

## MINUTES

of  
THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
held at

Ashford Road Community Association Clubhouse, Thanington Without,  
on Monday, June 12th , 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mr. I. Bain, Mrs. P. Blackman, Mr. G. Page Mr. J. Potts, Mr. A. Pringle, Mr. K. Stokes and the Clerk.

Also present was local elector Mr. Terence Maple, of 4 New House Close, at the invitation of Cllr. Pringle [South Ward]

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr. McMillan who was away on holiday, Cllr. Furness who was indisposed and Cllr. Goddard who was on holiday. All of these apologies were accepted.

**.CHAIRMAN:** Cllr. Mr. G. Page.

*Before opening the meeting, the Chairman extended a warm welcome to Mr. Maple, who was attending to observe the meeting.*

( 1.) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** These were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman, as a correct record.

( 2.) **MATTERS ARISING**

[ 1.] The Clerk confirmed that all cheques approved at the May meeting have been despatched.

[ 2.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to Neil Stott , Head of Community Development, to request financial assistance.

[ 3.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to CCC Principal Environment Services Officer to express appreciation for the action taken and to report Cllr. Blackman's comments about litter bins near Tonford Bridge..  
A response from Mr. Wallis was read out by the Chairman.

[ 4.] The Clerk confirmed that he had telephoned to CCC Highways and reported that nothing had yet been done. about the reported two pot holes outside 35 Grays Way and the dip outside 3 Grays Way . He was informed that the Inspector had been absent and that the message would be passed on.  
Cllr. Bain commented that the dip had been attended to, but not the pot-holes. The Clerk undertook to contact Highways again about this matter.

[ 5.] The Clerk confirmed that he has provided those councillors absent from the May meeting with copies the proposed Standing Orders.

[ 6.] The Clerk confirmed that he has returned the questionnaire: "Liaison with Police Survey" , duly completed.

[ 7.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to CCC Planning to recommend APPROVAL of Applications CA/00/0346/THA 73 New House Lane; CA/00/0342/THA Tonford Lodge,

[ 8.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to Mr. McDonald about CA/00/0237/THA Land opposite Manor Close, Cockering Road., to advise him that the Application has been REFUSED.

[ 9.] The Clerk confirmed that he has sent to Cllr. Pringle a copy of the letter from THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE: regarding the Appeal against refusal of CA/99/080/THA , 76 New House Lane.  
Decision: Appeal dismissed.

[10.] Regarding the Men of the Trees Competition entry, the Clerk confirmed that the cheque in payment of

the entrance fee has been despatched.

[11.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to Mr. Gordon Walker in reply to his letter Re: Large Scale Development in Thanington.

[12.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to Shaw & Sons to order a copy of the new "The Parish Councillors Guide" and enclosed a cheque for £12.50.

**( 3). APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Before dealing with the general approval, the Chairman referred to the Clerk's recommendation to TRANSFER £2,000.00 from HSBC to National Savings Investment a/c. This was then proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Bain and unanimously agreed.

Note: The Clerk's salary cheque of April 10th for £1220.21 had become lost in the post and a stop was placed on it, by the Clerk per telephone, on May 11th. It had not been presented for payment. The Clerk received a replacement cheque, signed by Cllrs. Page and Bain on 11/5.

D.E.GOULD. Travel Claim for KAPC Clerks' Info. Course.	£19.40
KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCS) Photocopier Ricoh UK Ltd. Including VAT £15.13	£101.53
D. E.GOULD: Reimbursement for payment to Petty Cash	£20.00
POST OFFICE COUNTERS LTD. Transfer to National Savings	£2,000.00

Payment of these amounts was proposed by Cllr. Page, seconded by Cllr. Pringle and unanimously agreed. The cheques were then signed by the named councillors

( 4) **FINANCES:** HSBC Statement of the Treasurer a/c showing balance of £8,976,60 at 12 /05/00, including gross interest of £ 6.08 to 11/05/00 .

STANDING ORDERS: A draft having being circulated to all councillors, as agreed at the last meeting, the Clerk apologised for a few typographical errors which he would correct in the accepted version. The Chairman then invited and suggested alterations to the draft. There were no recommended changes. The Chairman proposed, Cllr. Bain seconded and it was unanimously agreed that draft be approved in its entirety. The Clerk undertook to circulate copies.

INLAND REVENUE Reminder received re: End of Year Returns. Already sent. The Clerk telephoned and received confirmation of receipt.

DISTRICT AUDIT: Notice of Audit. Documents requested by 24/7/00. Chairman or Clerk to attend at 4 p.m. on 3/4/00 (presumably a typo for 3/8/00. This error corrected in follow-up letter) Meanwhile, the Clerk has telephoned to endeavour to arrange alternative arrangements, especially for collection.

