

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 10th February 2025.
Held at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

Councillors present: *Shelley*
 Skinner
 Stark
 Wise

Also: Sherrie Babington, Parish Clerk

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr Skinner.

1. Apologies.

Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs Smith (holiday), Duncan (work), Dunlop (work) and Waters (work), these were accepted.

Apologies were also received from MBC Cllrs Jones, Naghi, Thompson and KCC Cllr Prendergast.

2. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

To consider any applications for Co-option.

No applications to consider.

3. Declaration of Interest.

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.

No interests were declared.

To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

No dispensations were considered.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all members.

It was proposed by Cllr Stark to accept these as a true record, these were seconded by Cllr Wise and agreed by all present.

The Minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

6. **Public Participation.**

To discuss any questions received by members of the public.

No matters were raised.

7. **Clerks Report.**

To receive the Clerks Report.

The Clerk briefed members on the current situation regarding Devolution and the MBC Community Governance Review.

8. **External Reports:**

a. **To receive the MBC Ward Councillor's Report.**

Ward Councillors Thompson, Naghi and Jones gave their apologies to the meeting.

b. **To receive the KCC Councillor's Report.**

Apologies were received from KCC Cllr Prendergast.

c. **To receive the Police Report.**

No police attended the meeting and no report was submitted.

d. **To receive Parish Councillors Reports.**

Cllr Stark reported on the King George V memorial Hall.

9. **St Marys Church.**

To receive a report on St Marys Church.

A report from the Vicar of St Marys Church was welcomed and noted by members.

10. **Financial Matters:**

a. **Financial Statement.**

To receive and approve the financial statement and payments.

The financial statement was circulated to all members and was proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded by Cllr Stark, and agreed by all present.

a) **Parish Council Bank Account.**

To agree to open an additional Parish Council Bank Account.

Banking Arrangements

The council's funds are held across two Co-operative Bank accounts:

- Community Direct Plus Account: £79,000.

- 14-Day Account: £41,000.

Key Concerns:

- Members have identified that holding significant reserves in one institution is not best practice, as it poses potential risks to financial security.

Proposed Action:

- Open a new account with another provider to diversify holdings and reduce risk.
- Recommended providers include:
 1. Unity Trust Bank: Offers a 24-month fixed-term, no-access account with a competitive interest rate of 4.25% (as of 9 December 2024).
 2. Other options include Nationwide, Cambridge, and Hampshire Trust Bank.
 3. Transfer £50,000 into the new account to maximise annual return and protect PC finances.

Members discussed and agreed to the banking recommendations to open a new bank account with Unity Trust Bank, this was proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded by Cllr Wise and agreed by all present.

11. Planning Matters:

a. Planning Application Received

24/504600/FULL - 3 Aldington Court Cottages Pilgrims Way Thurnham Kent ME14 3LW
Erection of car port.

No Objections.

25/500122/TPOA - The Lodge Water Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LT

Tree Preservation Order application: T3 Oak - Trim large branches back to the trunk, spread of the tree will be reduced by 7.5m, the second branch is 4.5m. The overall spread is not reduced as there are branches above this with similar length.

No Objections.

25/500123/FULL - 13 Peverel Drive Thurnham Kent ME14 4PS

Rear garden landscaping works to raise the level of the existing lawn and construction of new raised decking and detached open sided timber structure, privacy screening to both neighbouring garden boundaries.

No Objections.

b. MBC Planning Decisions

24/505132/TPOA

Land Adjacent to Clayswood Thurnham Lane Thurnham Kent

TPO application to carry out works to various trees as defined in the Woodland Management Plan and felling license permission Ref: 019/448/2023.

Application Permitted

24/504955/FULL

143 Hockers Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 5JY

Erection of a single storey rear extension and alteration to fenestration.
Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters.

The Chairman reported on recent emails regarding Edlin Road. He stated that the situation now appeared to be resolved. Residents had reported concerns that the developer/landowner was attempting to cross land without a right of access. Maidstone Councillor Val Springett had addressed the issue on behalf of the residents.

12. Parish Council Annual Report.

Annual Report for 2025, currently work in progress.

Action: Clerk to progress.

13. Highway & PROW Matters.

a. To consider general highway and PROW matters.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
(CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2024

(AMENDMENT No.12) ORDER 2025

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Notice is given that The Kent County Council, acting as the Local Traffic Authority, in exercise of its powers and under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 19, 32, 35, 36, 45, 46, 47, 49, 53, 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ('the Act'), the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers, after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby proposes to make the following order:-

The effect of the Order is to place double yellow lines on the following length of roads in Maidstone:-

HOCKERS LANE – DYL - On both sides from its junction with Ware Street for a distance of 15 metres in a north easterly direction. **SANDY MOUNT – DYL** - (1) On its south side 3 metres east of the western boundary of 5 Sandy Mount for a distance of 88 metres in an easterly direction. (2) On its north side from the permit parking bays opposite number 7 Sandy Mount for a distance of 50 metres in a south easterly direction. **WARE STREET – DYL** - On both sides from a point 15 metres northwest of its junction with Hockers Lane for a distance of 35 metres in a south easterly direction. A full statement of the Council's reasons for making the proposed Order, a plan indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at Kent Highways & Transportation, Kent County Council, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, TN24 8XU by appointment booked through tro@kent.gov.uk or viewed online from 7 February 2025 at www.kent.gov.uk/highwaysconsultations

Representations supporting or objecting to the proposed Order (your objection must explain the impact on traffic in the local area to be valid) can be made via our website using the above link or alternatively you can write to The Senior Parking & Traffic Regulation Officer, Traffic Management Team, Kent Highways & Transportation, Kent County Council, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, TN24 8XU by 12 noon Monday 3 March 2025.

The Public Notice regarding the double yellow lines at the junction of Ware Street and Hockers Lane was noted by members.

It was reported that the fencing between Crismill Lane and the high-speed rail line was damaged near the footpath.

The Clerk was asked to report this to Network Rail.

Action: Clerk to action.

Signage on the A20 - It was noted that old signage from previous road closures remained on-site along the A20, despite the closures having ended. The Clerk was asked to report this to Kent County Council to arrange for their removal.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Public Right of Way at Longton Wood

The Clerk confirmed that no further information had been received from the resident who attended the last meeting regarding this matter.

Cllr Stark reported that there had been incidents of motorbikes speeding along the A20 late at night.

b. HIP (Highways Improvement Plan).

To receive an update on the Highways Improvement Plan.

Members discussed the poor condition of the grass verges outside the Woodland Trust and the benefits of extending the wooden posts to prevent parking in this area. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with KCC Officer Greg Nichols to determine whether this could be included in the Parish Council's Highways Improvement Plan.

Action: Clerk to action

14. Future Agenda Items.

- Devolution.

15. Date next Meeting

The date of the next meeting - Monday 17th March 2025.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.10pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....