

MINUTES
of
THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at

Ashford Road Community Association Clubhouse, Thanington Without,
on Monday, July 10th , 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mr. I. Bain, Mrs. P. Blackman, Mr. G. Furness, Mr. K. Goddard, Mr. G. Page ,
Mr. J. Potts, Mr. K. Stokes, the Clerk and one local elector..

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cllr. Pringle who was delayed in Paris, His apology was accepted.

The Chairman explained that he had received Cllr. McMillan's resignation, dated July 8th. and that consequently she would not be attending this meeting.

The Clerk was asked to write on behalf of the Council to express gratitude for her years of conscientious service.

CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Mr. G. Page.

(1.) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** These were unanimously approved

(2.) **MATTERS ARISING:**

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

[2.] The Clerk confirmed that, following Cllr. Stokes reference to the damage being caused by youngsters climbing the fence which separates properties in Manor Close and Strangers Lane, he has reported this matter to CCC. The Chairman read out a reply from CCC Senior Valuer Development & Planning Property Services saying that the matter is being attended to by Housing Services. A letter from Mike Walkling, Area Manager, Housing Services was also read out.

[3.] The Clerk reported that he has returned the circulated form with comments, requested by KCC Policy Manager Graeme Brown.

[4.] Regarding ARCA Hiring Charges and request for date of Annual Parish Meeting 2001, the Clerk confirmed that he had signed and returned the form to Margaret Nicholson, ARCA Secretary and had received confirmation that Tuesday 24/4/01 from 7. 30 p.m. has been booked.

[5.] The Clerk confirmed that he had written to CCC Highways about the dip outside 3 Grays Way , previously reported. Cllr. Bain commented that this has now been attended to,.

[6.] The Clerk confirmed that he has circulated copies of the corrected Standing Orders, to all councillors, as agreed at the last meeting.

[7.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to Julian Brazier M. P. , regarding the Consultation Paper on Strengthening Parish Councils, as instructed.

[8.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to CCC Planning to recommend APPROVAL of CA/00/0507/CAN: Park & Ride Site, Land south-west of The Old Gate Inn, New Dover Road. The Clerk also confirmed that he has written to CCC Planning to recommend REFUSAL of CA/00/0467/THA 124 Ashford Road.

[9.] The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Messrs Sherlaker about the question of fishing permits. Apparently this is dealt with by the River Board and not Bretts.

[10.] The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to Messrs Sherlaker about the problem of two-way traffic along Cockerling Road. He also spoke to the Police after Mr. Sherlaker commented on his response from them.

The Police are investigating and making a site visit.

- [11.] The Clerk reported on his conversation with Mike Ellis, about the Tonford Bridge area. This had been disappointing and frustrating, but he hoped to get something arranged in time to report at this meeting.

Mr. Ellis will have a sign erected to inform drivers to leave the footpath clear when parking vehicles near the bridge.

The Clerk contacted Mr. Sherlaker about the condition of the Tonford footpath area. Mr. Sherlaker reminded about the decision to move the fence which had upset Mr. Phil Harding (Brett's Farms Manager). [01227 731364 & mobile 0467 212318] He suggested contacting Mr. Harding as he had, at the time, only agreed to the present position of the fence on condition that KCC were responsible for clearing the whole area. The Clerk had contacted PROW Officer, Mr. Hutchinson. about this subject. Mr. Hutchinson agreed to arrange clearance of the whole width, in future.

The Clerk also spoke to Mr. Harding about letting Mr. Hutchinson have any available written confirmation of KCC's undertaking. Mr. Harding raised the question of possible Stour Valley Project involvement. The Clerk spoke to Jon Shelton who said that the installation of the seating and the planting of trees in the area was only a one-off and that they would not undertake regular, long-term clearance projects.

Cllr. Blackman said that she thought that Jon Shelton had withdrawn from the grass cutting involvement because off the amount of fouling by dogs.

- [12.] The Clerk has reported the excessive traffic noise cause by vehicles passing over a loose man-hole cover situated in Ashford Road, opposite No: 72.
- [13.] Regarding the matter of shrubbery protruding over the footway near Milton Bridge, the Clerk confirmed that he has written to CCC and requested a *more severe* cut-back. This has still not been attended to.
- [14.] The Clerk confirmed that he has complied with the instruction that he should write another strong letter of complaint to the Director of CCC Highways and 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.
- [15.] The Clerk confirmed that he had also raised the matter of the overgrown state of the elevated footpath alongside Hollow Lane. when speaking to Mike Ellis as well as including it in his letter to the Director of Highways. CCC cannot undertake any work there, for financial reasons.
- [16.] The Clerk confirmed that he has replied to BTCV, 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.
- [17.] The Clerk has completed and returned the annual pro-forma which lists current details about the Tree Warden in our Parish
- [18.] A reply was received from Julian Brazier M. P., which was read out by the Chairman. The Clerk reported that he has already forwarded the copy of the letter to CCC Highways, which had been requested.

