

MINUTES OF THE THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL held at the Ashford Road Community Association Hall, Ashford Rd, Monday 8th APRIL 1991 at 8 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. P. Blackman, Mrs. N. Burton, Mr. C. Church, Mr. G. Furness
Mrs. F. Hughes, Miss S. Knott, Mr. Stokes.
Mr. Glenn Sharman, Parish Tree Warden, by invitation.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None was received

CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Mr. C.H. Church.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were confirmed and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

- (1.) The Clerk explained that he had not yet been completely successful in pursuing the matter of the responsibility for the damaged fence in Manor Close, but that there may be an outcome from CCC enquiries.
- (2.) The Clerk confirmed that he had presented the Chairman's apologies to the A.R.C.A. at their A.G.M.
- (3.) The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the C.C.C. in connection with the proposed introduction of Dog bye-laws. Further details would be supplied by C.C.C. in due course. Separate item 12 on Agenda: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.
- (4.) The Clerk confirmed that he had returned a copy of Sheet 24 of the Harris Pension Fund bank statement, to the Chairman as requested. In the interim, the Chairman had found the original.
- (5.) The Clerk confirmed that he had forwarded copies of KAPC: Canterbury Area Minutes & Agenda for Apr. 10th. to Cllrs. Church & Page.
- (6.) The Clerk confirmed that he had circulated election forms and details to all councillors and Miss S. Williams. He had also circulated the letter regarding Parochial Accounts.
- (7.) The Clerk confirmed that he had forwarded the letter regarding the 'Trees in your Village Competition' to Mr. Glenn Sharman. At the Parish Assembly, Mr. Sharman was invited to attend the April Council Meeting, to discuss this. *Mr. Sharman was thanked for his contribution at the Parish Assembly and invited to comment further on the Competition. Mr. Sharman said that he had come as much to hear the Council's views as to put forward a concrete plan. Hearing that there was the possibility of obtaining free, expert advice if the Parish entered the Competition, it was agreed to go ahead and Mr. Sharman was assured of the Council's interest in, and support of, the idea of improving the condition of trees in the Parish. The question of replacement of trees by the CCC, after the 1987 Storm, was raised. The Clerk was asked to contact the appropriate authorities again, about this. The Clerk was instructed to co-operate with Mr. Sharman in following up this matter. After a more general discussion about other matters pertaining to local trees, the Chairman thanked Mr. Sharman for coming. Mr. Sharman then withdrew from the Meeting.*

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- (8.) The Clerk confirmed that he had reported the ruts across St. Nicholas Road and Cocking Road, but had received no response, as yet..
- (9.) He had also reported the regular misuse of the pavement and fencing, by a motor vehicle, outside 47, Thanington Road. Again, no response, so far.
- (10.) The Clerk stated that he had reported the excessive amount of litter at the side of the flats, opposite the playing field. He has noted a vast improvement. He had also reported the dangerous condition of the paving stones along the pathway, behind houses, near Alfred Close. There had not been any response concerning the latter.
- (11.) The Clerk announced that a map showing the road cleaning schedule had been received. [separate item 12 on Agenda ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.
- (12.) In reply to the Chairman's question about the cost of refreshments at the Parish Assembly, which would be paid out of his Allowance, Cllr. Mrs. Blackman told him that it was £3. Cllr. Church thanked Cllr. Blackman and her helpers.

3. TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

- Adscene Parish Meeting Advert £19,87 inc £2,59 VAT
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Hughes and seconded by Cllr. Burton.
- K. R. C. C.: Oast to Coast Subs. £4,00
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Church and seconded by Cllr. Furness.
- J. A. Stockley (O. M. S.): Typewriter repairs £23,00 inc £3,00 VAT
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Stokes and seconded by Cllr. Knott.
- K. C. C. (KCS): Photo-copier rental Qtr. £109,35
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Blackman and seconded by Cllr. Church
- K. A. P. C.: Annual Sub & 'Review' £321,23 inc £37,32 VAT?
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Hughes and seconded by Cllr. Furness.
- D. Gould: Clerk's Salary Jan/Feb/Mar. £555.15
Phone rental: £12,48. Travel £78,00 & £5 £650,63
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Church and seconded by Cllr. Stokes
- A. Burton: Reimbursement: Report delivery £3,00
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Church and seconded by Cllr. Furness
- Geerings: copier paper. £18,92 inc 2,47 VAT
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Burton and seconded by Cllr. Hughes
- K. A. P. C.: Posters & forms £2,37 inc 0,12 VAT
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Stokes and seconded by Cllr. Knott
- Cheltenham & Gloucester Coll. of H. Ed.
Fees £210; CNAA Registration £65, Accom. £25 £300,00
Approval of payment proposed by Cllr. Church and seconded by Cllr. Blackman.

4. FINANCE: Audit. The Chairman reported that he had been informed by the Clerk that the recent audit had been generally a smooth process, but that there had

been one area of considerable concern. This was the matter of probable 'illegal' over-payment amount of the previous Clerk's gratuity. The Auditor would be reporting his findings to higher authority and they would be writing to the Chairman (with a copy to the Clerk) in due course. Cllr. Church pointed out that this matter may well be passed on to his successor at the next scheduled Council Meeting, but that he would, naturally, fully meet his responsibilities in the matter. In response to a query as to just how far Council-member responsibility could be assigned, he pointed out that many involved had left the Council. Meanwhile, no indication of any likely outcome had been given.

The Chairman further reported that the Clerk had already informed KAPC and sought advice. A reply from KAPC was read. As this matter also impinges on the contractual arrangements made to provide a gratuity fund for the present Clerk, the reply from KAPC on that aspect was also referred to. The latter is, however, less urgent as no payments have been made. It was agreed that it must be investigated soon and the Clerk's Contract reviewed.

Questioned about possible outcomes, the Chairman included in his reply the matter of insurance coverage. The Clerk explained that, whilst there was no special cover under the policy with Commercial Union Assurance this appeared not to be necessary for members of NALC, as the Council was. He outlined the background to the arrangements made over several past years, stressing that various sources of official advice had been consulted in order to present Miss Eyles with what was believed to be the maximum 'legal' amount, based on a lump sum of twice the final salary, as had been the norm prior to 1987. After which new guidelines threatened to deny Miss Eyles a fair gratuity.

It was unanimously agreed that:-

- (i) the Clerk should respond to KAPC, providing the information requested;
- (ii) the Council should be prepared to defend its position, if it becomes necessary, as it acted in good faith;
- (iii) Miss Eyles should not be made aware of the problem until/unless it became absolutely necessary.

Finally, the Clerk announced that he had been informed that an audit of the year 1990-1991 could be expected in the very near future. This was a routine audit and an attempt to get back to the more normal time-table.

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The Clerk gave an up-date on the matter of Bank Charges. He reported that Barclays Bank had offered to make no charges for returned, used cheques nor for providing Audit information. Lloyds Bank had offered no charges for the former but a standard £10 for the latter. Subsequently our own Midland Bank offered to withdraw the charge for returned cheques and, for this year, to refund the audit information charge. The latter charge, for future years, had been referred to a higher authority and we would be informed in due course.

Being the end of the Financial Year, the balanced Cash Book was presented for the signatures of the Chairman and the Clerk. It was checked and signed.

