

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
of  
THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL  
held

Ashford Road Community Association Clubhouse, Thanington Without,  
on Tuesday, May 22nd 2001 at 7.30 p.m.

*NOTA BENE: This meeting was postponed from May 14 th due to the ill health of the Clerk.*

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

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Mr. G. Furness had previously advised that he would be away on holiday.  
Cllr. Mr. J. Potts did not attend and was known to still not have recovered from illness.  
The reasons for absence were accepted.

( 1.) **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** Cllr. Pringle proposed and Cllr. Bain seconded that Cllr. Page should continue his excellent work as Chairman, if he were willing. Cllr. Page thanked and agreed to continue. This was unanimously agreed.

( 2.) **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:** Cllr. Page read out and signed the Acceptance Form.

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

( 3.) **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Cllr. Page proposed and Cllr. Pringle seconded that Cllr. Blackman should continue as Vice-Chairman, if she were willing. Cllr. Blackman thanked and agreed to continue. This was unanimously agreed.

( 4.) **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:** Cllr. Blackman read out and signed the Acceptance Form

( 5.) **ELECTION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO K. A. P. C. CANTERBURY AREA :**  
Cllr. Stokes proposed and Cllr. Blackman seconded that Cllr. Page and Cllr. Bain should continue as representatives, if they were willing. The two councillors thanked, drew attention to the fact that their attendance had not been so regular at the new venue, but agreed to continue. This was unanimously agreed.

( 6.) **ELECTION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO K. A. P. C. A. G. M.**  
No representatives were elected.

( 7.) **CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE:** Cllr. Pringle proposed and Cllr. Goddard seconded that the Chairman be granted an allowance of £75. Asked if this was sufficient, Cllr. Page replied that he was satisfied and that this amount had been budgeted for. This was then unanimously agreed.

( 8.) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** These were unanimously approved and duly signed.

( 9.) **MATTERS ARISING:**

[ 1.] The Clerk confirmed that he has written to Mr. Tickner to express disappointment over the continued delay and to inform him that arrangements have now been made with another builder.

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

[ 3.] The Clerk has written to Mr. Sherwood to accept his estimate to erect the new notice-board, hoping that he will be able to carry out the work in the near future. He has also written to Mr. White. to thank him for his unsuccessful offer.  
The Clerk was also instructed to advise Mr. T. of the Council's decision and disappointment. Asked if he had received any response from Mr. T. the Clerk replied that he had not.

- [ 4.] Regarding the matter of the repairs to the footway along the north side of Ashford Road, the Clerk confirmed that he has written to the Highways Unit to chase up this matter. The Clerk commented that he has received no response.
- [ 5.] The Clerk confirmed that he had informed CCC about litter lying at the eastern end of footpath CC 58, behind Ashenden Close. The Clerk took the opportunity to remind the Health & Environment Department that he had requested removal of graffiti from the sign at the side of the A28, at the entrance to the Parish from Canterbury.
- [ 6.] The Clerk confirmed that he has forwarded completed forms, for opinions requested by DETR concerning proposed changes in the code of conduct, to DETR. .
- [ 7.] Regarding the recently cut back shrubbery, overhanging Cockering Road, which already needs more attention, the Clerk contacted CCC and requested that they asked the land-owner to attend to this matter.
- [ 8.] The Clerk confirmed that he had reported to CCC Street Lighting that the light outside 155 Ashford Road was permanently on all day.
- [ 9.] The Clerk confirmed that he had reported to CCC and the PRWO that the notices concerning Foot & Mouth restrictions, put up on Tonford Bridge, were no longer there and that there was some public confusion, as it was not clear whether these had been officially removed or not. CCC delivered some spare notices to the Clerk but undertook to post others on Tonford Bridge; however, they subsequently telephoned to say that as the path from the bridge to the level crossing was a hard surface, they had decided that the right of way would NOT be closed. The Clerk informed Cllr. Bain.
- [10.] The Clerk confirmed that he has again hand-delivered a letter requesting cutting back shrubbery overhanging the footway adjacent to the Flint Cottages at 86 Ashford Road, as the shrubbery appears not to have been trimmed back. He added that the Parish Council hoped that compliance would avoid the necessity of referring the matter to C. C. C.. Cllr. Blackman agreed with the Clerk's observation that only a token, inadequate trimming had been done.
- [11.] The Clerk reported that Mr. Sherwood has erected the new notice-board at the junction of Grays Way and Ashford Road. The Clerk advised that, after consultation with the Chairman, he has written to Harry Stebbing to request a better quality lock for the new notice board. Mr. Stebbing replied (his letter was read out by the Chairman); a replacement lock was enclosed. Mr. Sherwood replaced the lock and returned the rusty original for forwarding to Mr. Stebbing. He very kindly said that he would not charge for the job of changing the lock. The Clerk wrote to Mr. Stebbing with various comments. The Chairman read out that letter also.
- [12.] The Clerk reported that Cllr. Page has supplied him with a copy of a letter, dated 11.04.01, from CCC Chief Executive, Colin Carmichael, concerning Planning and Highway Matters[with reference to Graham Finch]. He also sent copies to South Ward Cllrs. Pringle and Maple. The letter was read out by the Chairman.
- [13.] The Clerk reported that after several attempts, in vain, to contact the Police regarding the car abandoned in Thanington Road after 5 days, it was removed on 18/4. The Police did not return his call.
- [14.] The Clerk thanked Cllrs. Page and Bain for returning completed forms with comments on the Kent Best Value Plan. He reminded that these are due back by the June meeting. The package was currently with Cllr. Blackman.
- [15.] The Clerk reported that the "Drive carefully" board at the entrance to the Parish, near the traffic lights, has now been cleared of graffiti.
- [16.] The Clerk announced that he has reported to CCC Street Scene that the newly erected fence, opposite the Playing Field, in Thanington Road, has been covered with a considerable amount of graffiti. The whole fence has subsequently been painted over. It was noted that the adjacent brick wall was covered in graffiti.

