

THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held
Ashford Road Community Association Clubhouse, Thanington Without,
on Monday February 12th, 2001 at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr Maple presented apologies from Cllr. Pringle, explaining that he was delayed at work.
The apology was accepted .

Cllr. Potts was absent and no apology was received.

The Chairman took the opportunity of raising the position of Cllr. Potts period of non-attendance, before proceeding.

He reminded that Cllr. Potts last attended in July 2000. An apology was received from him for being unable to attend, due to ill-health in September 2000 and this apology was accepted..

Thus there have been five successive non-attendances without a specific apology.

The Chairman read from "Local Council Administration" that if a member fails throughout six consecutive meetings of the council, he ceases automatically to be a member. However, where a council is considering a reason for absence, some reason or explanation must be known and this must be approved by affirmative resolution at the earliest moment before the end of the six months.

The Chairman suggested that the condition of Cllr. Pott's ill-health has been known to the Council for a considerable time and recommended that as apologies need not necessarily be conveyed in writing but reasons known to the council should be minuted, consideration should be given to minuting continued ill-health as an acceptable reason for Cllr.. Pott's absence. This was unanimously agreed and the Clerk was instructed to so record.

A question was raised as to when the current period of councillors' membership terminates. The next elections are, in fact, due in 2003.

CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Mr. Graham Page.

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

(2.) **MATTERS ARISING:**

[1.] Regarding the increasing amount of unsightly rubbish on the land between the old Community Centre building and the A2, the Clerk reported that he has again informed CCC about this.
The Chairman read out a reply received.

[2.] The Clerk confirmed that the cheques approved at the January meeting have been despatched

[3.] As there was general objection to the very unhelpful reply from CCC Highways Department about cyclists using the elevated footpath and now, incredibly, riding down the bank opposite the telephone kiosk, the Clerk was instructed to convey this reaction to Highways. The Clerk confirmed that he has written and also queried the position regarding a No Cycling notice which referred to the footpath.

[4.] The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Railtrack again. about the matter of the more northerly of the Tonford level crossing gates.
The Chairman read out a reply.
The Clerk understood from Cllr. Bain that this has now been attended to.

[5.] Regarding the matter of obstructive and dangerous parking of vehicles on the corner of the junction of

Tonford Lane/Grays Way. The Clerk had informed the Police and requested the introduction of double yellow lines.

The Clerk read out a reply from Highways Unit, Canterbury.

The Clerk responded saying that it was the danger from such parking which most concerned the Parish Council.

- [6.] The Clerk referred to yet another note which he had delivered to Mr. T., on 13-01-01.[5.]
The Clerk reported that Mr. T. has still not collected the notice-board.
Several councillors expressed comments to the effect that the Council had waited more than long enough for this work to be carried out. Cllr. Blackman referred to the offer made by Mr. David Swain to undertake the project. The Council unanimously agreed that the Clerk be instructed to first confirm Mr. Swain's willingness to undertake the erection of the notice board and then to write to Mr. T to inform him that because of the extended delays the Council would be engaging an alternative source.
- [7.] The Clerk confirmed that he has reported loose and dangerous paving slabs outside 73 Thanington Road., to CCC Highways.
- [8.] The Clerk has informed Highways about the revived matter of vehicles parking on the grass verge between the footway and house-fencing in Thanington Road, between the corner of St. Nicholas Road and the telephone kiosk. He requested the Council to provide a hard surface.
- [9.] The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted the TNRC Manager about the fact that there appeared to be little improvement in the floodlighting arrangements for the TNRC playground area. Paula Spencer explained the situation.
- [10.] The Clerk commented that he has now received a reply from the contractor, John Osborn, regarding strimming estimates.
The Chairman read out the letter.
- [11.] Regarding the very poor upkeep and cleaning of the "Upper" Tonford Lane, in the White Gates area, where it appears never to receive any form of attention/servicing, the Clerk commented that he had drawn this to the attention of CCC..
The Chairman read out a reply from CCC Environment & Street Scene re: Rubbish Clearance & Tonford Lane.
- [12.] The Clerk informed that he had reported the fact there is graffiti on the sign requesting "Drive Carefully" on entry into the Parish, from the Canterbury direction. He spoke to CCC Street Scene Department, who will inform Highways.
- [13.] The Chairman read out a reply from Kent Highways, Highways Unit, Canterbury regarding Public Footpath CB491 - Hollow Lane, in reply to the correspondence re: fencing & cycling.

