

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL held at Ashford Road Community Association Clubhouse, Thanington Without,
Monday 14th SEPTEMBER 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, the Clerk and 7 local electors.

CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Mr. Graham Page

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr. Williams had previously apologised for non-attendance in September. Cllr. Mr. G. Furness had telephoned his apology for being unable to attend. Cllr. Mrs. F. Hughes had previously intimated the possibility of non-attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

These were unanimously agreed and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

- (1.) It was noted that no further correspondence had been received from the CCC D. of A. & E., concerning the dangers caused by parking on the corners of Strangers Lane/Ashenden Close.
- (2.) It was noted that nothing further had been heard from Mr. Potts nor Cllr. Dolby, regarding requested CCC departmental attention to specific items of complaint; a date of August 4th had been set.
- (3.) The Clerk reported that he had queried the position regarding wheelie-bins with the Cleansing Dept. and had informed Cllr. Knott. She told the meeting that she had had no further complaints. Neither had the Clerk and it was, therefore, assumed that 'no news was good news'.
- (4.) A reply from KCC Highways was read, concerning accidents in Hollow Lane by The Oast and the request for a central white line marking and/or a warning sign. The matter has been passed to the CCC agency who will report their findings 'in due course'.
- (5.) The Clerk reported that he had requested an explanation regarding the grubbing out of a hedge-row in Hollow Lane. He was informed that CCC had requested the land-owner to trim it back from the footpath. They regretted the extreme response.
- (6.) A reply from KCC Highways was read, regarding Larkey Valley Woods/Cockering Road. Arrangements had been made for a warning of entrance sign to be installed.
- (7.) The Chairman confirmed that a cheque had been signed by himself and Cllr. Stokes, immediately after the close of the last meeting, in order to facilitate the ordering of a strimmer. It was for £487,63 and payable to PAICE SETTERS.
- (8.) The Clerk confirmed that he had sent a confirmatory, written reply to the KAPC Questionnaire: Councillors and Clerks Training Survey 1992

- 4-41
- (9.) The Clerk confirmed that the KCC: HIGHWAYS Road Squads letter and brochure had been posted on notice-boards. The Chairman announced that he had sent a copy of the letter to the Parish Magazine.
 - (10.) The Clerk confirmed that KCC 1993 calendar had been ordered.
 - (11.) The Clerk confirmed that he had conveyed the intention of Cllrs. Page & Knott to attend the Highways Maintenance meeting on July 29th.
 - (12.) The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Mr. Richardson, at Thanington Post Office, as instructed, to express full support by the Parish Council for the forthcoming appeal.
 - (13.) The Chairman reported that the Planning Department had co-operated very well, when requested to direct correspondence to him, during the period of the Clerk's absence.
 - (14.) The Clerk confirmed that the KAPC course, attended by Cllrs. McMillan and Goddard had been paid for well in advance and that he already had the receipt. However, Cllr. Goddard presented the new invoice which he had been given. The Clerk undertook to clarify the situation.
 - (15.) The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Seeboard and had telephoned to WSD, regarding Street Lighting Maintenance, as instructed. A later call to Mr. Morgan, at WSD, indicated that the new Agreement would probably be prepared by November.
 - (16.) On the subject of the possibility of a local sign-writer undertaking the job of titling a Parish notice-board, Cllr. Blackman reported that it seemed unlikely. However, she undertook to report any future response. She advised enquiries elsewhere. She was thanked and this was agreed.
 - (17.) A reply from the Pilgrim's Hospice was read. It expressed appreciation of the donation of the cheque for £25, sent in memory of the late Mrs. Nancy Burton.
 - (18.) The Chairman commented that Miss Eyles was now at home again, but that she had resigned as Secretary of the KAPC (Canterbury Area). Cllr. Page has now taken over that office.
 - (19.) The Clerk confirmed that he had reported that the Strangers Lane grass bank and the footpath between the Tonford bridge and level-crossing, had not been cut. He added that the former had been dealt with almost immediately and that CCC had promised to follow up on the Tonford footpath.
 - (20.) A reply from the CCC Cleansing Inspector was read, referring to loose stones on the footways at the bottom of Strangers Lane. It promised to attend to the matter and the Clerk commented that it had been dealt with, even before he had received this reply.

