

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

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

*Also: Mrs Babington, Clerk.*

*The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.*

1. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Dunlop, Shelley and KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast.

2. **Declaration of Interest.**

No interests were declared.

3. **Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

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

It was proposed by Cllr Duncan 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.

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

Letter to Planning Inspectorate sent as agreed.

Cllr Horne spoke regarding this and the development in Ware Street, and asked members if there was any merit in drawing the Planning Inspectors attention to the comments of Rachel Pipkins report regarding the Local Plan.

This was agreed.

5. **Public Comments and Observations.**

The local Green Candidate attended the meeting and asked the following questions of the Parish Council:

- What the recent precept spend was and the future priorities of the PC.
- MBC funds to use on behalf of PC.
- Environmental Policy, significant issues re enforcement.
- What would the PC like to see MBC do in the future to support the PC.

The Chairman and Councillors answered the questions and confirmed that the PC actively pursued the protection of the AONB.

**6. Clerk's Report.**

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

*'Love Where you Live' - Applications for Funding open*

*Maidstone Borough Council is encouraging community groups to apply for a grant of between £500 and £5,000 for projects that improve their local environment as part of a new 'Love Where you Live' initiative.*

*Love Where You Live aims to support small-scale environmental projects that encourage a sense of civic pride across communities; meeting a desire not only to live in a clean and attractive place but also to actively contribute to transforming, enhancing and maintaining those spaces for both the community and local biodiversity. We want to encourage individuals and organisations to work in partnership within neighbourhoods to raise awareness and educate others around wider environmental and sustainability issues.*

*Applications are welcome from any non-profit making constituted group. Applications from schools will also be considered, but the funding must be used for community-based projects. If you are not a constituted group, you may wish to ask a Parish Council or local 'Friends Of' group to apply on your behalf. To apply you must have a bank or building society account in the name of the group. Each group can apply for grants of between £500 and £5000 for an individual project. Outstanding projects may be awarded more if they significantly improve the local environment and benefit the local community.*

*The closing date for applications is Friday 31st March. For more information and to apply click here: [Grants and funding for groups | Maidstone Borough Council](#)*

*To discuss any aspect of the Love Where You Live grant scheme or the Rural England Prosperity Fund, please contact us at [VCSLiaison@Maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:VCSLiaison@Maidstone.gov.uk)."*

*KALC Meeting*

*The next meeting of Maidstone KALC will be held on Monday 27th March at 7pm at Yalding Village Hall.*

*We will be discussing Maidstone KALC'S response to the Gypsy and Traveller Consultation and we have been promised attendance by a relevant officer/s who will be able to answer questions. We will circulate a draft response prior to the meeting.*

*Inspector Steve Kent will also be in attendance to update us on the new neighbourhood policing module.*

**7. External Reports.**

a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor de Wiggondene-Shepperd was not present at the meeting.

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 reported on the progress of the King George V Memorial Hall.

He stated that the Hall was in a good financial position and bookings were reasonable.

**8. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.**

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

He informed members that he was also due to attend a SE Water Strategic Directors Seminar.

**9. Saint Mary's Church.**

Cllr Smith reported on the financial position of the church.

**10. Financial Matters.**

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. Request for a financial contribution towards Car Show for St Marys Church.

Members considered and approved the request for a £300 donation towards the portaloos for the Car Show at St Marys Church.

**11. Parish Council Committee Reports.**

a. Planning Matters.

23/500425/FULL - 2 Popes Wood Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3PW

Erection of a garden sauna building in back garden. (Retrospective).

23/500900/FULL - Woodville Weaving Street Weaving Maidstone Kent

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

23/501080/FULL - Gorse Tor Detling Hill Detling 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.

b. MBC Planning Decisions

22/505992/FULL

Kalmia Thurnham Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LG

Erection of single storey self-contained annexe outbuilding

Application Refused

The Council hereby REFUSES Planning Permission for the above for the following Reason(s):

(1) The proposed annexe is not considered to be subservient and ancillary to the dwelling 'Kalmia'. The proposed annex would not appear to have any functional nor physical link to the host dwelling due to boundary fence between the two buildings and independent vehicle access/ parking arrangements. The disconnect with Kalmia suggests that the annexe could be used in its own capacity, or as an annexe to Little Dane. This therefore does not comply with what Maidstone Borough Council deems to be acceptable characteristics of an annexe building. It is considered that the proposal would be contrary to The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, The National Planning Practice Guidance, Policies SP17, DM1, DM30 and DM32 of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2017 and the Residential Extensions Supplementary Planning Document.

