

THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
held  
Ashford Road Community Association Clubhouse, Thanington Without,  
on Monday January 8th, 2001 at 7.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mr. I. Bain, Mrs. P. Blackman, Mr. G. Furness, Mr. K. Goddard,  
Mr. T. Maple, M. G. Page, the Clerk and one local elector.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs. Pringle, who was detained as his employment, and Stokes, who was unwell These apologies were accepted  
Cllr. Potts was not in attendance and it was understood that he has been unwell since his last attendance in July. As the last apology was received in September, the Chairman read out the section on Persistent Absence, from Local Council Administration, for the information of all councillors.

*The Council wished to convey good wishes to Cllr. Potts for his recovery to better health.  
The Clerk commented that he had conveyed these sentiments at Christmas.*

**CHAIRMAN:** Cllr. Mr. Graham Page.

*The Chairman commenced by thanking Cllr. Blackman for chairing the December meeting in his absence and at short notice.. He added his appreciation for her taking care of the traditional end-of-the-year celebration and for preparing the mince-pies.*

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

( 2.) **MATTERS ARISING:**

- [ 1.] In connection with Tamara Fure's (KCC Environmental Management) visit, the Clerk confirmed that he has received back the file containing a Short History of Thanington, which he had loaned to her. She plans to visit the Parish in the Spring, to take photographs.
- [ 2.] Regarding a repeated request for a road crossing outside Warren Lodge, Ashford Road, the Chairman read out a reply received from CCC Highways Department.
- [ 3.] The Chairman read out a reply from Paula Spencer, Manager of TNRC. thanking for the donation promised towards the Garden Project.
- [ 4.] The Clerk confirmed that the cheques approved at the December meeting have been despatched.
- [ 5.] The Clerk reported that Mr. T. has still not collected the notice-board.
- [ 6.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to CCC Planning Department as instructed, concerning the two developments in New House Lane, and has received an acknowledgement.
- [ 7.] The Clerk referred to Application CA/00/1202/THA (extension of previously approved golf course) which had been circulated with details and returned with no objections. However this was not officially approved or minuted. Upon discovering this fact, the Clerk telephoned to CCC. They were willing to accept this notification, especially in view of its extension status, but require it to be minuted. This is now minuted.
- [ 8.] The Clerk confirmed that he has reported to CCC Housing Department that two wooden fencing panels and a supporting concrete post, in Manor Close, have fallen.
- [ 9.] The Clerk confirmed that he has reported that pot-holes were already appearing in the newly resurfaced Hollow Lane, probably due to the excessive flow of rainwater down the hill, lifting the surface. The Clerk suggested that the contractor be contacted, presumably within the terms of warranty. When telephoning to tend his apologies for non-attendance at this meeting, Cllr. Pringle had asked the Clerk to repeat his concern about the lifting road surface in Hollow Lane. The Clerk assured Cllr. Pringle

that he had written to CCC Highways immediately after the last meeting, but that no response had yet been received.

- [10.] The Clerk reminded that in the matter of the Montessori School, he had been asked to delay writing .
- [11.] The Clerk also reminded that the in the matter of the falls of chalk from the Hollow Lane banks, it was agreed that a further letter be delayed.
- [12.] The Clerk confirmed that he has reported to CCC Highways Department that, at the junction of Iffin Lane & Merton Lane, a considerable quantity of mud has been washed onto the road by the wet, stormy weather, in combination with hedge clearance.
- [13.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to CCC Highways Department and referred to the fact that cyclists using the elevated footpath are now, incredibly, riding down the bank opposite the telephone kiosk, which is obviously extremely dangerous. The Clerk linked this with our previous requests for repairs to the protective fence.

The Chairman read out a reply, received 5/1/01

The Clerk mentioned that he had referred this reply to Cllr. Pringle when he had telephoned his apologies.

There was general objection to this very unhelpful reply and the Clerk was instructed to convey this reaction to the Highways Manager. It was stated that the fence is now virtually non-existent in many places and that some protection/prevention is definitely needed. The Parish Council regard this to be CCC or KCC responsibility..

Cllr. Maple queried the position regarding cycling on the elevated footpath. Whilst recognising the dangers of cycling on the narrow roadway, he thought that there was a No Cycling notice which referred to the footpath.

*At this point, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow Mr. Jennier, a South Ward local elector, to comment. Mr. Jenner stated that he thought there was such a sign in New House Lane. The Clerk undertook to include this query in his letter to CCC Highways.*

*The Chairman re-opened the meeting.*

- [14.] The Clerk confirmed that he has referred, to Railtrack, the matter of the more northerly of the Tonford level crossing gates, where the tension which causes them to close has become slack and needs attention.
- Cllrs. Blackman & Bain had both visited the level crossing recently and whilst agreeing that there was perhaps slight improvement in the movement of the gate, they could not see any signs of there having been any repair or maintenance being carried out. The Clerk undertook to contact Railtrack again. It was acknowledged that Railtrack is currently under a great work load.
- [15.] The Clerk confirmed that he has informed CCC Highways that there are several potholes in Strangers Close, mainly outside number 11. Cllr. Goddard said that nothing has yet been repaired.
- [16.] The Clerk confirmed that he has sent letters to the occupiers and stated that shrubbery is overhanging from both 60 & 62 Strangers Lane. Cllr. Goddard commented that at No: 62 the hedge had been trimmed back.
- [17.] The Clerk reported that he has written to Miss Paula Spencer, the Manager at TNRC, to enquire if she would be willing to be the guest speaker, at the Parish Meeting in April 2001. She has responded in the affirmative.
- [18.] The Chairman read out a letter from CCC Highways Department, written in reply to enquiries about salt bins and also future resurfacing of the remainder of Hollow Lane, Iffin Lane & Merton Lane.

