

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 19th February 2024.
Held at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

Councillors present: *Duncan*
 Horne
 Shelley
 Skinner
 Smith
 Stark
 Wise

Also: Members of the Public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish 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 were received and accepted from the Parish Clerk, Cllrs Dunlop, Stark, MBC Cllr Thompson, and KCC Cllr Prendergast.

2. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

To consider any applications for Co-option.

No applicants were considered.

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.

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

No interests were declared, and no dispensation requests were received.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Horne to accept these as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Duncan and agreed by all present.

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

No matters were raised.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

Mrs Savage, a resident of Thurnham Lane, had since the tragic accident written and spoken to KCC personnel about conditions on the road to try and get things rectified. KCC Highways have been trying to help. The road had been closed since Thursday. However, the signs were being ignored. Different KCC departments drains and potholes which meant nothing was happening at the moment to resolve the issue.

Water is flowing off the fields down to the motorway bridge. It does not go down the drain at Court Farm.

The field to the north of her property is tile drained opposite parsonage farm.

There is a problem with drainage in the road.

She had noted her the reference number of her KCC complaint.

We will ask our clerk to write to KCC asking if they agree with her summary and ask for their proposals.

There was an offer of excavation from Mr. Edwards to dig ditches temporarily down both sides of the road. He said this would enable the laying of drainage pipes and after the work he would willingly then backfill. His business runs Lorries out of Court Farm.

He felt the 30mph limit should be extended further up the road nearer to the motorway bridge and could even be reduced to a 20mph limit.

Councillor Smith confirmed that speed reduction along Thurnham Lane (and others) had been on our Highways Improvement Plan submitted to KCC Highways (HIP) for a long time.

The Chair felt it was a shame that our KCC Councillor was not able to attend many meetings.

Mr. Waters, a local resident, said he had been asked by KCC to cut his hedges and suggested that residents keep up pressure on KCC to ensure others do so elsewhere.

The Chair confirmed that the Clerk had written to KCC regarding the recent accident and the urgency of implementing our HIP.

Re planning application for East of Water Lane. Mr. Edwards said he had started work to level the fields but had been asked to stop activity.

Others were going in and fly tipping possibly. He said he had put gates across, but they were broken down. The intruders had dug holes and put in tyres without his knowledge. He said he now needed a permit to remove them as it was hazardous waste.

He wants to level it out and put in a pond and make it suitable for arable for cows and sheep. He said it was just an eyesore at the moment and he would like to return it to natural beauty.

7. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk's report was noted by members.

8. External Reports.

a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Stephen Thompson gave his apologies and submitted a written report to the meeting.

b. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. Police Report.

No report was received.

d. Liaison with external parties

Cllr Stark reported that the Memorial Hall was in a sound financial state with lots of one-off bookings.

9. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported on the Local Plan and the work of the Coordinating Group.

He reported that there were recommendations from Water Southeast sensible including Minister for Water. May need price increase.

10. Saint Mary's Church.

Cllr Smith reported on St Mary's Church.

11. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

12. Planning Matters:

a. Planning applications to consider.

24/500168/LBC - The Granary Chapel Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 4PF

Removal of existing stairs and porch to first floor entrance and the existing pergola with first floor decking. Erection of a single storey side extension, replacement of existing windows, and installation of Juliet balcony to first floor door.

Action: PC Objections.

24/500167/FULL - The Granary Chapel Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 4PF

Listed Building Consent for removal of existing stairs and porch to first floor entrance and the existing pergola with first floor decking. Erection of a single storey side extension, replacement of existing windows, and installation of Juliet balcony to first floor door.

Action: PC Objections.

23/505534/FULL - Land Northeast of The M20 And Southeast of Water Lane Thurnham Kent

Proposed engineering operations for excavation of soils and deposited materials, and regrading and restoration of land (resubmission 22/502512/FULL).

Action: PC Objections.

It was noted that a planning application would be coming in for Lodge Bridge Farm on Water Lane re a request to fell trees subject to TPO. It was concerned that may be unnecessary.

Loc 8 planning and drainage.

Concern was expressed over a plan for one large unit to store Lithium batteries with a possible Fire risk and the runoff of a large volume of water.

It was agreed that the council write to Cllr Patrick Garten at MBC to seek re assurance that there was adequate protection in place for the local water system and aquifer supplying water to the locality.

b. MBC Planning Decisions

23/504782/SUB

Scammell Lodge Friningham Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JD

Submission of details pursuant to condition 3 (Section 278 Agreement for the implementation of the site access works) and condition 4 (details of the proposed surface dressing) in relation to planning permission 20/506149/FULL.