District Audit have sent a new Notice for depositing on July 13th and collecting September 18th 2000.

Notice of Audit posted on Notice Board 25/05/00 and copy sent to Cllr. Pringle for South Ward board.

The Clerk presented A Record of Internal Auditing and a certificate confirming that the strimmer is in good condition and located at 30 Manor Close, required for the Audit. These were signed by the Chairman and Cllr. Stokes respectively.

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP: Cheque for £103 will be sent from Finance Section (See also Item (10.) FOOTPATHS.

ARCA Re: Hiring Charges. Also request for date of Annual Parish Meeting 2001.

An acceptable date mid-way between the April & May meetings was sought and April 24th was agreed upon. The Clerk undertook to inform Margaret Nicholson, ARCA Secretary.

SEEBOARD: Cheque for £31.37 received as refund for April's Direct Debit which is no longer applicable. This has been paid in to the bank.

KCC Cheque for £103 received for PPP grant; paid in to HSBC.

INTERNAL AUDIT: The Chairman confirmed that he had carried out a check on the reconciliation of the bank balance.

( 5.) **CORRESPONDENCE:** CCC MINUTES were received and forwarded to the Chairman for further circulation.

KCC (KCS) Office Essentials Catalogue, Budget Beaters & Amendments to Year's Catalogue.

CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT: May 2000 Issue 9.

NLCC Local Council Review: May 2000. Circulated

KENT COUNTY CONSTABULARY: Parish Council Forum on Thursday 29/6 at 19.30.

Forwarded to Cllr. Bain. The Clerk was informed by telephone that Neighbourhood representatives would not be included (they have their own forum) and that, in any case, only one representative is expected from each parish.

CCC: NEWS from CCC. S.E.E.D.A. Chairman heads Millennium Lecture. and Council was right to act over fraud suspicion.

SLCC KENT BRANCH: Notification of a meeting on 28/6 at Sandling. The Clerk has sent his apologies.

CCC: BOB PORTER, re: Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre Steering Group, meeting Agenda for 19/6 followed by public meeting at ; also minutes of 15/5

CCC HIGHWAYS UNIT: Village Traffic Plans/Local Traffic Regulations Orders

Implementation Programme. The Clerk reported that he had telephoned to Mr. Andy

Philips to query the "No comments received" from the Parish Council. He was told that this would be corrected to all attending the next meeting and the Parish Council's participation be recognised. He also commented that a late development indicated that concern over traffic on the A28 in the west of Chartham MAY lead to extension of the 40 mph limit from there into Thanington.

JULIAN BRAZIER M. P.: Conservative Consultation Paper on Strengthening Parish Councils. Any comments by 17/7/00

The Chairman read out the five page document and then asked for suggestions for comments to be made in reply. It was agreed that Clerk should write and welcome the following proposals:-

1. Parish Council Guarantee. *Parish Councils must not be weakened or undermined.*
3. New Parish Councils. *It should be easier to create new parish councils in unparished areas.*
5. Lower Auditing Costs. *Small parish councils should not face excessive auditing costs*
7. Power over planning. *We will give parish councils a greater role in planning decisions.*

KENT HIGHWAYS: The Highways Maintenance Plan; A Guide 1999. Copies circulated to all councillors.

KCC STRATEGIC PLANNING; Kent Minerals Local Plan Review- Draft Project Report.

QUILL: Catalogue

KAPC: Parish News No: 265

Clerks' Salaries Recommended scales.

Members Allowances. Revised rates from 1-4-00

Developing Community ; Democracy & Partnership.

Councillors' Information Day 22/7 at Ryarsh Community Safety in Rural Communities

Kent Volunteers Awards

Subscription and Review payment receipts.

Clerks' Info Day 16/5 receipt.

CCC: Supply of Council Minutes. Dates of CCC Minutes and notice of charge for postal

delivery. £10.00 to be processed for next meeting, if approved.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Stokes and unanimously agreed that £10.00 be paid to CCC for this delivery.

KCC: Kentish Fare Chronicle: Issue 5 (to be circulated)

KRCC: Rural News Issue 24.

“So You’re to be a Parish Councillor..?” Meeting at Harrietsham, 18/7

Rural Life Conference. Colchester 18-19-20 Sept.

“Can my community benefit from a Local Heritage Initiative Project?” Harrietsham

Wednesday 5/7

RAISE [Regional Action & Involvement South East]

Rural Problems Countryside Solutions. Woking 15/6

KCC: Kent Volunteers Awards.

