

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL held at Ashford Road Community Association Clubhouse, Thanington Without, Monday 9th MARCH 1992 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. P. Blackman, Miss S. Knott, Mrs. F. Hughes, Mrs. J. McMillan, Mr. G. Page, Mr. K. Stokes, Miss S. Williams & the Clerk. There was also one local elector.

CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Mr. G. Page

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: The Clerk had received a message from Cllr. Mr. G. Furness that he was unable to attend. His apology was accepted.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** . After Cllr. Hughes had drawn attention to the fact that Bramley Avenue was erroneously referred to as Bramley Close and the correction was made, the Minutes were confirmed and signed.

2. **MATTERS ARISING:**

As Mr. Glen Sharman, the Parish Tree Warden, had responded to the invitation to attend, but had another meeting to go to, the Chairman's suggestion that the items concerning trees, on the Agenda, be dealt with straight away, was agreed to.

[1.] The Clerk commented that, since the last Council meeting, he had written again to Mr. Watmor and had spoken to Mr. Sharman. Subsequently a letter inviting participation again in Trees Competition, had been received and, consequently, Mr. Sharman was invited to attend this meeting. The Clerk reported that he had been unsuccessful in contacting Mr. Watmor, prior to this meeting, but he passed on a comment made by a member of the Countryside Officer's Dept., that financial support seemed unlikely, whereas advice regarding possible grant sources may be forthcoming .

Mr. Sharman remarked he had little new to add, apart from a thought about tree-planting that had been inspired by contact with Ms. Moss. He just wondered whether farmers connected with possible developments may be persuaded to become involved. He specifically mentioned Cockering Farm and the proposed golf-course. The Clerk undertook to contact Mr. Tory.

Mr. Sharman suggested, and it was agreed, that we enter the Men of the Trees competition again. He was willing to act as guide to the judge. The Chairman thanked Mr. Sharman for that offer and for coming to the meeting.

Before leaving the subject of 'trees', a positive reply from Messrs. Bretts was read.

[2.] The Clerk confirmed that he had written a formal letter of acceptance of resignation to Mrs. Burton and had expressed the regrets of the Council.

[3.] The Clerk commented that he had been informed by Cllr. Knott that the potentially dangerous, overhanging trees in Hollow Lane, now appeared to have been satisfactorily dealt with. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to thank Mr. Long for the attention to existing problems and for the promise of future co-operation. The Chairman thanked the South Ward councillors for their efforts.

GJB Rm

- [4.] The Clerk reported that he had written to The Chartham Society, as instructed, and had sent a copy to County Cllr. Martin Vye.
- [5.] The Clerk confirmed that he had continued his enquiries about lighting conditions in the Parish and had produced an un-solicited report, which was being circulated. The Clerk added that it contained a plan showing details of lighting in the area remaining under CCC control, which Mr. Goldsack had provided. The Clerk reported that he had informed Mr. Goddard that he was making enquiries about parish lighting.
- [6.] The Clerk reported that he had received Bank confirmation of the transfer of £500 from the HICA account, made in order to replenish the current account.
- [7.] The Clerk confirmed that he had replied to NALC, with substantiating evidence of payment. A grateful response was read out by the Chairman.
- [8.] The Clerk reported that he had prepared a reply to 'The Good Weekend Guide': in response to their request for information. Cllrs. Page and Knott had offered to bring possibly relevant reference material and this was given to the Clerk, to enable him to elaborate further.
- [9.] The Clerk confirmed that he had written to KCC Highways, to state that he would be the Parish Council representative at the Annual Divisional Meeting of Parish Council on March 18th.
- [10.] The Clerk reported that he had informed KCC that Cllr. Blackman was the representative who would attend the Village Transport Representatives' Conference, on March 19th, that the correspondence had been passed to her and that she would be applying to attend. Cllr. Blackman stated that she had done so but had, so far, received no reply.
- [11.] The Clerk explained that he had:-
- (i) written to Mr. Foster to accept his estimate and to request another for a replacement of the notice-board which has been removed by vandals,
 - (ii) been informed by Mr. Tickner that the New House Lane board had not been overlooked. He had apologised for the delay in supplying a second estimate and the Clerk had informed him that the work had been offered elsewhere,
 - (iii) received a claim form from Commercial Union, the completion of which he had delayed pending receipt of a costing from Mr. Foster.