- (21.) The Clerk confirmed that he had written concerning the dumping of rubbish on Footpath CB 464, as instructed.
- (22.) The Clerk confirmed that he had endeavoured to arrange a meeting between County Cllr. Vye and Cllr. Page, regarding the Kent Structure Plan. The Chairman reported that this had not materialised.
- (23.) The Clerk confirmed that he had credited the amount of £400,00, to the National Savings Bank account, as agreed.
- (24.) The Clerk confirmed that he had written to KCC regarding Gypsy Policy. A reply from KCC was read, stating that our comments were noted and that we would be informed of developments.
- (25.) The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Planning Dept., concerning 64 Strangers Lane, as instructed. This matter was later discussed, under ITEM 6.

3. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

The Chairman proposed that a cheque for £25 be sent to the LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF KENT & CANTERBURY HOSPITAL as a Donation "In Memoriam" previous councillor, the late Mr. R. Eden. This was unanimously agreed

The Chairman also proposed that the confirmation required for the cheque for £487,63, payable to Paice Setters, and for the transfer of £400 to the National Savings account, be included with the proposing and seconding of approval of the following cheques.

K. GODDARD	Travel (Cllrs. Info Hollingbourne) Travel Form signed.	£10,48
D. E. GOULD.	Petty Cash reimbursement	£20,00
GEERINGS.	Paper	£19,33
	inc. VAT	£2,88
	Photocopying	£7,50
	inc. VAT	£1,12
		<u>£26,83</u>

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF KENT & CANTERBURY HOSPITAL £25,00
Donation In memoriam previous councillor, the late Mr. R. Eden.

Approval of the above payments were proposed by Cllr. Page and seconded by Cllr. Blackman and unanimously agreed. The above-named councillors then signed the cheques.

4. FINANCE:

The Clerk explained that he had requested Geerings to arrange for payments of accounts to be made to them by Direct Debit, but that there still appeared to be 'teething problems' in getting that system properly set up. He would persevere.

443
CCC Guidance to Parish Expenses was read out.

Lottery Fund:-

The City Treasurer had stated that the current unallocated balance, on July 24th, was £576. The Chairman read out points from the accompanying Guidance Notes, explaining the significance of balances of more than £1000. The Clerk added that this was a somewhat different interpretation of the £500 limit. The Chairman read out the objectives of the Fund.

The Chairman read a letter regarding the District Lottery Fund: in the matter of Christmas Lighting. The Clerk reported that he had passed a copy to Thanington Post Office, pointing out the dead-line date. There had been no response.

A letter from Nailbourne Scouts was read. It requested help from the Lottery Fund. Reference was made to the Minutes of July 1991 to confirm previous re-action. The Clerk was instructed to reply and request information regarding the number of Thanington residents involved.

A letter from ARCA was read. It requested help from the Lottery Fund. Purchase of a telephone and a new water heater were referred to. Quotations are being sought. The Clerk was instructed to reply to say that the Council would be pleased to consider this matter when figures were available.

Cllr. Knott remarked that the South Ward 'Hilltop Group' had enquired about the position regarding Lottery Fund assistance. She proposed that this could 'hang fire' for the time being and this was agreed.

SEEBOARD: A letter from Seeboard was read, regarding the termination of Maintenance Agreement.

Arrangements regarding strimmer expenses were discussed. A Footpaths Account was proposed for petrol expenses, repairs, insurance etc. This was agreed and also that it need be no more than a separate column in the general ledger. The Clerk observed that this would be required for any future Parish Footpaths Partnership arrangements.

SLCC: Clerks' salary: The Chairman read out that the recommended increase was of 5% from rate of £1,17 to £1,23. The Clerk had informed him that in the case of T.W.P.C. the reduction of C/C payers means that the Clerk's salary increase would actually only be 2,9% i.e. £17,09 per qtr. (£2316,60 to £2384,97 p.a.)