[to be circulated]

CCC: Agenda for Extraordinary Meeting on 15/6/00.

SLCC: Updated & latest salary agreement for Clerks, as from April 1st 2000.

Also enclosed a questionnaire, Audit of Clerks.

- ( 6) **PLANNING:** CA/00/0436/THA 3 New House Lane Erection of detached dwelling with integral garage and replacement garage for use by 4, New House Lane. (REVISED scheme) [Circulated] Notice of withdrawal received.

CA/00/0395/THA 9 New House Close.

Two-storey side extension to dwelling. [Circulated and completed by 8 councillors, all suggested approval. The Clerk telephoned to inform CCC]

Application GRANTED

CAL/00/ 0052/THA Tonford Manor, Tonford Lane.

Installation of two dormer windows and one rooflight. [Circulated and completed by 7 councillors, all suggested approval. The Clerk telephoned to inform CCC]

CCC MINUTES & AGENDA for meeting on 23/5/00 forwarded to the Chairman.

CCC: Acknowledgement of letter of 11.5.00 re: Applications.

CA/00/0346/THA 73 New House Lane. GRANTED.

CA/00/0507/CAN: Park & Ride Site, Land south-west of The Old Gate Inn, New Dover Road.

Revised layout to allow access and egress from proposed Canterbury College development. (Circulated)

The Clerk was instructed to recommend APPROVAL.

CA/99/1022/THA Milton Manor Application GRANTED,

CA/00/0467/THA 124 Ashford Road

Two-storey rear extension to dwelling (Circulated)

The Clerk was instructed to recommend REFUSAL.

CA/00/0342/THA 11 Grays Way GRANTED.

- ( 7.) **REPORTS ARCA:** The Annual General Meeting of ARCA was held on May 10th. The Chairman had attended and he presented a report on the activities of the Parish Council.. When asked for her comments about that meeting, Cllr. Blackman responded in positive terms, with some reservations about acoustics

Cllrs. Page & Potts and the Clerk were present at the Drop-in Centre [ to be named The Thanington Neighbourhood Research Centre] Steering Group meeting, held on Monday 15th. Cllr. Blackman attended as an ARCA representative. An impression was expressed May that too

much was being left in the hands of the various departmental officers and that the meetings by those more directly concerned was regrettable and a matter of running of the Centre; a new Manager would require considerable, initial

non-attendance at concern for the future help and guidance.

The Clerk attended the Clerks' Information Day KAPC meeting in Teynham on Tuesday May 16th.

One outcome of the Clerk's attendance was that he has subsequently distributed to all councillors a copy of the National Code of Local Government Conduct, by which they have previously agreed to abide. He also referred to a few other minor matters about which he was pleased to have heard and he expressed his appreciation at being permitted to attend and keep in touch with current developments.

(8.) **STREET LIGHTING:** SEEBOARD: Re: Supplies. No longer applicable. The Clerk advised.

(9.) **PARISH AFFAIRS:** Mr. Tony Martin has supplied the Clerk with a key to the new ARCA Clubhouse and also to the alarm system.

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Bain had supplied him with a copy of his letter [written as a local resident] to Supt. Chidley, regarding unruly behaviour by youths around his home.

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Goddard had informed him of damage to a BT man-hole cover in the footway opposite 71 Thanington Road. The Clerk had immediately informed BT by telephone.

The Clerk referred to the Thanington Partnership Bulletin June 2000 and a flyer from Thanington Residents' Association, which have been sent out to residents.

Some councillors commented that they had not received these because they do not live in the area "approved" for distribution. It was felt that this is a matter of unfair discrimination. The Clerk offered to circulate the copies which he had received as a resident.

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Blackman had informed him that the grass areas around Tonford Bridge were badly in need of strimming. The Clerk told her that he had recently been in touch with Mike Ellis, PROW Officer, and that he had promised that this would be attended to. Cllr. Blackman undertook to monitor the situation.

Cllr. Blackman commented that no clearing had been carried out. The Clerk undertook to contact Mike Ellis again and request urgent action.

She also referred to the increase in the number of vehicles parked near the bridge. She thought that many were fisherman who then climbed over the gate on which Bretts had recently installed a new padlock. The Clerk undertook to speak to Mr. Sherlaker, at Bretts.

The Clerk reported on his conversation with Mr. Sherlaker, who had undertaken to inform the Farm Manager.

Discussion revealed that there was much fishing in the "lakes" and not only the river and that this was the probable reason for entry from Tonford. Cllr. Blackman asked if permits were required for this. She also queried if it would be possible to have a sign erected to inform drivers to leave the footpath clear when parking vehicles.