(3.) APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

D. E. GOULD	Reimbursement for payment to Petty Cash	£20.00
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The Chairman referred to the Rural White Paper Information Day, to be arranged by KAPC and held on 10/3/01 in Harrietsham. The Clerk had suggested that it may be more appropriate for the Chairman to attend, if convenient, in view of the Clerk's forthcoming retirement. The Chairman hoped to be able to attend, if this were approved. Unanimous approval was given. Whereupon, as the closing date for bookings is before the next meeting, a cheque was prepared,

K.A.P.C.	Chairman's attendance at the above meeting. including £5.25 VAT	£35.25
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It was proposed by Cllr. Bain, seconded by Cllr. Blackman and unanimously agreed that these cheques be paid. The cheques were then signed by the named councillors.

- (4.) **FINANCES** HSBC: Statement for Treasurer Account showing Balance of £ 3,218.90 at 12/01/01 including £ 4.70 gross interest to 11/01/01.

INLAND REVENUE: Forms P38A(2001) & P35 (2000) for completion

INLAND REVENUE: Employers Bulletin (January 2001 edition) Employer's Annual Pack due by February 25th.

Employers' Annual Pack received.

NATIONAL SAVINGS: Investment Account book returned, with interest for 2,000 of £308,35 entered and new balance of £5,064.71. Subsequently information supplied automatically.

DISTRICT AUDIT: A reply has been received to the Clerk's letter of November 18th. It contains guidance to the completion of the minor amendments and the requested explanation of the preparatory process. An error by the Auditor had complicated matters. After presentation to the Council and completion of any necessary signatures, the documents will be returned for finalisation of the audit.

The Clerk notified that he has received a receipt for £5 from ARCA for the cost of wine provided through the Chairman's fund.

The Chairman confirmed that he had checked the reconciliation of the Treasurer's Account on 9-2-01, as part of the Internal Audit.

- (5.) **CORRESPONDENCE:** CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT: January 2001, Issue 13. To be circulated.
EAST KENT NHS: A request to post a notice a meeting on Monday 22/0 at Herne. The Clerk has put up the notice.1/01

KENT POLICE AUTHORITY: Rural Policing. (to be circulated)

NALC: Local Council Review: January 2001 [Circulated]

SLCC: Notification of meeting, February 7th in Elham. The Clerk has conveyed apologies.

CCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Changes to Local Government. Enclosed leaflet sent to all households and an Information Pack for Council's request for reply with choice of option by February 12th. The Clerk has asked for 9 extra copies of the Pack, to circulate to all councillors and thus facilitate a response in time. These were received and circulated

The Clerk commented that all nine forms had been returned. He had written to inform CCC that 6 councillors favoured Option A and 3 favoured Option B.

KRCC: Community Shops & Post Office Seminar at Hollingbourne. 3/3/01

Kent Village of the Year Competition.

GOING FOR Green: Re: Greenfingers Challenge.

KENT STOUR COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT: Two copies of Stour View. (to be circulated)

CCC: STREET MONITORS. Minutes of 14/12/00 and Agenda for 1/3/01 at 6.30 p. m.

KCC PRWO.: Notice of meeting on 21/2/01 at 7.30 p. m. at Kingston Village Hall. The Chairman & Clerk hope to attend.

KCC RURAL REVIVAL PROJECT OFFICER; An opportunity for funding in Kent.