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

M. F. SHERWOOD	Erection of new notice-board	£115.00
CORNHILL INSURANCE PLC.	Renewal of premium to 1/6/02	£32.88
KENT REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS	Assembly advert including VAT £6.70	£44.99
KENT RCC:	Membership fee Year commencing 1/4/01 <i>[General approval required]</i>	£30.00
THANINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCE CENTRE	Donation in connection with new garden,	£250.00

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

**( 11.) FINANCES** HSBC: Statement for Treasurer Account showing Balance of £1,335.51 at 12/04/01 including £2.26 gross interest to 11 04//01.

A later statement of Treasurer's a/c shows a balance of £754..33 at 1/05/01, including £0.13 gross interest to 10/05/01.

CORNHILL INSURANCE PLC have drawn attention to the fact that premiums have increased as from 1/6/2001. The Clerk queried the latest Renewal Summary and was told that the figure of £327.09 had not taken into account the recent payment of £294.21. Written confirmation requesting the outstanding balance of £32.88 to noon 1/6/2002 would be sent.

CORNHILL INSURANCE: The promised letter regarding renewal of premium. £32.88 balance due has been received and dealt with.

FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE CLERK: It was proposed by Cllr. Page, seconded by Cllr. Blackman and unanimously agreed that the following arrangements be continued for the financial year ending 31/3/2002.,

- (i) that the Clerk may spend up to £25.00 at a time, from Petty Cash, without previous permission from the Council,
- (ii) that the Clerk's annual subscription to the S. L. C. C. be paid by the Council and
- (iii) that two-thirds of the Clerk's telephone rental charges will be reimbursed each quarter.

FINANCIAL BALANCE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: An error was pointed out. This was a typographical error and did not affect the balance. However, investigations revealed a few other such errors. These have all been re-typed in preparation for submission to the Audit. No alterations to the balance were necessary. The Clerk circulated a letter of explanation and apology to all councillors.

CC FINANCE DEPARTMENT: A cheque for £17,626 for the Precept 2001/2002 has been received and paid in to the HSBC Business Account. The Clerk recommended transfers to the Treasurer account and to the National Savings Investment Account. He obtained telephone confirmation of the balances at the close of business on May 17th as Treasurer a/c £754.33 and Business a/c £18, 871.87. The National Savings a/c has a balance of £5,064.71. The amounts of transfer suggested by the Clerk were £4,000 to the Treasurer a/c and £8,000 to National Savings.

It was proposed by Cllr. Page, seconded by Cllr. Bain and unanimously agreed that these amounts be processed.

A cheque for £8,000.00 was then made out, payable to POST OFFICE COUNTERS LTD., and

duly signed.

