

The Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.  
Held at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

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

*Also: Mrs Babington, Clerk, MBC Councillor Stephen Thompson, and members of the public.*

*The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.*

1. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Elected Councillors.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received for all elected councillors.

2. To elect a chairman.

*To receive and consider nominations for Chairman.*

It was proposed by Cllr Stark to elect Cllr Skinner as chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by all present.

Cllr Skinner accepted this position and took the chair.

3. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Skinner signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. To elect a vice-chairman.

*To receive and consider nominations for Vice-Chairman.*

It was proposed by Cllr Stark to elect Cllr Smith as vice chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Skinner and agreed by all present.

5. 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 from KCC Cllr Prendergast.

6. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

*To consider any applications for Co-option.*

The Clerk informed members that there were three applications for co-option to fill the four vacancies following the local elections.

Members considered that applications from Greta Dunlop, Mick Wise, and Ian Shelley. It was proposed by Cllr Skinner to co-opt all three candidates onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.

The newly opted councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took their places around the table.

**7. To appoint Committees & Representatives to outside bodies.**

**Planning**

Cllr. Stark  
Cllr. Wise  
Cllr. Skinner (Chairman)  
Cllr. Dunlop (reserve planning & TPO)

**Finance**

Cllr. Shelley

**Representatives for Outside Bodies**

Footpaths	Cllr. Smith
Memorial Hall	Cllr Stark.
St Mary's Church	Cllr. Smith.
Police Liaison	All Councillors.
Tree Warden	Cllr. Smith & Cllr Dunlop.
A249 Action Group	Cllr. Horne
Highways	Cllr. Smith & Cllr. Stark.
KALC	All Councillors
Kent Downs	Cllr. Wise.
JPG/Coordinating Group	Cllr. Horne.
Tri-Parish Meetings	Cllr. Horne.

**Memberships**

Kent Association of local Councils (KALC)  
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)  
ICO (information Commissioners Office)

**Other Appointments**

Internal Auditor - Martin Thomas and Co  
External Auditor - Mazars  
Bank - Cooperative

**8. 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.

**9. 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, this was seconded by Cllr Horne and agreed by all present.

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

**10. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

**11. Public Comments and Observations.**

Members of the public attended the meeting to speak regarding the planning application submitted for Court Farm Thurnham. They spoke regarding the unlawful use of the site and questioned why enforcement action had not been taken.

Residents from Thurnham Lane reported large lorries carrying waste, travelling in both directions, they stated that business activities were being carried out on the site, in the ANOB, this was inappropriate for a rural area.

They stated that there was a dangerous corner at the old railway bridge on Thurnham Lane, and this was made worse by excessive lorries travelling along this route at speed, the lorries also appear to be coming off the A249 travelling through Detling.

There were also reports of burning at the rear of the property and KCC Waste Management had been informed about this.

They asked the parish council to support their objections to this application.

The Chairman spoke regarding this matter and stated that the Parish Council were going to object to the planning application and support residents and the Bearsted and Thurnham Society in their objections. They would also ensure that the application was called into the MBC Planning Committee.

It was also agreed that KCC Councillor Shelina Prendergast should be made aware of this application to ensure that KCC were consulted.

It was formally agreed that the Parish Council would submit an objection to Maidstone Borough Council, copying in KCC and the Environment Agency.

*Action: Clerk to submit an objection letter to MBC.*

## 12. Clerk's Report.

### MAIDSTONE'S CIVIC PARADE AND SERVICE - SATURDAY 20 MAY 2023

Maidstone's civic parade and service will be held on Saturday 20 May. The parade will provide the opportunity to welcome our new Mayor, Cllr Gordon Newton, into office and for 36 Engineer Regiment to exercise their Honorary Freedom of the Borough by marching through the Town with bayonets fixed. The parade will pass the Town Hall at 11.30 on its way to All Saints Church for the civic service at 12.00.

The Mayor and Mayoress-elect are pleased to invite your Parish Chairman to attend the civic service and join them for light refreshments in the Archbishops Palace following the service. Please note they need to be seated in the Church by 11.45 on the morning.

The Clerk's Report was noted by members, and it was agreed that Cllr Horne would represent the PC at the Civic Service.

## 13. External Reports.

### a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Stephen Thompson attended the meeting and gave his report to the meeting.

The Chairman congratulated him on his election result.

### b. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

### c. Police Report.

No police report was given.

### d. Liaison with external parties

Cllr Stark gave a report on the progress of King George V Memorial Hall.

He reported that bookings were stable and had adequate insurance cover.

## 14. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

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

## 15. Saint Mary's Church.

Cllr Smith reported on St Mary's Church.

## 16. Financial Matters.

### a. Financial Statement.

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

b. To consider a Grant request from Thurnham Infants School.