KAPC (CANTERBURY DISTRICT): Minutes of 10/01/01 passed to Cllrs. Page & Bain.

KENT HIGHWAYS, Highway Unit, Military Road, Canterbury: Traffic Regulation Review 2000,

FIELD FARE TRUST: BT Countryside for All Grant. Thanington Accessible Footpath.

Information Pack.

The Clerk has notified the present position and stated that the matter will be monitored.

JOINT MOBILE UNIT; Design Insight; Journal Issue 8 Autumn 2000.

KCC (KCS) Advertisement for copy paper.

KAPC: PARISH NEWS No: 271 (Enclosed National Statistics poster re: Census jobs.)

Information Day; Rural White Paper Saturday 10/3 at Harrietsham. Booking by 2/3, [The Chairman hopes to attend.]

Highways Agency; Major Roadworks in Kent.

KENT ENERGY CENTRE: Re: becoming "Community Adviser" for Kent Action to Save Heat, (For circulation)

CCC: PLANNING: Supplementary Report 6/2/01 (forwarded to Chairman.)
KENTISH STOUR COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT: Stour View Issue 23 Winter 2000/2001. Countryside Grants for Wildlife and Landscapes.
SLCC: Memo to all Members. Election of Chief Executive.
Model Contract of Employment (Copy to Chairman for future reference)
KENT COUNTY CONSTABULARY: A letter from the Minorities Community Liaison Officer for Canterbury with a request to post a notice for a meeting on 15/2/01.
SLCC: "The Clerk" February 2001.[including piece by the Clerk, "What's in a name?"]
BISHOP: Sports Catalogue.
CENSUS: Poster re: jobs.

- (6.) **PLANNING:** Agendas for 06/02/01 and List of Planning Applications received and forwarded to Chairman.

CA/00/1202/THA. Golf course (renewal of previous approval) GRANTED.

CA/00/1261/THA 79, New House Lane.

Change of use of land from agricultural to residential and erection of detached single garage. (circulated) [Additional information]

It was very strongly recommended that the Clerk be instructed to urge refusal of this application.

CA/00/1219/THA. Land at New House Lane. GRANTED.

CA/01/0014/THA 7B Hassall Reach

Single storey front extension to dwelling. [Circulated]

The Clerk was instructed to recommend approval of this application.

- (7.) **REPORTS:** There was none.
- (8.) **STREET LIGHTING:** The Chairman commented that Miss S. Knott of 37 New House Lane had reported a faulty street-light between that address and St. Faith's Hall. He has forwarded this matter to CCC Street Lighting Department.
- (9.) **PARISH AFFAIRS:** The Clerk reported that Mr. Johnson, of 7 New House Lane, had telephoned and talked at some length about his conversation with Mr. Larkins (KCC Highways, Canterbury) about the Hollow Lane elevated path and the dangerous state of the fencing. The Clerk told of the long history of struggle over this matter. Land ownership was mentioned and Mr. Johnson said that he would consider taking up the matter with the Land Registry and possibly the Press. The Clerk stated that he had previously had no success from his approaches to the Land Registry. After having referred to previous inability to arrangement site-meetings between CCC and PPP PROW officers, he referred to very recent correspondence which may lead to such a meeting.

The Clerk reported that a party of eight Swedish politicians had visited Canterbury from January 22 nd. to 24th. They visited TNRC and Cllr. Blackman joined the group. Paula Spencer spoke and guided around the building. Subsequently they visited ARCA , where Cllr. Blackman showed the visitors around. Cllr. Page also attended. The Clerk made a presentation about Parish Councils and Cllr. Page spoke briefly about their history. There followed a question & answer session..

The Clerk referred to the Thanington Residents' Association Newsletter January 2001.

[To be circulated]

The Clerk stated that he had reported four matters to Kent Highways Unit, Canterbury.

1. The poor state of the footway between Godwin Road and Strangers Lane along Thanington Road; especially outside 71 & 73.
2. Two deep potholes in Godwin Road, near the junction with Alfred Road.
3. That the shrubbery along Cockering Road needs to be trimmed back, especially west of the junction with St. Nicholas Road.

