

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIG JOINT PARISHES GROUP

Held on 5th December 2007 at 7.30pm.

Present: Representatives from the following Parish Councils:

Bearsted
Boxley
Broomfield & Kingswood
Chart Sutton
Detling
Downswood
Harrietsham
Hollingbourne
Langley
Otham
Sutton Valence
Thurnham
Ulcombe

The meeting was chaired by Richard Jacques - TPC

Also in attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington and Peter Cooper from Bloomfield's Planning Consultants.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Leeds and Lenham Parish Councils.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted by all present.

3. KIG Phase Two.

Councillor Jacques addressed the meeting, he stated the Joint Parish Group had now reached a stage where it needed to think carefully about the next steps it needed to take and what it could now achieve.

He informed the meeting that Paul Carter had offered to attend a future meeting of the JPG and advised that it should take advantage of this offer and have some idea as to what he should be asked.

He stated that his view was that the JPG should look at the local issues affecting the locality, lives and roads and he suggested using people outside of Parish Councils if their assistance was available. He informed the meeting that Peter Waite had put a paper together on the possible tasks of the Joint Parish Group.

Peter Waite spoke regarding this matter referring to the presentation given by Mark Watts at the previous meeting.

He referred to the need to appoint a Press Officer and the tasks involved in this role.

Bill Stead referred to the CPRE objections and informed all that this included some detailed work on container ports.

A discussion took place regarding the ideal location for the Kent International Gateway. Members agreed that the better location would be north of the Thames such as Tilbury. It was suggested that it may be worth talking to the Port of London.

Mr Titchner of Ulcombe Parish Council spoke regarding his contacts and knowledge in this area; he stated that he would be happy to arrange a meeting between the Port of London and the Joint Parish Group.

A discussion took place regarding the presentation given by Mark Watts and his offer to layout the costs from employing his company to represent the JPG. Richard Jacques stated that he had not yet received this and he would follow this matter up.

John Horne spoke regarding recent correspondence to the Bishop of Dover, Stephen Venner regarding this KIG.

It was agreed that the group was now in a position to publicise its existence and its activities.

Richard Jacques referred to the list of tasks and the allocation of jobs.

It was agreed that a meeting should be set up with the Port of London to try to move forward with regards to the business plan. This was discussed and the cost implications of involving Peter Cooper were debated.

It was agreed that the meeting should be arranged and a small working party set up to forward this matter. Mr Titchner stated that he would progress this further.

Action: Mr Titchner to progress meeting with Port of London as agreed.

The position of Press Officer was discussed further and it was suggested that Barry Jones, a resident of Thurnham would be a possible choice for this position. John Horne stated that he would approach him regarding this position and report back to the meeting.

Action: John Horne to progress.

It was suggested that KCC should be approached and Paul Carter invited to attend a JPG meeting.

Peter Waite spoke about the political elements and the concerns that the group does not come across as being a one party group. He stated that Mark Watts started his presentation with the political aspects.

Richard Jacques referred to the allocation of tasks for the group, he stated that these fall into three groups.

Bill Stead stated that it was his opinion that the business plan was a red herring for a housing or retail development.

It was agreed that the business plan needed to be considered in order to identify problems with it, following this stage the JPG could then involve Hugh Robertson.

A discussion took place regarding the current situation of MBC sharing their information with the JPG as this had not yet been forthcoming. Richard Jacques stated that he would contact MBC again regarding this matter.

Action: Richard Jacques to progress.

It was suggested that a letter could be sent to insurance associated with AXA informing them of their involvement with KIG. It was agreed that the Press Officers role would be an essential part of this process.

Paul Mace informed the meeting that MBC Planners had asked the developer for further information and if KIG does not give this and MBC may be prevented from determining the application and the developer could then submit for non-determination of the application.

Richard Jacques summarised the discussions of the evening into three core issues:

1. The Business Plan
It was agreed that this group would consist of three members who would progress a meeting with the Port of London and look at the business plan.
2. The Political Group
It was agreed that a letter should be written to Jonathan Shaw and other key political parties.
3. The Press Group
Possible Press Officers should be contacted as agreed.

Patrick Walton stated that he felt that the JPG needed to employ Mark Watts to represent the JPG.

Richard Jacques informed members that he had not yet received the estimate from Mark Watts; however he would follow this matter up.

Action: Richard Jacques to follow up.

Richard Jacques stated that he felt that it was in the parishes' best interests to stay together as a group as there was strength in numbers and it currently represented 24,000 electorate.

Bill Stead questioned the way forward and whether the cost implications to date were for stage 1 or stage 2. He raised concerns at approaching parish councils for further funding towards KIG without clarification as to what stage this was for.

Richard Jacques explained the costings put to the JPG to date, he stated that as soon as an estimate from Mark Watts was available he would forward these to all JPG representatives.

A discussion took place regarding the possible future costs for the JPG and the next stage of work to be undertaken. He spoke of the possible employment of Mark Watts, work on stage 2 and basis administrative costs. He suggested that each parish may wish to look at this area when considering their budgets for 2008/09.

Members discussed the Local Development Framework and the recent meeting held at MBC followed by the postponement of their public meeting.

Bill Stead again questioned approaching his parish council for further funding when it was not clear what this was for.

Richard Jacques spoke further regarding the finances and informed all present that as soon as the estimate was received from Mark Watts a detailed email would be sent to all concerned to enable representatives to take this matter to their relevant parish councils.

A further discussion took place regarding this matter and the Chairman summarised the action points and discussions of the meeting.

He thanked all for their input during the meeting.

4. **Date of next meeting.**
To be arranged.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.