It was proposed by Cllr. Page and seconded by Cllr. Knott that the recommended SLCC rate of £1,23, as from July 1st 1992, be paid.

HARRIS CHARITY: The Chairman referred to a letter he had received from the Official Custodian of Charities, regarding the introduction of new regulations. He had sent a copy to Cllr. Dolby. He hoped that the replacement for Rev. Cox would become the third member of the Trustees. Cllr. Page remarked that most of the new requirements

were, in fact, already being implemented and he thanked the Clerk for his contributions in this connection. The Chairman mentioned that he had written to the Rev. Cox, upon his retirement, thanking him for his past co-operation.

Midland Bank Statements were presented, showing:-
HICA balance: £11397,54
Current a/c : 797,49

After requesting LMS (Lease Management Services Ltd.) to arrange Direct Debit payments, the Clerk had telephoned to ask for notification when debits were processed. Instead, LMS have sent a VAT invoice to 12/8/93. The Clerk commented that this would probably suffice.

The Chairman presented the estimates received from Mr. Tickner, for the provision of a new notice board, with two supports. The amounts were £225,45 or £375,25 (if glazed doors were included). Councillors agreed that this was more than they felt able to accept. The Clerk was instructed to ask Mr. Foster for an estimate for 'patching up' the damaged board i.e. with twin supports to the single up-right and to put on a new front and backing board.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

- BUDGET DIRECT: Catalogue.
- POLICE: Poster A copy was given to Cllr. Knott, for South Ward.
- KTNC: Roadside verges; poster. To be put up, space permitting.
- HELPING THE EARTH BEGINS AT HOME: (noted.)
- KRCC: Village Grant Scheme. (Circulated at Meeting).
Structure Plan Meeting. (Cllr. Page had been unable to attend).
- CCC D of A & E: Cycling in Canterbury: circulated for comments and replied to by the Clerk
- KAPC PARISH NEWS No: 191; circulated. It was confirmed that Cllrs. Page and Blackman would attend as representatives to the KAPC AGM on October 24th.
- TREES FOR KENT: Traditional Orchards. This was circulated at the Meeting and the Clerk was asked to send a copy to the Tree Warden, Glen Sharman
- KAPC: Local Council Admin.)
Kent Structure Plan; 3rd Review) The Chairman read out
Rails, Roads & Reservoirs) these 3 items
Correspondence Scruton/ Environment Sec. Howard (circulated)
- Mid-Kent Coll.: Cert of H.E. Local Counc. Admin. (noted & circulated)
- KRCC: Centenary Community Woodland Project. (Noted & circulated)
- NALC: 'Review' Summer '92 (circulated)
- KRCC: European M.P. Circulated, together with Chairman's note re. possible link with Chartham PC. The Clerk was instructed to write to Chartham PC to sound out interest.
- KCC: Planning: Minerals & Waste Disposal Publications. (noted)
- KCC HIGHWAYS: re. Road squads. (Telephone number noted).
- SLCC: 20th Anniversary celebrations. (noted)
- KAPC CANTERBURY AREA: Agenda & Minutes. New secretary Cllr. Page.
- KAPC: Re: Govt. Consultation Paper on "The Role of PCs & TCs in England" (circulated).

445

KRCC: OAST TO COAST (circulated)
Bulletin (for filing)
'ELEMENTS' copies circulated
'Saving the Earth After Rio' (to be circulated).
KCC Planning: 'Publications' (to be circulated)

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Usual Agenda & Minutes received by Clerk, passed to Chairman and no Thanington details noted. The Clerk had duplicated from Agenda Pp 17 - 19 Planning Application " Ground Rules." These were distributed.

Golf Course Application. A letter from Torbeau Developments was read. It was a belated reply to the Chairman's invitation to the Open Meeting.

Cllr. Knott made a request that consideration be given to any future meeting being held at St. Faiths.

CA/92/0519/THA. North side of 2 The Birches, Iffin Lane. REFUSED.

CA/92/0464/THA Rose Brae, Iffin Lane REFUSED

CA/92/0636/THA 35 New House Close; Erection of front extension. Circularised and replied to by Chairman, in Clerk's absence. "No objections". GRANTED.