Later developments were dealt with under Agenda item 10, Notice Boards.

- [12.] The Clerk confirmed that he had photo-copied the Footpaths Plan, compiled by Cllr. Williams, ready for distribution together with the Parish Report. He added that, in his opinion, the result was very satisfactory.
- [13.] The Clerk reported that the Chairman had passed to him the Harris Charity bank statement, which he would use in the preparation of a Parish Meeting report.
- [14.] The Clerk confirmed that he had sent, or delivered, Parish Meeting invitations; to the Wincheap Ward City Councillors, County Cllr. Martin Vye, The Rev. L. Cox The Chairman of Thanington Within Community Centre and the Chairman of A. R. C. A.

In addition, he had invited The Chairman of the Tenants' Association, the A.R.C.A. Treasurer and Women's Institute representative.

[15.] The Clerk reported that he had contacted CCC and SEEBOARD about the possibility of street lamp installation near the crest of Grays Way. He was still awaiting a reply from Mr. Bingham about the situation regarding the use of existing poles.

[16.] The Clerk reported that he had received telephone calls from CCC in response to his enquiry concerning the legal position in the case of an accident due to poor street lighting. He had been informed that the opinion was that there would be virtually no risk of action against the Council being successfully taken. It was suggested that anxious residents should consult conditions in their existing insurance coverage.

[17.] The Clerk reported that CCC's Enforcement Officer had visited the householder in Bramley Avenue, who had been reported to be using the premises as a base for a greengrocery and dairy business. He appeared to be satisfied that this situation would be remedied very shortly, when new storage facilities elsewhere became available.
Cllr. Blackman reported that there had, meanwhile, been complaints from residents in Bramley Avenue concerning a transport vehicle and that the Police had been called to investigate.

[18.] The Clerk confirmed that he had submitted comments on CANTERBURY DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN, as instructed. Subsequently, he had received plans of the Cocking Link Road development, which he presumed to be a result of the specific mention of concern which was expressed over the preservation of Milton Church and also the nearby watermeadows. The plans are to be circulated.

3. TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

KCC (KCS) £131,46
Stationery supplies.

NOTA BENE: The Clerk drew attention to the fact that this was an increase upon the original Agenda figure of £116,79 upon receipt of two additional invoices for parts of the order.

KRCC £20,00
Donation

GEERINGS £19,33
Copier paper inc VAT £2,88

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER COLLEGE of H.E. £56,00
Clerk's course- accomm. 19-21/4 & 27-29/9 '91

GEERINGS £6,40
Photocopier inc. VAT £0,95

Cllr. Blackman proposed, Cllr. Hughes seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the above payments be made. Thereupon the cheques were signed by those two councillors.

G.S.H.

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4. FINANCE

The Clerk reported that the Auditor had now signed the ledger for the 1989-90 entries. The Clerk had posted the required notice to this effect, on the notice-boards.

The Clerk commented upon the receipt of four letters from SEEBOARD which gave notice of charges to be made for repairs which were not covered by the basic contract. As no amounts were yet specified, he remarked that it would be necessary to monitor the situation. Cllr. Stokes raised the question of insurance coverage and the Clerk responded that he would bear that in mind as more details became available.

A letter from SEEBOARD was read which specified the previously announced impending increase in electricity charges, from April 1st 1992, as 6%.

A letter from Hadlow Agricultural College was read, which was an appeal for a donation to the fund for the "Queen Elizabeth II Wood". It was unanimously agreed not to create such a precedent, but to target any available resources towards similar local improvements.