A Lottery Fund Notification had been received, indicating that an amount of £428 remained unallocated, after £50 had been paid to the Hilltop Club. Possible future recipients were discussed. Cllr. Blackman informed that a Mothers & Toddlers Group was commencing activities and would be needing to

purchase toys and suggested possible assistance.. This was unanimously agreed, in principle, and eventually a sum of £200 was approved. The Clerk was instructed to follow up this matter by making enquiries of the ARCA Chairman. Cllr. Furness suggested that consideration be given to local sporting organisations, if they could be traced. This was agreed.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Dr. Andrew Johnson. Nailbourne Scout Group Appeal.
This very first item reflected directly back to the Lottery Fund discussion. It was agreed, in principle, to be supportive as local scouts/Cubs were apparently involved. However, the Clerk was asked to first find out how many local boys there were, and the position regarding other local troops.
- Kent County RAYNET: Response to request for information.
CCC: LOCAL PLAN MEETING 4/4/91 /Environmental Health Seminar 9/4.
: Tourism Newsletter
KCC: Railink No: 12 /Channel Tunnel Joint Consultative Committee . (both circulated)
: Kent communiqué (Circulated at Meeting; perusal requested by Cllr. Church)
: 'Bulletin': K.C.S. Name change. Noted.
: Planning: Kent Minerals Local Plan; Construction Aggregates. (dealt with later under ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.)
S.L.C.C.: Annual Conference. Circulated and noted
KRCC: Clerks' Course, Hollingbourne. 19/4. The Clerk explained that he would be unable to attend as he would be at the Gloscat weekend course & examination.
Best Kept Village Competition. This was noted.
- SEEBOARD: Estimate for conversion to photo-cells. (The fact that it had been delivered by special messenger in time for our meeting was noted and appreciated.) The details and comments were noted. It was proposed by the Chairman and unanimously approved that the Clerk should write to accept the estimate of £383,52 and the outlined conditions.
The Clerk was asked to check upon the over-all position regarding the new lighting installed in the alley-ways in the Strangers Close, Athelstan & Windsor Roads area.
- KAPC: Credit approval. The new procedure was noted. It was not regarded as being immediately relevant.
KAPC: DoE. Local Government & Housing Act 1989. This was circulated and noted.
6. **REPORTS:** There was none, but the Chairman took this opportunity to announce that, as pressure of work prevented him from standing for re-election to the Council, he would not be attending the Canterbury Area meeting and invited someone else to take his place. There was no offer. Cllr. Knott expressed appreciation to Cllr. Church for all his services to the Parish.
7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS::** (a) CA/90/1190/THA. Wincheap Farm. Golf Course
The Clerk reported that a telephone call, that afternoon, had confirmed that the Planning Department still awaited the new application. It was noted that a Public Meeting would be called, in due course.
(b) **Miscellaneous:** Wincheap Farm Appeal (March 20th). The Clerk reported that he had attended the Appeal, but not the ensuing site-visit. When asked for his prognosis, the Clerk was non-committal.
Application: CA/91/0252/THA Rear of Strangers Close.

8 one-bedroom flats & assoc. parking + access. This had been circulated and generally approved, but with comments about parking space and tree-felling. The Clerk was instructed to convey the Council's approval, subject to neighbours' not objecting.

The Clerk reported that, in connection with Planning Application CA/91/0218/THA 60 New House Lane., 1st Floor extension, he had written to state that it was unanimously agreed that there were no Council objections providing that neighbours did not object.

8. PARISH MEETING: It was generally agreed that the meeting had been a success and that no major alterations needed to be noted for the future. Attendance was relatively satisfying. Commenting on Cllr. Burton's observation regarding the attendance relative to time, effort and money spent on distributing the Report, Cllr. Furness made the point that electors could not complain that they had not been notified. It was agreed that the increased number of contributors to the proceedings was to be encouraged in future.

It was agreed that the cost and method of printing the Report be considered before next year's Assembly.

Referring to the Vicar's comments about photo-copier expenses, the Clerk reported that he had made enquiries of both Kent Supplies and the Vicar. It appeared that existing arrangements were probably best, but he would investigate further.

The Chairman reminded of the Vicar's invitation to make use of the Parish magazine. Cllr. Church that his regular contributions would be emulated, in some way. The Clerk offered to submit an appeal for interest in Emergency Planning, especially in North ward. He also referred to having been told of ARCA's hopes to produce some informative material.