- [19.] The Clerk commented on the position concerning clearance of the Tonford and Elevated footpaths. After confusing and frustrating attempts, the situation was resolved on July 4th. Mike Ellis had visited the Tonford site and confirmed that the path had been strimmed for about a yard on each side [also the parking area]. Cllr. Blackman had commented that the impression of the surrounding areas was very disappointing. **The path is due for another cut in August.** Regarding the elevated [Hollow Lane] path, this had been omitted from the KCC contractor's list. After the Clerk's insistence that it had been attended to by KCC [with occasional extra cuts by our own contractor] Mike Ellis agreed to ensure its re-inclusion on the list. He added that he would **include coverage of entire length of the path, as CCC seemed unable to carry out that task.** Meanwhile he recommended us to get our own contractor to deal with the upper part [within the Parish] and to use PPP funds. The Clerk has arranged with Mr. Osborn to attend to this matter and receive payment in

September.

- [20.] The Clerk announced that he has posted a notice of Vacancy for a Councillor on the notice-boards in both Wards.

(3.) APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

NOTE: Before specific approval of payment of the first item, general approval of the salary increase was processed.

CLERK'S SALARY: .Cllr. Page proposed, Cllr. Bain seconded and it was unanimously approved that the Clerk's annual salary for 2000 - 2001 be increased by 3%as from April 1st 2000, in line with NLCC/SLCC recommendations. The Clerk expressed his thanks.

D.E.GOULD Clerk's Salary Apr/May/June	£1232.41
2/3 Telephone rental	<u>£28.88</u>
	£1261.29

INLAND REVENUE Nat. Ins. contributions Apr/May/June	£16.11
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CCC Postage for CCC Minutes for a year.	£10.00
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Cllr.. Page proposed. Cllr. Blackman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the above payments be approved. The cheques were then signed by the named councillors.

- (4) **FINANCES:** HSBC Bank Statements: Treasurer a/c Balance at June 12 £7,477.97, including £8.09 gross interest to 11/6.
Business No-notice a/c Balance at 27/6 £1,225.40, including £14.06 gross interest to 2/6.

DISTRICT AUDIT: The Clerk confirmed that he was prepare for depositing the required materials to the Council Offices on July 13th.

CCC FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER, (Development & Planning) Kathryn Beldon. The Chairman read out her letter. The Clerk telephoned to speak to Mr. Neil Stott to follow up on his unanswered letter of May 10th. Mr. Stott explained the CCC Solicitor's comments about KCC responsibility, but offered less specific hopes for future funding.

- (5.) **CORRESPONDENCE:** CCC COMMUNITY SERVICES. (Bob Porter) Re: Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre Steering Group. Meeting on Monday June 19th.
KENT AIR AMBULANCE TRUST: Re: New TV Documentary and reference to donations.
KENT COUNTY SUPPLIES: Special Offers for Cleaning & Ground Maintenance.
CLLR. EDEN-GREEN: The Chairman read out a letter of apology.
CCC LABOUR GROUP: Re: Periodical Electoral Review. Forwarded to Chairman. Responses by 7/7. The Chairman outlined background information. There were no comments.
CCC Highways Unit. Re: Seating provision. Copied to Chairman.
The Clerk undertook to suggest seating in the Recreation Ground.
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, THANINGTON. An appeal for financial help, in connection with Yew Trees & Lime Trees in the Churchyard, was read out by the Chairman.
The Chairman proposed, Cllr.. Bain seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the sum of £320 be donated., for treatment of the yew and holly trees.
The Clerk undertook to inform Mrs. Martin. The cheque will be processed at the September meeting.
RECORD PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT Ltd., Product 2000 Update & Catalogue.
SHAW & SONS: Delivery of new The Parish Councillors' Guide [17th Edition]. Receipt enclosed. The old copy is passed to the Chairman.
KAPC (Canterbury Area): Agendas for 12/7 received & passed to Cllrs. Bain & Page.
BISHOP Sport & Leisure Catalogue.
Mid Kent Water PLC; Request for contact address details. The Clerk has supplied these and

given Cllrs. Page's & Blackman's 'phone numbers.

KRCC: Council Meeting 21/7 RSVP.

"So you're a Parish Councillor...?" Harrietsham, 18/7

CCC: Street Monitors meeting Agenda for 5/7 and Minutes of 3/5

KCC Central Policy Unit: re: Best Value Performance Plan comments made.

QUILL: Catalogue

KAPC: PARISH NEWS NO: 266, with various enclosures, including:-

2000 National Salary Awards for Local Council Clerks.

Councillors' Information Day 22/7 Ryarsh

An induction course for Clerks.

Maintenance Software Solutions. Savings on Electricity Bills. Advertisement.

Spains Hall Forest Nursery

KCC (KCS) Budget Beaters (catalogue)

JULIAN BRAZIER MP. A reply and request for copy of letter to Highways Director.