Application Permitted

23/504465/TPOA

21 Caring Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NJ

TPO application to remove the overhanging branches of three Pine back to the boundary line subject to TPO 22 of 2008.

Lesser Works (Trees)

Following consideration of your application, the Local Planning Authority has GRANTED CONSENT FOR LESSER WORK in accordance with the details set out below.

This permission is SUBJECT to the following Condition(s):

(1) The works proposed in the application to remove the overhanging branches on three Pine trees back to the boundary is considered excessive and unjustified for the reasons put forward in the application.

Therefore, the following LESSER works have been approved, subject to the conditions and informatives detailed in this notice:

Larch tree (T2) - remove the 3 no. lower, overhanging branches back to the boundary, to provide a clear height of 5m above ground level.

Pine tree (T3) adjacent to the larch tree - remove the 4 no. lower, overhanging branches back to the boundary, to provide a clear height of 7m above ground level.

Pine tree (T4) - remove the 3 no. lower, overhanging branches back to the boundary, to provide a clear height of 7m above ground level. Prune 1 no. other lower overhanging branch protruding beyond the main canopy by 3m.

(2) The tree surgery work hereby permitted shall consist only in the LESSER operations specified in writing as detailed in condition 1.

Reason: To avoid doubt and to ensure the work complies with good arboricultural practice safeguarding the longevity, amenity and nature conservation value of the tree/s and its/their contribution to the character and appearance of the local area.

(3) All works hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the current edition of BS 3998 by a competent person.

Reason: To ensure the work complies with good arboricultural practice to safeguard the longevity, amenity and nature conservation value of the tree/s and its/their contribution to the character and appearance of the local area

c. Other Planning Matters.

13. Highway & PROW Matters.

a. To consider general highway and PROW matters.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS KM82 (PART) AND KH123A (PART) THURNHAM)

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT

MODIFICATION ORDER 2024

The above named Order made on 10 January 2024 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public bridleway numbered KM82 which begins at an unaffected length of bridleway KM82 at NGR TQ 8043 5597 (Point A) and travels in a northerly direction for 170 metres to NGR TQ 8046 5614 (Point B), then continues in a north northeasterly direction for 239 metres to NGR TQ 8058 5635 (Point X), then continues in a northeasterly direction for 97 metres to NGR TQ 8065 5641 (Point P), where the path terminates at its junction with Public Bridleway KH123A. As shown by the bold continuous line between Points A – B – X – P on the Order Plan and will add a new length of Public Bridleway numbered KM82 with a width of 4.0 metres which begins at the aforementioned Point A and travels in a northeasterly direction for 438 metres to NGR TQ 8068 5634 (Point C), then continues in a westerly direction for 99 metres to NGR TQ 8058 5635 (Point X), where the path terminates at its junction with Public Bridleway KM81. As shown by the broken line with crossbars in the intervals between Points A – C – X on the Order Plan.

Also, the entire width of that length of public bridleway numbered KH123A which begins at NGR TQ 8071 5638 (Point Q) and travels in a north-westerly then south-westerly direction for 70 metres to NGR TQ 8065 5641 (Point P). As shown by the bold continuous line between Points Q – P on the Order Plan and will add a new length of public bridleway numbered KH123A with a width of 4.0 metres which begins at the aforementioned Point Q, and travels in a south westerly direction for 48 metres to NGR TQ 8068 5634 (Point C), where the path terminates along the length of Public Bridleway KM82. As shown by the broken line with crossbars in the intervals between Points Q – C on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge the Kent County Council, History & Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LQ, from 10am-5pm. The documents can also be viewed online at www.kent.gov.uk/prownotices or a copy can be obtained by contacting Michael Tonkin on 03000 41 03 25 or email Michael.tonkin@kent.gov.uk. Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Michael Tonkin at the Kent County Council (address as below; email and telephone as above) not later than 23 February 2024. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Discussion took place over the poor road closure coordination and signage by KCC and its contractors.

Agreed clerk to ask that KCC officers check which Parish covers the area of works rather than just going by postal designation road names.

b. HIP (Highways Improvement Plan).

Cllr Smith has added a request for double yellow lines at the bottom of Hockers Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk request a firm quote for the works for consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion took place on how far it should go north, and it was agreed to seek advice from KCC highways.

14. Future Agenda Items.

No matters were raised.

15. Date of next Meeting.

18th March 2024.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.10pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....