

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIG JOINT PARISHES GROUP
Held on 6th February 2008 at 7.30pm.

Present: Representatives from the following Parish Councils:
Bearsted
Broomfield & Kingswood
Boxley
Chart Sutton
Detling
Downswood
Harrietsham
Hollingbourne
Leeds
Lenham
Otham
Sutton Valence
Thurnham
Ulcombe

The meeting was chaired by Peter Waite until the arrival of Richard Jacques - TPC

Also in attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington and Mark Watts.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Langley Parish Council, Alan Bradshaw, Vic Davis, Daphne Parvin and John Horne.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted by all present, subject to a minor alteration.

3. KIG.

Peter Waite welcomed Mark Watts to the meeting and confirmed his appointment by the Joint Parishes Group from 6th February 2008.

He reported on the progress by the group to date, informing the meeting that two groups had been formed to work on the Environmental Issues and the Business Plan. Each group was then invited to give a report on its progress to date.

Environmental Group

Peter Waite reported that his group had produced a draft report on the environmental issues; he outlined this report for all present.

Bill Stead asked what the report would be used for.

This was discussed and it was agreed that it should be submitted as a supplementary document to the planning objection already submitted to the Borough Council.

Richard Jacques arrived at the meeting and reiterated Peter Waite views regarding the submission of this document.

Members spoke regarding the Section 14 served on the applicant by the Highways Agency, it was reported that although the applicant could refuse to supply the Borough Council with further information, it had to respond to the request by the Highways Agency.

Business Plan Group

Richard Jacques reported on the recent meeting that had been attended by the group with the Port of London.

Patrick Walton spoke further regarding the meeting and a discussion took place regarding the potential uses for the proposed site.

Richard Jacques stated that it would be a good idea to submit further evidence against the proposals, and he supported the idea to submit further documentation to the Borough Council.

Bill Stead spoke further regarding the planning application; he asked if the JPG had had sight of the full business plan for KIG.

Mark Watts spoke on this matter; he stated that as far as he was aware a detailed economic business case was not a requirement of MBC. He suggested that the JPG should challenge KIG to produce an economic business case. He spoke regarding his role and suggested that this should include undermining the applicant's confidence.

He stated that at the Public Enquiry economic justification to override local business policies would be important.

Mark Watts stated that the core of the work to be undertaken by him over the next three months would be to undermine and demolish the economic case.

He stated that he would pull together the different strands to assemble the evidence to prove that the proposals were bad for the economy.

A further discussion followed regarding the business plan, it was suggested that a letter should be sent to AXA to request a copy of their business plan, it was agreed that Mark Watts would undertake this.

The publicity of the Joint Parish Group was debated by all present. It was agreed that at present this would not be in the group's interest, this matter should be picked up at the appeals stage.

Richard Jacques reported that Paul Carter was due to attend the next Joint Parish Group meeting on 21st February and therefore the agenda for this meeting would be kept short.

Patrick Walton spoke regarding the role of Mark Watts. He stated that he saw his role as key for the next stage. The areas of work to be covered by Mark Watts were agreed by all present.

Permission was given to Mark Watts to publicise his appointment with the JPG in the relevant professional publications in his field of work.

The next JPG meeting with Paul Carter was discussed, it was decided that Mark Watts would not need to be present at this.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Paul Carter to inform him in advance of the JPG's expectations of the forthcoming meeting, to outline the areas of discussion and to ask whether KCC would be willing to give some financial support to the group.

Action: Letter to be sent to Paul Carter as agreed.

The meeting discussed the political relations of the Joint Parish Group and the areas and possible contacts should the Borough Council refuse the application.

It was suggested that Mark Watts should attend a JPG meeting in six weeks time to give a report on his progress.

4. Other Items.

Richard Jacques passed on the apologies of Terry Rimes who was due to attend the meeting to address the JPG.

5. Date of Next Meetings.

21st February 2008 and 18th March 2008.

Richard Jacques thanked all present for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.