A letter from the City Treasurer was read, which stated the unallocated Parish balance of the Lottery Fund as being £404. It was unanimously agreed to await developments concerning the Shell: Better Britain grant source towards a strimmer, before considering allocation of that amount.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from L. M. S., regarding details of payment arrangements, to which he had responded.

A letter from NALC concerning the 1994 Centenary Appeal had been dealt with earlier in the meeting. Reference was made to the untypical success, in this case, of obtaining a method of payment by direct debit.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the CCC Minutes, being circulated, show the additional Thanington Without Parish Community Charge as £1,70. This is only 1p above the lowest of 25 parishes. It is 45% of the average. It is based on the fact of £1600 and £400 being revenue and capital contributions respectively, for street lighting, on the concurrent functions under Section 136 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Clerk commented on the need to wait and monitor the new lighting expenses situation for future budgeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

CCC: Minutes of February 26th 1992 (to be circulated)
CCC: Electoral Register (16-2-1992): copies circulated.
CCC PLANNING: Report on Barham Conservation Area.
CCC: Draft Economic Development Strategy '92/93
CCC: Goldsack: Acknowledgement.
CCC Technical Director: re: Playing Field; damaged fence.
KCC Chief Executive: Channel Tunnel Joint Consultative Committee.
KCC. KCS. Photocopying Exhibition invitation.
KAPC: PARISH NEWS No: 187 (circulated)
Enclosures include: Local Govt. Review (circulated)
Planning Info Day March 11th '92
KAPC (Canterbury Area): Agenda for April 22nd 1992 & Minutes.

THE MEN OF THE TREES: Competiton invitation. (passed to Chairman).
 SEEBOARD. Maintenance schedule: March
 KRCC: Best Kept Village Competition.
 NATIONAL MUSIC DAY COMMITTEE: Poster and leaflet.
 Specialised MINERALS: Playgrounds.
 SLCC: SCRIBE course
 KRCC - Numerous enclosures to be circulated, including 'Coast to Coast'. A subscription renewal form was enclosed. It was explained by the Clerk that the amount of £4,00 would be processed for the next meeting.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk reported that the Planning Committee Agenda & Report, with no Thanington Without entries, had been passed to the Chairman.

The remarks made under Matters Arising, concerning the submission of comments on the Local Plan, were repeated. The plans of the Cockering Road link were briefly shown, prior to their circulation.

CA/92/0100/THA "The Sheiling" Iffin Lane
 Erection of detached garage.

Circulated; returned comments to CCC due by March 6th.

Comments received by Clerk by Feb. 24th. He attempted to find out details from CCC regarding commercialisation concerns; in vain. He had expressed them, however, in his otherwise positive comment 'no objection'.

NOTA BENE: Amended proposal subsequently received, which omits FF Recreation Room and access staircase.

CCC had telephoned to inform the Clerk that a site-visit had led the officer concerned to be convinced that there were no commercial intentions.

7. REPORTS: There was none.

8. CASUAL VACANY:

The Clerk, having previously confirmed that he had informed CCC of the vacancy, due to resignation by Cllr. Mrs. A. Burton, and that the required notices had been posted, the Chairman then read out the regulations concerning a co-option. He asked councillors if they had any suggestions for consideration, which led to the local elector present, Mr. Goddard, being asked if he would be interested. Following his positive reply and there being no other nominations for consideration, the Chairman said that he would arrange to visit Mr. Goddard to explain what this involved and if Mr. Goddard was then still interested, he would be invited to attend the next meeting.

9. TREES: These matters had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

10. NOTICE BOARD:

The Clerk explained that the invoice received from Mr. Foster for completed work, in the sum of £45, 00 had been received too late to be included in this months approval of payments. He had explained

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this to Mr. Foster.

An Estimate had been received from Mr. Foster for £85.00, for the provision of a replacement notice-board, with lockable, protective transparent doors. It was proposed by Cllr. McMillan, seconded by Cllr. Stokes and unanimously agreed that Mr. Foster be asked to carry out this work. The Clerk was asked to so instruct him.

