

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL held at Ashfor Road Community Association Clubhouse, Thanington Without,
Monday 11th MAY 1992 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. P. Blackman, Mr. K. Goddard, Miss S. Knott,
 Mrs. J. McMillan, Mr. G. Page, Mr. K. Stokes, Miss S. Williams
 & the Clerk.

Six local electors attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Furness had expressed his apologies, in advance, for not being able to attend. Cllr. Mrs. Hughes was prevented from attending by family illness. These apologies were accepted.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Mrs. Blackman proposed Cllr. Page and Cllr. Williams seconded. There were no other proposals and Cllr. Page was unanimously elected.

3. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE: Cllr. Page read and signed this acceptance.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Page proposed Cllr. Knott and Cllr. Blackman seconded. There were no other proposals and Cllr. Knott was unanimously elected.

5. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE: Cllr. Knott read and signed this acceptance.

6. SELECTION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO KAPC AREA COMMITTEE: Cllr. Knott had expressed her desire not to continue, due to difficulties in attending meetings. Cllr. Page expressed willingness to continue. Cllr. Goddard agreed to represent, but stated that he could not undertake to attend every meeting. Thereupon, Cllrs. Page and Goddard were unanimously elected.

Informative literature, received by the Clerk from KAPC, regarding Area Committees, was handed to the representatives.

7. SELECTION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO KAPC A.G.M.: After discussion, Cllrs. Page and Blackman agreed to attend. Their names were proposed by Cllr. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. Goddard and unanimously elected.

8. CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE: The Chairman explained the function of this allowance. The Clerk reminded that it had been previously recommended and budgeted for as £75. It was proposed by Cllr. Knott, seconded by Cllr. Goddard and unanimously agreed that the Chairman's Allowance for 1992-1993 be £75.

9. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: After Cllr. Stokes had pointed out that, under Parish Affairs, his comment (ii) should read "wall building" and not "wall demolition". This correction was unanimously accepted, the Clerk apologised, the alteration was made and the Minutes were confirmed and signed.

10. MATTERS ARISING:

- (1.) The Clerk confirmed that he had informed the CCC's Chief Clerk of the co-option of Cllr. Mr. K. Goddard.
- (2.) Cllr. Knott requested that it be minuted, in view of previous problems concerning overhanging trees in Hollow Lane, that there had been a tree-cutting carried out on Saturday May 9th.
- (3.) The Clerk reported that he had written, yet again, to Mr. Bingham at Seeboard, regarding the possible use of existing poles for street lamp installation near the crest of Grays Way and, additionally, to request a quotation for conversion to photo-cells. There has been no reply on either matter.
- (4.) Having noted that the original notices, vandalised at Tonford Road level-crossing, were accessible from the river bank; and there being some doubt about the 'new' notices, the Clerk had contacted British Rail again. Action had been promised. Cllr. Blackman commented that the original post and notices were now back in the river.
- (5.) A letter from the Director of Architecture and Engineering Services was read. It referred to four matters reported by the Clerk in recent months:-
 - (a) Manor Close: 'No Through Road' signs would be erected. Cllr. Stokes confirmed that they had been.
 - (b) Street parking: it seemed unlikely that the Police would introduce traffic regulation orders in Manor Close, Strangers Close, Tonford Lane and Grays Way. Explanations were included.
 - (c) Tonford Lane - One Way: measures regarding new signs were enumerated. Reference to "road marking to be placed between the two 'No Entry' points" was well received.
 - (d) Bus Stop outside 171 Ashford Road: reasons for the decision not to provide a bus stop 'box' were given, and accepted.

The Clerk was asked to write to thank the Director for his helpful letter. The Clerk commented that he was pleased that at least a few local electors were present to hear that such an inter-action does occur.
- (6.) The Clerk confirmed that he had received a short report on Footpaths, from Cllr. Williams, and that it had been presented to the Parish Meeting.
- (7.) The Clerk confirmed that he had notified the Cleansing Dept. concerning the burnt-out car in Larkey Valley Woods.