The required letter for transfer of £4,000.00 from the business a/c to Treasurer a/c was also processed and signed., by the Chairman & Cllr. Bain.

INLAND REVENUE: Reminder to submit End of Year Returns by 19/5. Already posted.

- ( 12.) **CORRESPONDENCE:** GLASDON: Advertisement.  
RECORD PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT LTD.: Catalogue.  
CCC COMMUNITY SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT & STREET SCENE: RE: Environmental Protection Act 1990. Contaminated Land Strategy - Consultation Draft Any comments by 21/5/2001 [Circulated]  
KCC: COUNTY RETURNING OFFICER: Notice of Election Poster [7/6/01] to be put up to replace previous notice.  
ADRIAN WESTWOOD: Appeal for information: Researcher seeks British Resistance Fighters.  
PFIZER: Community Newsletter No: 16 April 2001. (circulated).  
KCC PROW: Mike Overbeke; Details of new areas set-up.  
CCC: MINUTES have been received, dated 26/4/01, and have been circulated..  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: LORD MAYOR'S OFFICE: A letter was sent to the Clerk to forward to the Chairman, which was done.  
KENT COUNTY CONSTABULARY: List of names and contact numbers for officers concerned with rural matters.  
Also Crime statistic, but nothing specific to Thanington.  
Plus Agenda of Parish Council Forum 24/4/01. Next meeting 24/7 at Nackington Police Station.  
CCC: Agenda of Extraordinary Meeting 8/5/01 & Annual Meeting of Council 9/5/01. The Clerk advised the Chairman.  
KAPC: Standards Committee. The Chairman read out a letter and the enclosed copy of a letter to Local Government Legislation Division.  
KAPC CANTERBURY AREA: Minutes of meeting 11/4/01 Forwarded to Cllrs. Page & Bain.  
Next meeting 11/7  
CCC Chief Executive, Central Services. Re: Standards Committee of CCC.  
KCC: SARAH HOHLER, Members' Suite. Re: Flooding in Kent and also a letter on Emergency Road Repairs  
KRCC: RURAL NEWS No: 31 April 2001.  
Notice of meeting on 22/5 New Opportunities for small rural towns in Kent.  
Also 23/6 Kent Community Halls Conference  
Plus 24/5 How can my community benefit from the local heritage initiative?  
Membership of KRCC in 2001/2. Membership fee of £30.00 to be approved.  
KENT HIGHWAYS Highways Unit: Road surface. Clarification of details of location requested.  
KAPC: PARISH NEWS; No: 273  
Notice of Clerks Information Day 16/5  
SERCAF: Information leaflet.  
Statements from Government  
Major Traffic Roadworks in Kent.  
Kent & Medway Towns Fire Authority.  
SERPA: Issue 38.  
KENT POLICE AUTHORITY: News April 2001  
CCC: DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER: RE: Notice regarding CCC Election Thursday 7/6/01  
Also Re: Parliamentary Election 7/6/2001  
ZURICH MUNICIPAL An invitation to the ZM LCAS Annual Health & Safety Seminar.  
Various dates & venues.  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND: Periodic Electoral Review of Canterbury: Final Recommendations.  
TNRC: Open Day & the Garden Project. N.B. The Clerk drew attention to the fact that no VAT was involved.  
The Chairman read out the details of the Invoice  
KENT HIGHWAYS H. U. Re: Thanington Village Traffic Plan  
Advisory Lorry Route Map for Kent.  
CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT: May 2001 Issue 15. To be circulated.

SHAW & SONS: The Local Council Clerk's Guide. A new book £10.75.

Another new book, Local Council Finance, will not be available before the end of the year.

CCC STREET MONITORS. Minutes of 10/5/01 meeting. Agenda for 12/07/01

FLOODLINKS (representing residents of Fordwich & Sturry). Follow-up on telephone conversation, regarding possible future co-operation.

SLCC: "The Clerk" May 2001. Note: A letter from another "Without Parish (P.17) and repeat of Clerk's Thanington Without letter, corrected although no reference made to the previous error (To be circulated).

NALC Local Council Review

Vol. 53 No: 1 May 2001 (Circulated)

The Clerk commented on the announcement that the limit on the definition of "smaller" councils was due to be raised to £50,000 as from 1/04/01. He said that whilst he welcomed the change in principle, he was sorry that he would not now personally benefit from this relief. The conversion of the Receipts and Payments balance, in recent years, had been a considerable, extra burden.