11 PARISH MEETING

The Clerk reported that Ms. Moss had contacted him to explain that she would be unable to attend on April 30th, owing to another engagement.

Cllr. Frogley and Mrs. Holland (ARCA) have replied that they hope to attend.

Timing of the allocation and distribution of the Parish Report was discussed. It was agreed that the Chairman would endeavour to submit a long-hand draft to the Clerk by April 2nd or 3rd. The Clerk undertook to type, duplicate and bring them to the April meeting. It was suggested and agreed that actual delivery would probably be best around April 24th - 26th.

12. PARISH AFFAIRS:

The Clerk had received a reply from CCC, following his having reported the fact that the Playing-field boundary railings were damaged. This was read out and indicated that the policy was to gradually allow the planted beech trees to replace the deteriorating railings.

Cllr. Blackman had informed the Clerk of vandalism to the Warning Notice situated by the Tonford Road level-crossing. Having tried, in vain, to report the matter, she requested the Clerk to do so. The Clerk reported that he had done so and had also pointed out that the notices were lying in the river close to the bridge. By the day of this meeting, no British Rail action appeared to have been taken.

Cllr. Page explained that he had bought a gift voucher, out of his Chairman's Allowance, which he had sent to Mrs. Burton as a token of appreciation for her services as a councillor. He read a letter of thanks which he had received in reply.

Cllr. Page also drew attention to a spate of break-ins and vandalism which had recently occurred along Ashford Road. Cllr. Blackman referred to yet another incident.

Cllr. Stokes spoke about the poor state of lighting along part of Cockerling Road. The Clerk commented that when he had a chance to see the details of the lighting plan which was being circulated, it may help to answer his questions.

Cllr. Stokes also raised the persistent matter of litter along Cockerling Road. Cllr. Williams queried the City Council's legal obligations in this respect. Cllr. Stokes wondered whether tree-planting might help. The Clerk was asked to follow up this problem and to request clearance.

Cllr. Knott brought the matter of repeated breakages at the phone-box, on the corner of New House Lane, to the attention of the meeting. After some deliberation, it was decided to take no action at this juncture.

Cllr. Blackman passed on complaints by some residents that the fairly recently repaired British Telecoms cover, in Ashford Road, was again a cause of considerable, extra traffic noise. The Clerk was asked to report this to BT.

Cllr. Williams commented on the poor condition of stretches of the footway on the north-side of Ashford Road. The Clerk was instructed to make a strong request for 'proper, thorough' repairs in the near future

- 13. FOOTPATHS: There were no new matters for discussion.
- 14. CANTERBURY DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN: There were no comments additional to those already made under 'Matters Arising'.
- 15. CLERK'S CONTRACT: The Clerk commented that the NALC report was awaited and hoped for by the end of March.
Cllr. Knott expressed thanks to the Clerk for setting out and providing up-date information.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman asked if Mr. Goddard had any questions or comments. The Clerk was asked to explain the reference in his letter to financial constraints, concerning street lighting. After briefly outlining this position, the Clerk commented that if Mr. Goddard joined the Council he would soon have access to the report that was being circulated, which should answer many of his queries much more fully.

Next Meeting: Monday, APRIL 13th 1992 at 7.30 p.m. .

Cllr. McMillan expressed her apologies for not being able to attend, in advance

There being no more business the Chairman declared the meeting closed
at 9,05 p.m.

G.B.R.
13.4.92

Delight as 'excellent piece of restoration' wins top award

Transformed quarry is a natural haven

Conservation team's work is praised

THE TRANSFORMATION of a 50-acre gravel quarry into a site of natural beauty has earned a top award for aggregates firm Robert Brett and Sons.

Milton Quarry, in the Stour valley near Thanington, had been worked for sand and gravel since the late 1970s.

The restoration involved back-filling about 10 acres with silt to create pasture for sheep alongside lakes which have been contoured and graded to provide bays and outcrops for birds.

Traditional meadow flowers have also been encouraged to grow on the lakeside.