4. That shrubbery overgrowing the footpath on the bend of the A28, after crossing Milton Bridge towards Ashford, needs cutting back. He also reminded about previous reference to the landowner's responsibility

The Clerk commented that the Chairman had informed him that he had tendered his resignation as a member of the committee of T. N. R. C.

The Chairman explained his reasons and asked if any member may like to consider filling the vacancy.

Cllr. Page referred to the matter of the unsatisfactory condition of the footway repairs along the north side of Ashford Road. He had written to CCC on 19/10/00 and had received a reply on 15/11/00 recognising the fault and being unacceptable and that the contractors would rectify the matter within two or three weeks. Nothing has been done subsequently and the Clerk was asked to follow up on this matter.

Cllr. Goddard commented that nothing has yet been done about the pot-holes in Strangers Close.

Cllr. Bain asked if anything further had been heard about the drains in Hassall Reach The Clerk replied in the negative. The Clerk undertook to enquire about this matter and was informed that Cllr. Bain had originally contacted Mr. Brian Pitcher at CCC.

Cllr. Blackman reported that shrubbery along the footway in Hanging Banks had been cut back, but left lying on the path. The Clerk undertook to follow up on this.

Cllr. Maple referred to objections among South Ward residents, concerning the approval of the planning application CA/00/1219/THA, for which the Parish Council had recommended refusal.

He also drew attention to the falls of chalk in Hollow Lane and strongly recommended fundamental action. The Clerk undertook to write to the Highway Unit.

Cllr. Stokes reported that the damaged sections of fence, in Manor Close, had been removed; but that no new panels had been erected. The Clerk undertook to follow up on this matter.

- (10.) FOOTPATHS:** BTCV, to Footpaths Group. Kent Connections; January/March 2001. To be circulated. numerous, various leaflets enclosed.

KCC PROW Officer, Mike Ellis: The Chairman read out a reply regarding : P3 Grant Request

BTCV: An invitation to renew Affiliation and Insurance.

The Clerk added a report on the result of a telephone call to Cornhill Insurance.

The Chairman read out a written reply.

The Chairman brought together the overall position regarding continued PPP membership, continuation of BTCV membership and insurance and the possibility of taking Cornhill Insurance cover as an alternative.

It was unanimously agreed not to renew BTCV membership, to increase the existing Cornhill insurance to cover the strimmer and tools and to continue as members of the PPP scheme.

A comment was made by the Clerk, that the forthcoming meeting with the PROW officers would be appropriate and timely.

The Clerk reported that he has commented to Mike Ellis about the revived attempts to get a repaired fence for the elevated footpath

The Chairman read out a reply.

KCC PROW . Notice of Meeting (Canterbury District) at Kingston Village Hall, 21/2 at 7.30
The Chairman & Clerk hope to attend.

BTCV: Conservation Holidays Programme 2001-2002

BTCV: Developing Skills; Courses in Kent.

Kent Pond Water Scheme.

PROW. The Chairman read out a letter from Mike Ellis regarding the elevated footpath CB 491 .

(11.) TREES: There were no items for discussion.

(12.) PARISH MEETING: : There were no items for discussion.

Before closing the meeting the meeting, the Chairman adjourned it, at 8. 50 p. m., and asked the local elector (Mr. Jenner) if he had any comments to make. Mr. Jenner replied that he was pleased to see the correspondent's comments on Parish affairs, in the Kentish Gazette.

Cllr. Blackman added that it was a pity that they were so often truncated.

The meeting resumed at 8.52 p. m. when the Chairman announced:-

NEXT MEETING: The next Meeting will be held at the ARCA Clubhouse on Monday March 12th 2001 at 7. 30p. m..

Cllr. Maple gave advanced apologies for his absence then, due to a prior engagement.

CLOSURE: There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8. 53 p. m.