitemore said that he is against them. As part of the experiment it had been found that a lot of people like them. There are three sizes. Advantages are:- collection much safer for the refuse collectors; while expensive there would be a long term saving. Canterbury City Council as a whole are determined to put them into general use. He considered that there should be free choice and if any one feels that way would they please write to the Chairman of the Public Works Committee and perhaps the Parish Council would also do this.

Mr. M. Edens, Bramley Avenue, spoke on the public lighting maintenance and lighting charges, complaining that Bramley Avenue is badly lit, and asked that additional lighting be placed in Bramley Avenue. It was then proposed by Mr. M. Edens, seconded by Mrs. S. Edens, that the street lighting in Bramley Avenue be improved.

Miss McCourt, Bramley Avenue, asked if the bank at the Thanington Road end of Strangers Lane could be cut back. The Clerk reported that she has a running battle with Canterbury City Council over a number of years regarding this. The City Council have agreed to cut this bank back sixteen times during the growing season.

Mrs. A. Martin, Bramley Avenue, reported on the builders lorries parking on the footpath in Strangers Lane.

Mrs. N. Burton, Alfred Close. asked whether it would be possible for the Mobile Library van to make a call at the layby in Thanington Road, near the bus stop. An approach had been made for the Mobile Library to call at Alfred Close, but the reply was that the van is too large to negotiate the road in that area.

Mr. J. Romer, Grays Way, asked whether it would be possible for Grays Way to be made one way only.

Dr. Nash, Thanington Road, said while he was grateful for what had been done at the traffic lights in Thanington Road, he considered the hatching in the centre of the road was not wide enough to direct the traffic correctly. If the hatching was made one or two feet wider in the vicinity of the bus stop at St. Nicholas Road, one lane of traffic would take vehicles turning into St. Nicholas Road and the other, the traffic continuing along the A28.

Mr. Macdonald, Manor Close and Dr. Nash, Thanington Road, drew attention to the problems involved with the new road scheme.

COUNCILLOR MR. KEN RANGER, Chairman of the K.C.C. Highways Committee gave a brief outline of his work. The Highways Committee is responsible for all the roads in Kent. Sweeping and grasscutting is the responsibility of local authorities. There are approximately 1 million visitors to Kent during the year. Winter maintenance and road safety come high on the priority list. The Channel Tunnel is causing traffic problems as there will be approximately an increase of 7% in the traffic flow. the axle load of vehicles is to be raised to 40 tons and this very heavy load is causing the bed of the roads to collapse, not the road surfaces. To put all roads in Kent in a reasonable state would need £6,000 millions.

Clive J. Ringer
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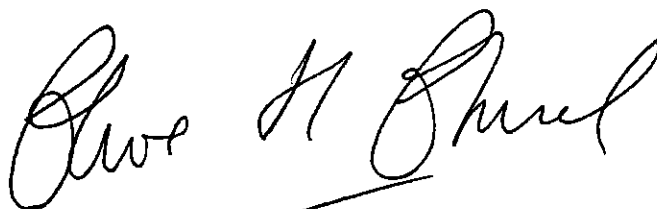
A SHORT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PERIOD: resulted in Mr. Macdonald suggesting every lorry landing in Kent should be taxed. Bretts lorries would increase the traffic and also coaches from the Channel Tunnel and suggested that toll gates would increase the revenue. Mrs. Burton asked whether K.C.C. had any jurisdiction over local authorities and whether it is possible to transfer money from another area should funds run short for road maintenance. The reply being 'No'.

It was also queried why was road maintenance undertaken during the summer months. The reply was that it is more expensive in winter, working hours are shorter, and also the materials need to be at a certain temperature which would be impossible in the cold weather. Dr. Nash: winter maintenance and salt/grit spreading which he said resulted in the salt/grit being thrown on to cars. Mr. Ranger then gave details of frost alert procedures. The vehicles were alerted, if necessary, to commence work after 8 pm. Dr. Nash then suggested that a K.C.C. official should visit Scotland where there was much more severe weather but fewer problems, the salt/grit being dribbled on to the roads.

Mr. Ken Ranger said that the vehicles are dual purpose - a refuse collecting vehicle is used, the refuse reception part of the vehicle being removed and the salt/grit portion mounted on the chassis.

THE CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR MR. C. H. CHURCH, closed the meeting by thanking Mr. Ranger for a most interesting and informative talk.

Light refreshments were then served.



30.11.90

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY: 15th May 1989 at 7.30 pm. Ashford Road Social Clubhouse.

The new K.C.C. Councillor, Mr. Martin Vye to be invited. A letter to be written to Mr. Lawrence Shirley thanking him for the considerable help he has given in the past and expressing regret that he has lost his seat on the Kent County Council.

Councillor Mr. G. Page gave his apologies for non-attendance as he would be in hospital.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillors Mrs. F. Hughes enquired if anything could be done regarding the traffic signals at the by-pass as they were not synchronising correctly. This to be reported.

Councillor Mr. G. Furness reported on the bad footpath in Strangers Lane, the overhanging hedges and the bank at the Thanington Road end of Strangers Lane. Also the fence to Manor Close had again been vandalised. The agents to be advised. Finally, concern being expressed by residents in Ashenden Close regarding a $3\frac{1}{2}$ ton lorry being parked outside a house overnight, several times a week.

Councillor Miss S. Knott reported that the water hydrant cover in Hollow Lane is now standing proud of the roadway and is also loose. There is also a pothole in Hollow Lane about 40 yds down from the hydrant. A large pothole outside No. 5 New House Lane also needs infilling. These to be reported to Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council.

Councillor Mrs. L. New reported potholes in the vicinity of Nos. 27/29 Cockerling Road and also at 25 Tonford Lane. These to be reported.

The Clerk enquired whether it would be possible to ask Canterbury City Council to remove the litter bin at the corner of Grays Way if they are unable to provide one with a lid. This might reduce the amount of litter in that area. Also to ask if 'No Dogs' signs could be placed on the grass verges at the corner of Grays Way/Thanington Road.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 5th June 1989 at 8 pm. The usual date to be brought forward by one week due to the Chairman having other pressing commitments. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Clive H. Sturt
5.6.89