CCC Community Service: Public Cleansing Section: Chartermark 2000. Invitation to the Clerk to luncheon on 1/8/00 at 1.00 p.m. Cllr.Blackman will attend in his place.

STAGECOACH HOLDINGS PLC.: Environmental Policy 2000 brochure.

- (6.) **PLANNING:** CA/00/0591 Wincheap Farm, Land between Cockerling Road and New House Lane. Construction of Golf Course & Club House with access from Cockerling Road
NOTE: RENEWAL of CA/97/0780/THA
The Clerk was instructed to write to CCC Planning to recommend APPROVAL.

CA/00/0421/THA Tonford Lodge GRANTED.

CA/00/0467/THA. 124 Ashford Road. Amended plans. Not circulated.

The Clerk had telephoned to Jillian Barr to ask for clarification about changes.

The Clerk was instructed to write to CCC Planning to recommend APPROVAL.

CA/00/0714/THA 1 Grays Way

Porch to rear of dwelling.

The Clerk was instructed to write to CCC Planning to recommend APPROVAL.

At the request A Guide for Householdors of Cllr. Blackman, the Clerk requested up-dated versions of Planning. Three copies have been received and the Clerk has passed copies to the Chairman & Cllr. Blackman.

- (7.) **REPORTS :** Cllrs. Page & Potts and the Clerk attended the Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre Steering Group Meeting on Monday June 19th. Cllr. Blackman was also present as an ARCA representative.

Cllr. Page spoke about the items of business being mainly connected with the election of officers.

He said that it was hoped to have a representative of the Parish Council on the committee and he asked if anyone was willing to stand. As there were no volunteers, he undertook to put his own name forward.

When asked if she had any additional comments to make, Cllr. Blackman remarked that she was concerned by the fact that there were so very few local residents involved and that Council officers were currently bearing the brunt of organisation. She was concerned about future organisation and funding.

Cllr. Bain reported on his meeting with the Police and representatives of other parish councils.

This is to be a regular, quarterly meeting. Cllr.Bain spoke in mainly positive terms about the discussions, although there was a tendency for it to become a forum for airing specific parochial topics. The Police were keen to concentrate on "the way forward" The installations of more cameras was mooted. Cllr. Bain concluded with the very positive news that Thanington was well down in the list of crimes in parishes.

- (8.) **STREET LIGHTING:** *There were no items for discussion.*

- (9.) **PARISH AFFAIRS:** The Clerk reported that he has 'phoned to Stebbings about delivery of the new notice -board, stating that he would very much appreciate delivery before his departure on July

15th. He has also been in touch with Mr. T who informs him (once again) that he hopes to get the work on the seat started in two weeks' time. The Clerk also informed him of his holiday commencing July 15th.

The Chairman reported that two photographs of the demolishing of the old ARCA Clubhouse, supplied by Cllr. Blackman, has been placed in the Minutes book.

Cllr. Page reported that CCC had informed him that Cllr. McCaull would be their representative for the Harris Charity; joining the Vicar and himself.

Cllr. Blackman raised the question of the sudden appearance of so many white lines on roadways. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries about the motivation for this.

Cllr. Bain referred to the overgrowing shrubbery at Milton Bridge. The Clerk undertook to write to CCC yet again.

Cllr. Goddard passed a letter of apology, which he had received from Mrs Ruby Mackenzie, to the Chairman. This was read out.

Cllr. Stokes informed that the bank along Cockering Road, east of Strangers Lane, needed to be cut back and that streetlighting was being obscured. The Clerk undertook to report to CCC.

Cllr. Potts reported that the surface of the footway from Ingoldsby Road through to the playground is in poor condition. He stated that the playground is, as always, in a neglected, uncared for condition. The Clerk undertook to report to CCC.

- (10.) **FOOTPATHS:** The Chairman read out a letter from the Countryside Manager, Kentish Stour Countryside Project, re: Thanington Lakes Path
The Clerk was asked to write to thank Mr. Shelton and to confirm our support.

BTCV: BTCV Training, August 2000 to March 2001. I copy to Cllr. Stokes.

- (11.) **TREES: SPAINS HALL FOREST NURSERY, included in item CORRESPONDENCE**

- (12.) **PARISH MEETING:** The Clerk confirmed that he had advised the ARCA Secretary that it was hoped to hold the Annual Parish Meeting at the Clubhouse on April 24th 2001.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8.43 and asked the local elector present, Mrs. Jones, if she wished to say anything. She asked for any information that there was about the rumours of development between Ashford Road and Cockering Road and expressed the concern that exists amongst several residents. The Chairman assured her that nothing factual was known about this matter and that, following several other similar, previous enquiries the Council had repeatedly raised the question with CCC Planning.

: **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on Monday, September 11th, 2000 at 7.30 p.m. in the ARCA Clubhouse.

CLOSURE : There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.48 p. m.