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

D. E.GOULD Clerk's salary Oct/Nov/Dec 2000

£1232.41

2/3 Telephone rental

£28.90  
£1261.31

NOTE:- Not included in Agenda.

INLAND REVENUE National Insurance £16.11

It was proposed by Cllr. Page, seconded by Cllr. Bain and unanimously agreed that this cheque be paid. The cheques were then signed by the named councillors.

- ( 4.) **FINANCES** HSBC: Statement for Treasurer Account showing Balance of £4557.98 at 12/12/00 including £4.56 gross interest to 11/12/00. NOTE: Paid cheque 100551 for £45.10 not yet returned.[Photocopy later received 20/12]

HSBC Statement of Business No-Notice a/c. Balance at 27/12/00 £1,238.98 including Gross Interest of £6.85 on 30/11/00.

The Chairman confirmed having conducted an Internal Audit on 5/1/01

The Clerk reported that CCC (Mr. Kennet?) telephoned to check that the amount of the Precept request was correct. The Clerk confirmed that it was. Positive comments were made about the wise action of Mr. Kennet in querying the figure.

- ( 5.) **CORRESPONDENCE:** CCC: Local Government Act 2000 ; Notice of Verification Number; Poster for notice-board..

GLASDON: Catalogue. Further information on litter collection requested.

TNRC: A notice of achievements in 2000 and plans for 2001 has been received.

KENT TRAILS: Two copies of Issue 2 received. The Clerk telephoned to ask about Issue 1. That back issue will be forwarded and future issues. [Issue 1 now received]

KAPC: PARISH NEWS No: 270 [circulated]

Rospa; re: Children's Playgrounds

PFIZER: Community Newsletter December 2000 (circulated)

SLCC: Re: Annual Conference in York on 20-22/4/01

KAPC (Canterbury Area) : Notice of next meeting on 10/1/01. Cllrs.. Page & Bain had been advised.

CCC: Advertisement for Clerk to Governing Body of Chaucer Technology School.

- ( 6.) **PLANNING:** CCC Planning. Acknowledgements re: 1219/THA and 1261/THA

Committee Services Unit; Correction of Item 8 in Report on Planning Applications: CA/00/07/LHA

The Clerk commented that there were 23 Planning Applications considered during the year 2,000. Of these 22 were for /THA. That is the highest /THA figure since 1989 when there were 26.

Supplementary Report 9/1/01. Further representations.

- ( 7.) **REPORTS:** There was none.

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

- ( 9.) **PARISH AFFAIRS:** The Clerk commented that the average attendance of local electors at Parish Council Meetings, during the year 2000, was 0.63 persons.

The Chairman read out a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Jude, thanking the Council for the flowers sent in recognition of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. He added his thanks to Cllr.. Blackman for having arranged this.

Cllr. Bain referred to the fact that surveying had been carried out in Tonford Lane. Cllr. Goddard

commented that this had recently also been carried out in nearby places. No specific explanation was given.

Cllr. Bain also referred to the on-going youth problems in the Tonford Lane area. He said that a local lady resident had again been pestered. He had spoken to the parents of the youth(s) involved and the parents had given assurances that it would not happen again. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Bain for his actions.

Cllr. Bain commented on the increasing amount of unsightly rubbish on the land between the old Community Centre building and the A2. The Clerk said that he had recently informed CCC about this, but he undertook to do so again.

Cllr. Blackman referred to the very poor upkeep and cleaning of the "Upper" Tonford Lane, in the White Gates area. It appears never to receive any form of attention/servicing. The Clerk commented that he had drawn this to the attention of CCC some months ago and he undertook to contact CCC Street Scene about the matter.

Cllr. Blackman raised the matter of obstructive and dangerous parking of vehicles on the corner of the junction of Tonford Lane/Grays Way. Cllr. Bain, who lives opposite that corner, supported her observations. The Clerk undertook to inform the Police and to request the introduction of double yellow lines.

Cllr. Goddard reported loose and dangerous paving slabs outside 73 Thanington Road. The Clerk undertook to inform CCC Highways.

He also revived the matter of vehicles parking on the grass verge between the the footway and house-fencing in Thanington Road, between the corner of St. Nicholas Road and the telephone kiosk. It has once again become extremely muddy. The Clerk reminded that this was a matter of lengthy correspondence which resulted in no action. He undertook to write again and to request that the Council provide a hard surface.

Finally, Cllr. Goddard commented on the fact that there appeared to be little improvement in the floodlighting arrangements for the TNRC playground area. Lights were often on (unnecessarily) in the small hours.

**(10.) FOOTPATHS:** BTCV. Up-dated Grants & awards fact sheet.

The Clerk commented that he has received no reply yet from the contractor regarding strimming estimates, though now contacted by telephone.

Consequently a "guesstimate" and explanation had been submitted to Mike Ellis for the 2001/02 PPP Grant, for £450.

The Clerk added that he had commented to Mike Ellis about the revived attempts to get a repaired fence for the elevated footpath.

**(11.) TREES: THE KENT MEN OF THE TREES:** The Chairman read out a copy of a letter he had received, containing the results of the Trees in the Village Competition and comments on trees in Thanington. The Chairman has supplied the Clerk with a copy. The Clerk proposes sending copies to the Vicar and to Glen Sharman [thanking him for his in-put]

**(12.) PARISH MEETING:** The Chairman confirmed the date as being April 24th

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Meeting will be held at the ARCA Clubhouse on Monday February 12th 2001 at 7.30p. m..

**CLOSURE:** There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.22 p.m.