CA/92/0472/THA 17 Ashenden Close. GRANTED

Car repair works at 64 Strangers Lane. A reply from Planning Dept. was read.

At 8.35 the Chairman adjourned the meeting and invited Mr. Woodgate, of 64 Strangers Lane, to speak. Subsequently the Chairman read the background correspondence.

At 8.40 the Meeting was resumed.

It was proposed by the Chairman and unanimously agreed that the Clerk be instructed to reply to Mr. McConechy's letter (Planning Dept.) stating that the Parish Council could not provide records to counter Mr. Woodgate's claim that the level of his business had remained constant.

CA/92/0697 & 0698/CAN sent to Thanington as adjacent to development. Thanington Pumping Station and part of Wincheap Farm. Circularised and summary sent in by Clerk stating "Refuse on grounds of traffic".

CA/92/0756/CAN also sent, TWPC being adjacent Parish. Park and Ride site. Brett's allotment area. Circulated. The Clerk had summarised as APPROVE, with proviso of writing again after meeting. No change was proposed.

7. REPORTS:

Cllr. Page gave an outline report of a meeting about CCC Maintenance of Highways held on July 29th 1992, which he and Cllr. Knott had attended. A full copy of his notes is on file with the Clerk

The Chairman also reported on having attended a meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch, on July 18th, and referred to the new sub-division into four areas.

Details are on file with the Clerk.

8. STREET LIGHTING: Commenting that nothing more appeared to have been done about improvements, Cllr. Goddard proposed that all lighting under Parish control, that does not at present come on between dusk and dawn, should be altered so to do.

The Clerk reminded councillors about the timing of budget considerations and the current arrangements to probably transfer the maintenance agreement.

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to WSD to request an estimate for the changes proposed by Cllr. Goddard.

Cllr. Blackman raised the question of the proposed new lighting at the top of Grays Way. The Clerk undertook to enquire about this at the same time.

9. NOTICE BOARD: This topic has already been covered under Agenda Item 4. FINANCE10. PARISH AFFAIRS:

The Clerk reported that he had written to 189 Ashford Road, re overhanging shrubbery, as requested by the Chairman. Cllr. Page reported that it had been trimmed immediately

The Chairman referred to the contents of his contributions to ARCA Newsletters. The Clerk commented on there being no dates on Newsletters and it was agreed that he should mention this fact.

The Clerk had reported a light failure outside 20 Manor Close, at a local resident's request.

Cllr. Blackman had been asked to draw attention to the fact that a Segas van was very often parked, somewhat inconsiderately, on the junction of Grays Way and Tonford Lane. The Clerk was instructed to write about this, in the first instance, to Segas. Cllr. Blackman undertook to supply the Clerk with the registration number of the vehicle.

Cllr. Knott reported that the seat had been replaced in South Ward, after a very long interval. She thanked Cllr. Stokes for having offered his services in this connection.

Whilst recognising that it was not directly a Parish matter, Cllr. Knott commented on general attitudes of resentment over the new system of parking charges, as introduced by the CCC. After some discussion, the Clerk was instructed to write to CCC to express the fact that the Parish Council does not approve of their new system of parking charges.

Cllr. Knott also offered a Post Bus Guide, for the Clerk to keep on file. This was circulated.

Cllr. Stokes mentioned the fact that glass in the Strangers Lane bus shelter was now broken. The Clerk was asked to report this. He also drew attention to various grants to parishes, referred to in CCC Minutes. He recommended, for consideration, a grant for clearance of the unsightly triangle of land at the junction of Cockering Road and the Footpath CC59. As well as making it more attractive, perhaps a seat could be provided. The idea was unanimously approved, in principle, and the Clerk was instructed to raise the matter with CCC.

Cllr. Goddard asked if anything was known about intentions to plant replacement trees for those taken away from Strangers Close, some time ago. The Clerk was instructed to write to CCC Estates Department, to enquire.

The Chairman referred to the matter of difficulties at 'Thanington News' about which Mr. Richardson, the sub-postmaster, had written. He reported that Mr. Richardson had subsequently informed him that there would be an Appeal, held on September 30th.

