

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 20th November 2023.
Held at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

Councillors present: *Horne*
 Skinner
 Stark
 Wise

Also: Mrs Babington, Clerk.

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 Cllrs Dunlop, Duncan, Shelley, Smith, 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 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.

No matters were raised.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were reported.

7. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk's report was noted by members.

KALC Community Award

We are delighted to announce that we have now launched the 2024 KALC Community Awards Scheme, with support from Kent County Council, the High Sheriff of Kent, and the Mayor of Medway. This follows a very successful 2023 Awards Scheme, which was adopted by 79 member Councils.

The Award Winners receive a Framed Certificate. The Council can decide whether to present something extra to their winner.

The first step is for the Council to agree to adopt the Scheme. The Council would then need to submit its Nomination to manager@kentalc.gov.uk by Friday 2nd February 2024.

Action: It was agreed that members would consider a recipient for this award.

8. External Reports.

a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Stephen Thompson gave his apologies and circulated his report to the meeting by email.

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 on the progress of the King George V Memorial Hall.

Cllr Horne reported that he had laid the wreath at St Mary's church on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

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

He stated that the modifications to the Local Plan referenced the definition of countryside and Thurnham fell within the definition. He suggested that the PC takes this up with MBC.

Cllr Skinner stated that he would investigate this.

10. Saint Mary's Church.

Cllr Smiths report was noted.

11. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. 2024/2025 Budget and Precept.

To consider the draft budget and agree the 2024/25 Precept Demand.

MBC do not publish the Band D guidance until the end of December; therefore, the budget and precept should be formally considered at the January 2024 PC Meeting when the Band D calculations are available.

12. Planning Matters:

a. Planning applications to consider.

23/504475/FULL - 119 Hockers Lane Thurnham Maidstone

Erection of open timber front entrance porch and insertion of rear bi-fold doors.

No objections.

23/505054/FULL - 4 Peverel Drive Thurnham Kent ME14 4PS

Erection of first floor side extension.

No objections.

b. MBC Planning Decisions

23/504096/SUB

2 Popes Wood Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3PW

Submission of details to discharge condition 2 - Biodiversity Enhancement, Subject to

23/500425/FULL

Application Permitted

23/503717/FULL

Gorse Tor Detling Hill Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JG

Demolition of existing residential dwelling and all ancillary outbuildings and erection of a replacement detached dwelling with ancillary parking, cycle and bin storage.

Application Permitted

23/503477/FULL

3 Thurnham Oast Aldington Lane Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3LL

Replacement of roof on stable block ancillary to the main dwelling.

Application Permitted

23/502803/TPOA

Kent County Showground Detling Hill Detling Kent ME14 3JF

TPO application - Please see application form for schedule of works.

Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters.

Location: Oakridge House Crismill Lane Bearsted Kent ME14 4NT

Proposal: Erection of raised decking over sloping embankment (Part retrospective).

Appellant: Mr Gavin Body

Appeal Reference Number(s):

APP/U2235/D/23/3329969

Appeal Starting date: 11 October 2023

An appeal has been lodged by Mr Gavin Body in relation to the above for the following reason:
The Council has refused permission for this application.

The Council has been asked to give notice of the appeal to owners and occupiers of properties near the site as well as other interested parties.

The Planning Inspectorate/Secretary of State has decided that this does not offer an opportunity for interested parties to comment further at the appeal stage. However, any representations that have already been made to the Council regarding the original planning application have already been forwarded to the Inspector and will be considered by the Inspector when deciding the appeal. Should you have made any previous representations, and you wish to withdraw them from consideration then you can do so by contacting the Planning Inspectorate, by email to:

RT1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or in writing to Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN, quoting above reference(s).

You may view the application online at www.maidstone.gov.uk/planningsearch - please use the planning application reference.

13. Highway & PROW Matters.

a. To consider general highway and PROW matters.

No matters were raised.

b. HIP (Highways Improvement Plan).

To receive an update on the Highways Improvement Plan.

Members consider the following request:

The inconsiderate parking at the end of Hockers Lane, at its junction with Ware Street has been raised with me and I suspect it needs a short stretch of double yellow lines to discourage parking near the junction. Could this be raised with the parish council for consideration to add to your Highways Improvement Plan with KCC please?

This was discussed and it was agreed that this should be added to the PC HIP and submitted to KCC.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Smith and action.

14. Thurnham Heritage Award.

It was agreed that the Award would be refurbished when returned from the Showground in May 2024. Therefore, it would then be presented again in 2025.

15. Future Agenda Items.

No matters were raised.

16. Date of next Meeting.

11th December 2023.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.15pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....