- (8.) The Clerk reported that a reply had been received concerning the request for a larger litter bin at Hanging Banks; ideally one which could be fixed to the ground. This matter was 'receiving attention'.
- (9.) The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Police concerning vehicles obstructing footways. He stated that he had received no direct reply but wondered to what extent the consultation with the Police, referred to in the reply from the Director of Architecture and Engineering Services, covered this matter.
- (10.) Replies from The Technical Director and the Senior Administrator of Planning, in the matter of footway crossings, especially in the St. Nicholas Road area were read. There is, apparently, no breach of Planning Control.
- (11.) The Clerk confirmed that he had also reported the strewn cement outside the second house on the left, ascending St., Nicholas Road.
- (12.) The Clerk confirmed that he had reported the overhanging vegetation at a property in Hollow Lane, which is actually outside our Parish, to the Clerk of Lower Hardes.
- (13.) The Clerk confirmed that he had reported that there was a vehicle parking on the footway at the top of Strangers Lane, virtually every evening.
- (14.) The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to Mr. Morgan, at WDS and had been informed that conversion to photo-cells currently cost £19,25 + VAT, per unit for 'all night'. 'Dusk to midnight / 5 a.m. to dawn' were £10 more per unit. Mr. Morgan added that instructions were awaited from KCC that only 'all-night' should be installed, in future.
- (15.) Referring to the rumours about a Nature Reserve in Thanington discussed at the last meeting, the Chairman read out an article, from the Kent Gazette, which described the so-called Brett's 'lakes' area.
- (16.) The Clerk confirmed that he had reported the overhanging branches outside 111 Thanington Road, in Strangers Lane. He related, at some length, the subsequent developments which had included the involvement of County Cllr. Martin Vye, due to protests by bird-lovers. Currently the situation appeared to have calmed and the Clerk undertook to monitor the tree-trimming aspect.
- (17.) Cllr. Williams reported that the Shell Better Britain grant application form, submitted by the Clerk, had been acknowledged and that a representative, Mr. Thynne, was coming to visit her on Friday May 15th.

- (18.) A reply from Chris. Dale, KCC Parish Paths Programme Officer, was read by the Chairman. The Clerk had written to accept the offer to supply a Definitive Map and cabinet, and to ask for more information. He had also expressed keen interest in receiving additional funds. Mr. Dale's reply appeared not to deal satisfactorily with the Clerk's original letter. The Clerk undertook, therefore, to try again.

11. TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The Clerk explained that, normally, items for approval should only be those listed in the circulated Agenda. However, an Insurance Renewal Notice, due before the next meeting, had only just been received. Consequently, this had been added.

Mr. Tickner	Notice board	£69,50
Mr. Foster	Notice board	£45,00
LMS	Photo-copier	£103,35
	inc. VAT £15,39	
Cornhill Insurance Ltd.		£320,21

It was proposed by Cllr. Blackman, seconded by Cllr. Williams and unanimously agreed that the above payments be made. The cheques were then signed by the two, named councillors.

12. FINANCE

When discussing the approval of the Cornhill Insurance renewal, the Chairman drew attention to the increase of 25%, which was somewhat more than the budgeted expectation. He also pointed out that the NALC Professional Indemnity Policy ceased in June and that Cornhill coverage, amounting to £35, was recommended. It was unanimously agreed that, when paying the renewal amount, the Clerk should process the additional Libel and Slander and Officials Indemnity Cover.

A letter from KRCC, expressing appreciation of a Donation of £15 for 1992/93, was read

SEEBOARD: Public Lighting Charges. The Chairman read out these details, making comparisons with last year's figures. It was noted that the largest increase was in maintenance charges.

The Clerk confirmed that he had paid into the High Interest Account the cheque for £5300 received from Canterbury City Council for Precept and Concurrent Powers for 1992/93.