Members were asked to consider a grant request from Thurnham Infants School to purchase 270 waterproof sets for the children of Thurnham CE School.

Details of the grant application were circulated.

Members discussed the application, the way in which the school was funded, and the Parish Councils budget. Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed that on this occasion the PC could not approve the grant request.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the applicants.

**Action: Clerk to action.**

c. 2022/2023 Accounts and AGAR.

The Clerk reported that the 2022/23 Accounts and AGAR were currently with the auditor, and following this they would be presented to the next meeting.

17. Committee Reports:a) Planning Matters.

23/501593/FULL - The Meadowlarks Birkdale Lane Weaving Maidstone

Demolition of existing single garage and erection a double garage attached to existing bungalow.

**Action: No Objection.**

23/501379/FULL - 2 Mamignot Close Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 4PT

Erection of a first-floor side extension with pitched roof including windows to the front, rear and side to match existing.

**Action: No Objection.**

23/501367/FULL - Court Farm Thurnham Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LG

Change of use of land for the storage of waste and empty skips, including installation of temporary concrete blocks to form storage bays for ready sourced aggregates, siting of 3no. secure waste containers and 2no. Storage containers, parking of 2no. lorries, and chopping and storage of logs (retrospective).

**Action: Objection for reasons discussed under Public Comments.**

Cllr Start spoke regarding the planning application for Snowfields, he stated that initially Bearsted PC were not going to object to the application, but now they were objecting.

*Cllr Smith declared an interest in this matter.*

b) MBC Planning Decisions

23/501306/LAWPRO

Yew Tree House Thurnham Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 4PL

Lawful Development Certificate for proposed 2no. rear flat roofed single storey extensions.

Application Permitted

23/501227/FULL

Leyfield Lodge Ware Street Weaving Maidstone Kent ME14 5LA

Erection of a single storey rear extension including 2no. rooflights.

Application Permitted

23/500900/FULL

Woodville Weaving Street Weaving Maidstone Kent ME14 5JS

Demolition of lean to/garage. Erection of a single-storey rear and side extension with associated landscaping.

Application Permitted

c) Other Planning Matters.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH DESIGN AND SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT -  
REGULATION 18 PREFERRED APPROACHES CONSULTATION

Maidstone Borough Council has committed to delivering a Design and Sustainability Development Plan Document (DPD) to site alongside its Local Plan and forthcoming Local Plan Review. The Design and Sustainability DPD – Preferred Approaches (Regulation 18) document has been prepared for public consultation. The consultation document puts forward a range of draft policies around the following themes, which new developments will be assessed against:

- Placemaking
- Streets and Buildings
- Open Space and Nature
- Movement
- Sustainable Buildings
- Design Quality

The Preferred Approaches document is accompanied by a consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal. A Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process which runs alongside the production of the Design and Sustainability DPD and helps inform the ongoing decision-making process. The Sustainability Appraisal document being consulted on considers the draft policies against sustainability objectives.

The Preferred Approaches document and Sustainability Appraisal, along with the evidence base and other information can be viewed and downloaded from the council's website <https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/design-and-sustainability-development-plan-document> and is available for inspection at:

- Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ by appointment. Please contact the Strategic Planning Team, by email at: [ldf@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@maidstone.gov.uk) or by phone 01622 602000.
- All libraries in Maidstone Borough area during normal opening hours  
Period for representations: The consultation period for receipt of representations on the Design and Sustainability DPD will be from 4.00pm on 28th April 2023 to 5.00pm on 12th June 2023.
- By email to: [ldf@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@maidstone.gov.uk)
- By post to: Strategic Planning, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ

d. Highway & PROW Matters.

Cllr Stark reported on highways matters.

Cllr Duncan reported that the barbed wire was still obstructing the PROW at Caring Lane.

*Action: Clerk to follow this up with KCC.*

Cllr Shelley spoke regarding fly tipping on the bridle path at Water Lane to the rear of The Mallings.

*Action: Clerk to report to MBC.*

e. HIP - Quiet Lanes Initiative.

Cllr Smith reported that he was due to meet with Bearsted and Hollingbourne Parish Council to discuss Highway matters and a coordinated approach regarding traffic calming on Ware Street.

A discussion took place regarding the speeding on rural lanes and the need for this to be lower. Cllr Smith stated that the Parish Council was exploring the possibility of a Quiet Lanes Scheme, this would involve signage to advise motorists that they were driving in a shared space.

Cllr Duncan suggested a national petition to seek lower speed limits on rural lanes.

It was agreed that this was a matter to be brought to the attention of the KALC.

18. Future Agenda Items.

No matters were raised.

19. Date of next Meeting.

19<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.55pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....