The Chairman referred to a sharp fall on the Lower Hardres side of Iffin Lane, by the cottages, which had come to his notice. The Clerk was asked to report this and to send a copy to Lower Hardres P.C. Clerk

The contribution made by the visiting speaker, Mr. Beeching, on Public Highways, had been appreciated. It was suggested that the Clerk should follow up the contact immediately, with a view to up-grading our footpaths and possibly receiving help with obtaining equipment. The Clerk was asked to repeat the Council's appreciation of his visit & talk.

Considering the question of next year's guest speaker/topic, the names of KAPC's Secretary and KAPC Canterbury Area's Chairman were put forward by Cllr. Church. It was agreed to delay making any decisions now.

9. ELECTIONS: Cllrs. Stokes and Furness explained that their Nomination papers had not been received in time. Consequently the current position will leave one vacancy in South Ward and two in North Ward, if there are no other new nominations. The Clerk was asked to find out the earliest date by which notification of Casual Vacancies can be posted in the hope of co-opting, ideally in time for the May Annual Parish Council meeting. It was confirmed that co-option of Messrs. Furness & Stokes would be welcomed.
10. PARISH AFFAIRS: On the subject of Grit Bins; the Clerk reported having been on the telephone to KCC Highways, in Barham, again. After being referred back and forth, between CCC & KCC it now seemed that New House Lane should be dealt with, but responsibility for Grays Way & Cockering Rd. was still queried. Mrs. McKenzie was investigating, and on March 19th she promised to

respond.

Concerning Strangers Lane paving stones; the Clerk had observed that the left-hand side pavement (uphill direction) had been marked, in preparation for attention.

The Clerk reported that new lighting had been installed in alley-ways in the Strangers Lane/Athelstan Rd. & Windsor Rd. area. It was assumed that installation cost had been met by CCC, but the Clerk would enquire.

Cllr. Stokes reported that a large block of concrete had been lying at the junction of Cockering Road and Strangers Lane, for about a week

Cllr. Knott enquired about the siting of the seat, near St. Faith's Hall. It was agreed to return it to the original site and Cllr. Stokes offered to assist.

Cllr. Blackman reported a damaged support and swinging fence on the B.R. property on the Manor side of the Tonford Lane level-crossing.

Cllr. Furness reported a missing paving slab outside 29 Ashenden Close.

11. **FOOTPATHS:** Reference was made to the ploughed footpath CB 464 and two broken stiles along it. The Clerk reported that he had been in contact both with Brett's Estate Manager and the farmer, Mr. Day. Attention to these matters had been promised. It was decided to await the outcome and observations made during the proposed Walks on April 10th & 20th. The conditions would be monitored.

Miss William's talk at the Assembly and her interest were linked to Mr. Beeching's offer of possible assistance and Parish involvement. The Council agreed support for this local improvement and the Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Beeching to state our interest and enquire about help with equipment.

Attention was drawn to the Kent Public Rights of Way Strategy folder, which had been circulated at the Parish Assembly.

12. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:** The Clerk reported that a map showing areas and frequencies for Road Cleaning had been received. He also reported that he had telephoned about disappointment concerning the map relating to 'poop-scoop' bye-laws. He understood that areas subject to Council grass-cutting would be included. He had confirmed the Council's general support for the scheme of Dog bye-laws.

13. **EMERGENCY PLANNING:** The Clerk was asked to write to thank Messrs Armishaw and Ives for their interest. It was agreed to appeal, in the Parish Magazine, for others to help, as neither Cllr. Church nor Cllr. Knott were available and the North Ward needed organisers..

14. **CASUAL VACANCY:** On the subject of the existing casual vacancy, the Clerk explained that Miss Williams had been supplied with nomination papers. Hopefully, this matter may be resolved after the elections. It was noted with regret that problems of internal communications had prevented Cllr. Stokes nomination from being received in time. Further casual vacancies were also to be expected and thought would have to be given to this and to the selection of new officers.

NEXT MEETING (Annual Meeting of Parish Council): MONDAY MAY 13th 1991 at 8 p.m.
There being no other business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45 p.m.