**(13.) PLANNING:** CA/01/0234/THA 42, Tonford Lane. Application APPROVED

Acknowledgement of recommendations referred to under Matters Arising.

CA/01/0443/THA Land at Iffin Farm. Construction of access to Iffin Lane, construction of manege and erection of one storage barn and two field shelters.

Circulated to South Ward councillors.

*Clerk's Note: Oxford Dictionary definition of "manege": Riding school; art of horsemanship; movement of trained horses.*

The Clerk was instructed to recommend REFUSAL

CA/01/0443/THA Land at Iffin Farm, Iffin Lane

*Change to use of livery.....* PLANS FOR THIS APPLICATION ALREADY RECEIVED, the description of proposal has changed only.

The Clerk was instructed to recommend REFUSAL

CA/01/0328/THA 23 Ashenden Close, Permission GRANTED.

CA/01/0338/THA 9 New House Close Permission GRANTED

CA/01/0158/THA 187 Ashford Road. Permission GRANTED

CA/01/0477/THA 12 Tonford Lane.

Pitched roof to existing flat-roofed detached garage. [Circulated.]

The Clerk was instructed to recommend APPROVAL

CA/01/0476/THA 3 New House Lane

Variation of Condition 05 of Planning Permission CA/00/0436/THA to allow the installation of two windows in the NE elevation to side of dwelling.

The Clerk was instructed to recommend APPROVAL

CCC List of Planning Applications & Agenda for 1/5. Including Pumping Station. Also for 29/5.

**(14.) REPORTS:** Cllr. Bain and the Clerk attended a meeting on Flooding Issues at the City Council Offices at 5 p. m. on Thursday April 19th, to meet with members of the Security Panel and members from other community groups, Parish Councils etc. They outlined the main points of the meeting, commenting that most of the areas represented appeared to have suffered more severely.

The Clerk has notes, taken at the meeting, on file.

Cllr. Bain requested that the Clerk follow-up on the matters promised to be investigated, about which we have still heard nothing further.

Cllr. Page read a letter from Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre thanking him for his

attendance at the Bank Holiday Monday Official Opening.

Cllr. Page gave a short account of the main events; the main attraction being Bob the Builder.

He commented that the Clerk had planted a tree in the new garden, to which the Council had donated.

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

**( 16.) PARISH AFFAIRS:** The Clerk expressed his thanks to the Chairman for rearranging this meeting and for advising him of the measures he had taken.

The Chairman announced that he has received the Clerk's Notice of Resignation, dated April 21st. 2001. However, he hopes to make the December meeting his final attendance and terminate his contract on December 31st, but has submitted his resignation earlier than the officially required 3 months in order to facilitate arrangements for the appointment of his replacement.

The Chairman outlined a possible itinerary for the new appointment and suggested that this be planned in more detail at the June meeting.

After the Parish Meeting, Mr. David Swain spoke separately to both Cllr. Page and the Clerk about the poor state of the road surface between Iffin Lane & Merton Lane. The Clerk has subsequently written to Highways Unit about this matter.

A letter from HU queried the precise location. The Clerk confirmed this with Mr. Swain and informed HU.

The Clerk explained that, having heard at the Parish Meeting that Cllr. Mrs. MacCaull's husband had died, he had anticipated the Council's wishes and, when communicating with Cllr. MacCaull, he had enclosed a letter of condolence from Parish Council members. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for this action.

The Clerk expressed his concern over the deteriorating state of the notice boards in Cockering Road and Strangers Lane.

Cllr. Page read out a letter which County Cllr. Martin Vye had circulated to residents in the Ashford Road, Tonford Lane, Hassall Reach, Grays Way area. (Cllr. Blackman commented that she had not received one). It reported on the current position regarding the hopes and efforts for a pedestrian crossing near the Post Office.

Cllr. Page reported that CCC had informed him that Cllr. Mrs. C. MacCaull would be their representative on the Harris Charity Committee.

He also reported that, after the Parish Meeting, Miss Sue Knott, had spoken to him about the Elevated Footpath and had suggested that maybe the old Minute Books may shed some light on the history of ownership and its transfer.

Subsequently the Chairman has scoured the Minute book, starting in 1935, with particular concentration on the fifties. He read out several appropriate passages, which did not so much reveal new factual information as the fact that some of the present days problems were already being raised 45 years ago.