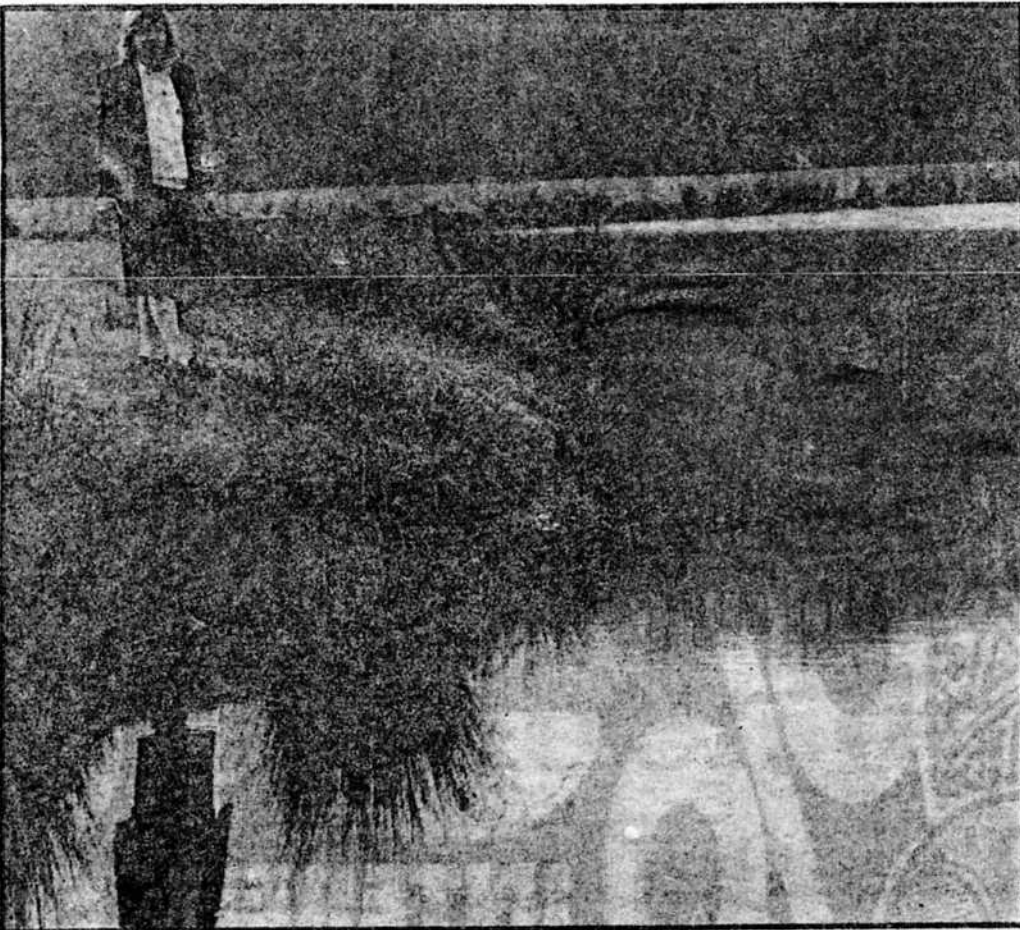
The lake has become part of the Stour Valley Walk and is visited by schools for nature studies. It is popular with ornithologists.

The work of conservation officer Dr Lillian Williams and her team, including the director of Bretts' gravel division, Martin Drury, has now been recognised by the Sand and Gravel Association.

The association described their efforts as "an excellent piece of restoration, undertaken with great care and attention to detail."

Dr Williams said: "Obviously we are delighted to receive this award. The project has turned the land, which was of poor quality before we started extraction, into an area of much improved landscape."

"The site now attracts large numbers of birds, insects and wildlife in general, while long-term leisure activities such as angling and windsurfing are being considered."



Conservation officer Dr Lillian Williams on the banks of the lake created by her team after sand and gravel had been extracted from a 50-acre site in the Stour valley