The Clerk undertook to contact Messrs Sherlaker and Ellis about these matters.

Cllr. Page read out an extract from a recent issue of Kentish Gazette with the announcement that permission had been granted for the Wincheap Park & Ride car park to be used for Boot Fairs at specific times.

He also asked if other members had seen press reference to the use of the now dismantled bridge, which previously linked the BHS & multi-storey car park, as a bridge over the Stour. Comments considered that it was currently situated near the Community Centre and may be used in connection with a new cycle path.

Cllr. Blackman referred to excessive traffic noise cause by vehicles passing over a loose man-hole cover situated in Ashford Road, opposite number 72. The Clerk undertook to report this and also to mention a similar condition outside 85 Thanington Road.

Cllr. Bain returned to the matter of shrubbery protruding over the footway near Milton Bridge, now on both sides. Cllr. Blackman added her criticisms. The Clerk undertook to write to CCC and to request a *more severe* cut-back.

Cllr. Pringle spoke at some length, and with strong feeling, about the continuing problems with Highways Department and the South Ward area.

He referred to the Oast House bend in Hollow Lane and the badly pot-holed condition, adding that a resident at 9 New House Close had damaged his car's wheel and tyre and that he would be claiming from CCC for damages. Cllr. Pringle added that he would be supporting his claim.

He commented on repairs to a reported pot-hole, carried out on Wednesday June 7th and which was already crumbling on Monday June 12th, and that there had been no rainfall to cause this.

He considers CCC Highways to be negligent. He made several more comments and it was ultimately agreed that the Clerk should write another strong letter of complaint to the Director and to state that the Parish Council was considering informing the local press with its extreme dissatisfaction with Highways attention to many and various matters in the neglected South Ward.

Cllr. Pringle also raised the matter of the overgrown state of the elevated footpath alongside Hollow Lane. The Clerk informed him that this would also be referred to Mike Ellis when he contacted him and would be included in his letter to the Director of Highways.

Cllr. Potts referred to having seen, in connection with a recycling project, that compost bins were advertised for £15. He had been unsuccessful, so far, in finding out more details, but would continue to enquire and would report back.

Cllr. Stokes referred to the damage being caused by youngsters climbing the fence which separates properties in Manor Close and Strangers Lane, along much of its length, especially the central part. The Clerk undertook to report this matter to CCC.

Cllr. Stokes also commented that Cockering Road is still been regularly and illegally used as a two-way traffic road, by cars and vans. The problem was connected with Bretts access road, the gate to which has not been repaired. The Clerk undertook to contact Mr. Sherlaker and the Police about this matter.

- (10.) **FOOTPATHS:** KCC: Parish Paths Partnership. The Chairman read out a letter from Michael Ellis PRWO. His comments about the reduced amount of the grant and continuation with current BTCV arrangements were noted; as were his comments about footpath clearance.

KCC: Kent Trails. Kent PRW newsletter. Issue 1, to be circulated.

KCC: Kent Trails.....another copy.

- (11.) **TREES:** BTCV: re: Kent Tree Wardens and the role of the Town or Parish Council and BTCV. A questionnaire enclosed. Request for a contribution, suggesting £75.

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should reply, stating that the Council are currently considering whether to continue their current arrangements with BTCV and would be making their decision before next year's renewal. At present they are not in a position to make a contribution but would then review the position, although it was unlikely to be such a large amount as suggested.

The Clerk also undertook to complete and return the annual pro-forma which lists current details about the Tree Warden in our Parish

- (12.) **PARISH MEETING,** As previously stated, a date for the 2001 meeting at the ARCA Clubhouse has been agreed as April 24th 2001 and the Clerk undertook to inform the ARCA Secretary.

*Before closing the meeting, the Chairman explained the reason for Mr. Maple's attendance. He referred to Cllr. Macmillan's agreement to continue as a councillor on the condition that an effort was made to find a replacement. She and Cllr Pringle had so endeavoured and Mr. Maple had expressed an interest and willingness. The Chairman explained the procedure required; Cllr. McMillan's resignation, advertisement of the vacancy, 14 days for a request for a poll and if no applications were forthcoming then the Council could co-opt a new member.*

*He asked Mr. Maple if he had any questions or comments to make. Mr. Maple referred briefly to his background and his long association with the Parish. He expressed his willingness to make a contribution towards the good of the local community.*

*The Chairman then outlined some details about meetings and the amount of reading material which is circulated for councillors'l attention. He concluded by thanking Mr.Maple for attending.*

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on Monday, July 10th 2000 at 7.30 p.m. in the ARCA Clubhouse.

**CLOSURE :** There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 p. m.