The Clerk observed that the loss of factual information appeared to stem from the transfer of responsibility between Bridge & Blean Council, KCC and CCC.

At the suggestion of Cllr. Pringle, the Chairman undertook to draw up a selection of relevant entries in the Minute Book and to present them to CCC and KCC. He would also outline them to the Kentish Gazette and Canterbury Times and invite them to follow up on the matter. This was unanimously agreed and supported.

Cllr. Goddard commented that the pot-holes in Strangers Close had still not been repaired and were now larger.

He reported that immediately outside his property a large KEEP CLEAR notice had been painted on the road surface. Initially it had been blatantly ignored by a neighbour but Cllr. Goddard would monitor this.

Cllr. Goddard also queried the "over the top" expense of the new, high wooden posts along

Thanington Road, near the telephone kiosk, especially at times when there was local criticism of how little CCC was spending on the Estate. Cllr. Blackman interjected that the posts had been funded from the Regeneration Fund.

Concern was also expressed about the safety, especially of children, obscured by the new, substantial posts. In fact the Clerk was asked by Cllr. Maple whether they complied with Safety Regulations and it was agreed that the Clerk should raise this point with CCC Highways.

The Clerk undertook to write to CCC about this matter.

Cllr. Goddard also commented on the continued parking of vehicles on and across the newly laid footway outside 73 Thanington Road. The Clerk will report this to CCC.

Cllr. Bain simply reminded the Clerk about following up on the promises made at the Flooding Meeting.

Cllr Blackman had several points to raise.

She referred to changes in bus services and said that new routes and times were posted.

She commented that the rowan tree, near the seat, at the junction of Grays Way & Thanington Road, had died. She wondered if CCC could be asked to supply a replacement and the Clerk undertook to make a request.

She reported that the No Entry sign, which had been knocked down in Tonford Lane, has not yet been replaced. There were signs that someone was repairing the damaged wall. The Clerk undertook to enquire about the new sign.

Cllr. Blackman commented that the problem with fishermen parking near Tonford Bridge seemed to be improving. A No Parking sign was now in place.

She referred to problems of parking outside TNRC, on Thursday, when there were masses of cars. The Clerk undertook to query this with Paula.

Finally, Cllr. Blackman referred to the **latest rumour**, which is that of the land behind Warren Lodge, stretching up to Cockering Road, was intended to become a caravan park. Cllr. Stokes commented that most of the trees planted around the field appear to have died.

Cllr. Maple said that his concerns had already been discussed.

Cllr. Pringle made the same comment, adding that his concerns could be summed up as “Hollow Lane”.

Cllr. Blackman recalled that she had received several requests from residents for action to be taken to reduce the noise made by traffic crossing over some form of man-hole cover outside 121 Ashford Road. The Clerk undertook to report this problem to the Highways Unit.

**(17.) FOOTPATHS:** BTCV: Conserver & Chestnut Fund Grants.

BTCV: Various notices, but membership discontinuing. Position regarding Tree Warden to be clarified.

The Clerk commented that as we are no longer members of BTCV, he would simply keep these materials on file.

KCC HEAD OF PROW: Opening of Public Rights of Way

KCC: Michael Ellis; PROW Officer: PPP Countryside and Access Co-ordinators database.

The Clerk undertook to telephone to telephone to Mike Ellis, to explain that he would be retiring but would act as the contact in the interim period.

**(18.) TREES:** There were no items for discussion.

**(19.) PARISH MEETING:** The Clerk referred to the notice he had circulated to all councillors, prior to this meeting, referring to typographical errors in the Financial Balance Sheet presented at the Parish Meeting. He repeated apologies but stressed that the Balance remains unaffected.

The Clerk requested any comments about the Parish Meeting, that might be useful to

bear in mind for 2002.

There were no points to be noted, but there was a general feeling from those who attended, that the meeting and preparations had gone smoothly and that the attendance was slightly increased.

The Chairman mentioned that he had responded to a request by Louise Thomas to supply a report on the Parish Meeting, for publication in the Canterbury Times. He commented that, in future, he would let her have a report after the monthly meetings.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Meeting will be held at the ARCA Clubhouse on Monday June 11 th. at 7. 30p. m..

Several councillors supplied the Chairman with a note of their holiday dates during the coming months.

**CLOSURE:** There being no further business to be discussed, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9. 28 p. m.