The Clerk said that he had received and checked Bank Statements showing balances at April 30th 1992 as:-
HICA £13861,27 and Current a/c £620,87

The Clerk reported that he had received GEERINGS Invoice for £5,09 (photocopier for March) too late for inclusion on the circulated Agenda: approval of payment would be needed next month

13. CORRESPONDENCE

KAPC: VAT receipt/up-dated Constitution/terms of reference for Area Committees.

PARISH NEWS: No: 189; Cllrs. Info. Day 27/6 (distributed)
Cllr. Goddard expressed a desire to attend. It was proposed by Cllr. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. Williams and unanimously agreed that he should and the Clerk was instructed to process his application. Cllr. McMillan regretted that she would be away.

Charity Commissioners: Annual Return. The Chairman confirmed that this had been completed by the Clerk and returned.

Glasdon: Environmental Focus Catalogue

Mid Kent Water: posters and leaflets

KCC Highways. Bus Passenger Shelters. A letter was read by the Chairman. It was agreed that the current situation is satisfactory.

REVIEW: This had been circulated. The Chairman drew attention to the reference, on P. 99, to payments made to some Clerks for the use of rooms, computers etc.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk had confirmed, under Matters Arising, that he had conveyed the approval of Application CA/92/0299/THA 60 New House Lane, for a single storey side extension, to the Planning Dept.

CA/92/0335/THA White Lodge Tonford Lane. Stationing of mobile-home
It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should reply that there were no objections. The Clerk explained that permission had been granted for a delayed reply by telephone, to be confirmed.

15. REPORTS:

Cllr. Blackman presented a report on a Local Transport meeting which she had attended on March 19th. She had found it worthwhile and assessed the general transport conditions in the Parish as being comparatively satisfactory.

Cllr. Page presented a report on the most recent KAPC Area meeting which had been considerably shorter than usual.

Copies of both reports were made available to the Clerk, for the records.

16. STREET LIGHTING

The Chairman suggested the idea of setting up a Street-Lighting

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Investigation Group of a few councillors, who would consider existing conditions and possibly suggest improvements which could be subsequently discussed by the full Council. The Clerk undertook to clarify any aspects of his recent Report and to supply/obtain any other required information.

Cllr. Goddard expressed keenness to participate. The Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr. Hughes had agreed to be a member. Cllrs. Knott and McMillan offered to represent South Ward. Cllr. Blackman offered for the four Group members to meet at her home. It was agreed to arrange a date, before the next Council meeting.

17 NOTICE BOARD: The Clerk outlined the current position:

- (i) Ashford Road/Grays Way corner: completed and payment prepared
- (ii) New House Lane: completed and paid for
- (iii) Thanington Road: understood to be completed. Account awaited.

18. PARISH MEETING

The Chairman introduced four matters arising, which had been undertaken to be dealt with at next Council Meeting:-

- (i) Complaints regarding dairy business, Bramley Avenue.
[The Clerk had spoken to Enforcement Officer Terry Dawson]
A letter from Mrs. P. Smith was read.

At 9 o'clock the Chairman adjourned the meeting and invited comments from local-electors. Mr. Spicer spoke on behalf of the Bramley Avenue residents present. He announced that he had been in contact with a Department of Health official who had stated that he would be visiting 18 Bramley Avenue, together with a Planning Officer, on Wednesday May 13th, with the intention of ending existing arrangements. He added that the original trading licence had been granted in Chartham. He regretted that Mrs. Smith was not present. It was not the intention to close down the business but to bring an end to the problems associated with storage and transportation.

Mr. Spicer concluded by thanking the Council for allowing and listening to the complaints.

The Chairman re-opened the Council Meeting at 9,08 p.m.

After a short discussion, the Chairman proposed that the Clerk should write to the CCC Planning Department, in strong terms, that the Parish Council is unhappy about the present situation. They have sympathy with the complaining residents of Bramley Avenue. Whilst understanding that efforts to find alternative storage premises are in progress, it is recommended that the existing arrangements should be terminated. The CCC is urged to do whatever it can to assist Mr. and Mrs. Smith to obtain suitable, alternative storage accommodation. There was unanimous agreement with this proposal.