At 9.10, the Chairman adjourned the Meeting and invited Mr. Richardson to speak. He did so, at some length, outlining the history of his long struggle with CCC and the Rating Authority, which he considered to have been dealt with most tardily and unsatisfactorily. Although some adjustments had been made, he still felt that he was being unfairly treated. He listed many factors which he felt impinged on the assessment. He concluded by asking the Parish Council for their support with the Appeal. The Chairman resumed the Meeting at 9.25.

The Chairman proposed that the Clerk should write a letter expressing strong support for Mr. Richardson, emphasizing the value of the shop and Post Office to the local community. There was full agreement. The Chairman wished Mr. Richardson well, with his Appeal. The Clerk asked Mr. Richardson to supply him with details of a name and address to whom his letter should be directed. Mr. Richardson undertook to supply this.

The Chairman then referred to a collection of some 500 signatures which Mr. Richardson had gathered in support of an attempt to endeavour to persuade authorities to provide a safer road-crossing facility near the junction of Grays Way and the A28.

The Chairman outlined the historical background to a previous, unsuccessful attempt to have a Pelican Crossing provided. This had been decided on the grounds of there being an insufficient number of pedestrians crossing the road. Cllr. Page expressed his opinion that it was our duty to support this representation of local concern and to ask again for a Pelican crossing. This was agreed and the Clerk was so instructed.

Cllr. Goddard asked that his opinion, that the Parish was not getting its fair share of finances from the CCC funds, be specifically minuted.

11. FOOTPATHS:

The Clerk reported that the Strimmer had been delivered to his address, just one hour before holiday departure, despite instructions to deliver to Cllr. Stokes. This was sorted out upon the Clerk's return. It is now with Cllr. Stokes, who reported that it had been used.

The Clerk had already phoned to thank Shell before his departure. During his absence a Report about Shell Better Britain had appeared in a local newspaper. Upon receiving an explanatory note from Cllr. Williams, the Clerk had subsequently written to thank Shell, promising a report at some future date..

The Clerk recommended that perhaps decisions upon the two following items could be deferred until the October meeting and Cllr. Williams is present:-

Parish Paths Partnership.

KCC Highways: Public Rights of Way - Regular Maintenance Programme, requests required by Oct. 31st '92

It was agreed to place these items on the next Agenda.

Similarly a package from KCC concerning Footpaths, which had been received on the day of the meeting, would be circulated and discussed at the October meeting.

The Chairman referred to the fact that the Clerk had raised the matter of the possibility of arrangements being made for him to not attend the June 1993 meeting. Cllr. Knott proposed that, in 1993, June could become the holiday-break month, instead of the traditional August recess. This was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk thanked Councillors for their co-operation.

12. KENT STRUCTURE PLAN:

Letter from KCC Planning re: Radio Kent broadcast on September 23rd, was read by the Chairman.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that KCC had requested any comments on the Third Review: Consultation Document, to be made by September 25th. No specific comments were made.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW: There was nothing new to discuss.

At 9.40, before closing, the Chairman again adjourned the Meeting, in order to provide an opportunity for remaining local electors to speak.

Mr. Epps related an incident when he had observed a ten-ton lorry drive into the Larkey Valley Woods car-park area and continue along the pathway to the area occupied by 'travellers'. He felt that this should not be tolerated and requested the Parish Council to attempt to get authorities to prevent such use of the pathway.

Cllr. Stokes added that a gate had been placed across the path, leading through to Chartham. A discussion continued, with reference to aggressive dogs and people avoiding walking in the area.

Albeit that the area occupied by 'travellers' is, strictly speaking, outside the Thanington Without Parish, the Clerk was instructed to write to the CCC about this, as a matter of considerable Parish concern

Mr. Potts stated that he had not heard any further from Cllr. Dolby about his attempts to assist with a long list of complaints which stretched back over some 16 months. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr. Dolby, to enquire if he had had any response.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY OCTOBER 12th 1992 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45 p.m.

G.P.S.
12.10.92