(ii) The possibility of an East Kent bus route through South Ward was discussed. It was agreed that whilst the existing post-bus facility satisfied some residents and consideration was given to

the struggle to obtain it, together with possibility of losing it, should some passengers transfer to an alternative, it was wisest not to alter the status quo.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs. Clements, who had raised the issue.

(iii) Dog barking disturbance was discussed. The Clerk stated that after the Parish Meeting it was suggested that the Environment Officer be approached, as previous references made to the Police had not yielded results. It was agreed that the Clerk should make general enquiries to him.

(iv) Commenting on the matter of traffic danger at Larkey Valley Woods car-park exit, the Chairman said that whilst the problem may well disappear with the eventual closure to through-traffic along Cockering he proposed that the Clerk should write to request warning signs.

The Chairman asked for comments on the general arrangements in preparation for the Parish Meeting and for the conduct of the Meeting itself. It was agreed that the Assembly was a success and no changes were noted for next time.

19. PARISH AFFAIRS:

Thanington Playing Field Fence: a reply from CCC was read.

Cllr. Page read a report he had made to the Clerk concerning developments regarding the seat at the corner of Grays Way.

The Clerk reported that Mr. Nugent, in Ashenden Close, had telephoned to point out the dangers caused by parking on the corners of Strangers Lane/Ashenden Close. The Clerk had telephoned to CCC Highways to pass on these comments and request the consideration of double yellow-line markings. It was recommended that the Council write in about this matter. The Clerk was so instructed.

Cllr. Goddard explained the difficulties caused by parking at the lower end of Strangers Lane and recommended a request for the existing yellow lines opposite the bus-stop to be extended for approximately 30 metres. This was agreed and the Clerk was so instructed.

The Clerk commented on his attendance at a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting.

Cllr. Blackman had informed the Clerk about complaints concerning the broken wire fence outside the Post Office. Her note was read, but as the offending wire has now completely disappeared, no action was currently considered necessary.

W.A.Hill, of 30 Tonford Lane, had written to the Clerk to complain about the parking situation in Tonford Lane. His letter was read

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and the Clerk was instructed to forward the remarks to the appropriate authorities at CCC.

The Clerk commented that he had reported potentially dangerous damaged edge-markings on the steps of Tonford bridge. KCC Highways had promised to investigate soon.

Cllr. Stokes commented on the extensive amount of graffiti on the Strangers Lane bus shelter. The Clerk undertook to report this.

20. FOOTPATHS:

The Clerk commented that there had been no further developments about the corrected Footpath Map and that he had received no requests for amended copies, at the Parish Meeting.

Extra copies of leaflets, received together with the reply from Chris Dale, were passed to Cllr. Williams.

Reference was made to the fact that part of Footpath CB 464 had been ploughed up and that the surface was now very uneven. It was suggested that the Clerk should report this to the Footpaths Officer and it was agreed that he be so instructed.

21. CANTERBURY DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN:

There was nothing new to report.

22. CLERK'S CONTRACT:

As nothing further had been heard, and the suggested date of the end of March was long gone, the Clerk undertook, to write to KAPC yet again.

23. EMERGENCY PLANNING:

The Clerk referred to a letter from Mr. Armishaw, in which he expressed his wish to withdraw from Emergency Planning. A subsequent telephone call to Mr. Ives yielded a similar decision. Subsequently, Dr. Carmody had expressed his willingness to continue and that he would make this known to Mr. Hicks, the new Emergency Planning Officer.

Before closing the Meeting, the Chairman invited Mr. Potts, the sole remaining local elector, to make any comments that he may wish to express. Mr. Potts stated that he was very disappointed with the lack of active response to various complaints made to City councillors and departments. He gave a list of examples. Upon being asked to give something specific which the Parish Council could follow up on, 22 Ingoldsby Road was cited as an example of extreme disorder and the Clerk was instructed to write about that.

Next Meeting: Monday, JUNE 8th 1992 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9,50 p.m.