(2) In the absence of any robust information pertaining to impact on protected trees, the application fails to demonstrate that the proposed new annexe would not result in harm to trees protected by reason of a Tree Preservation Order, such that the proposal would be contrary to The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, The National Planning Practice Guidance, Policies DM1 and DM3 of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2017 and the Residential Extensions Supplementary Planning Document.

c. Other Planning Matters.

Notification of Appeal Lodged with the Planning Inspectorate

Proposal: Demolition of existing structure and conversion of existing storage barn to residential dwelling with associated parking, landscaping and private amenity space (resubmission of 21/504914/FULL).

Location: Land Adjoining Little Dane Thurnham Lane Thurnham

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

The Planning Inspectorate/Secretary of State has decided that the appeal will be determined on the basis of Written Representations.

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. Any comments and/or representations received in relation to this application have already been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate and will be considered by the Inspector when deciding the appeal. If you wish to add to modify or withdraw your previous representations then you can do so by contacting the Planning Inspectorate by email to: [East2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:East2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) or in writing to C Eagle, 3rd Floor, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN, quoting reference(s) APP/U2235/W/22/3308387.

Please note you must do this by 22 March 2023.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH GYPSY, TRAVELLER AND TRAVELLING SHOW PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT CONSULTATION AND CALL FOR SITES

Maidstone Borough Council has published the Regulation 18 version of its Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people Development Plan Document, which will consider the scope and key issues that the DPD will need to address.

It covers:

- Identifying 'need'
- Methods for identifying and assessing potential development sites
- Scope of strategic, thematic and detailed policies
- Methods for monitoring and review

Alongside this, the Council is seeking to identify potential sites which could be suitable for future Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Show people accommodation development through a targeted Call for Sites exercise. The exercise enables you to nominate land for this purpose. Sites should be submitted using the dedicated downloadable submission form. This is an open request for information about land and sites which may have development potential for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people accommodation in the future. It is particularly aimed at landowners, developers and their agents but it is open to anyone to submit a site. A key provision is that the person submitting the site can confirm that the landowner is willing to make the land available for development should it prove suitable.

Importantly, submitting a site through the Call for Sites does not mean that it will prove suitable for inclusion in the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people DPD or that it will get planning permission in the future. The Call for Sites' important purpose is to give the council a starting list of candidate sites to consider.

Sites submitted during the previous 2019 or 2022 Call for Sites exercises do not need to be resubmitted.

There is a seven-week period during which time representations may be made and sites may be submitted. Only representations received within this period, which runs from 9.30am on 28 February 2023 to 5.00pm on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, will be considered. Where possible, please respond in writing using the standard representation form (including electronically).

The completed representation form can be submitted as follows:

1. Online at: <https://maidstone.objective.co.uk/kse/>
2. By e-mail to: [ldf@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@maidstone.gov.uk) (a downloadable form is available)
3. By post to: Strategic Planning, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street

d. Highway Matters & PROW.

Members discussed an email from Cllr Dunlop regarding the traffic lights at the A20 road works. Cllr Stark stated that he did not think there was an issue as they were four-way traffic lights and due to the length of the road works they would take time to change. This was agreed by members.

It was reported that the following public rights of way should be reported as they were obstructed:

KH139 – Obstructed with barbed wire.

KH256 – Blocked by a tree.

**Action: Clerk to report to KCC.**

e. Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Smith reported on the progress re the HIP and stated that he was waiting from Bearsted PC to coordinate a meeting to discuss this.

12. Heritage Award.

Members agreed that the Heritage Award would be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 17<sup>th</sup> April 23.

*Action: Clerk to make necessary arrangements.*

13. Parish Council Elections.

Parish Timetable of Proceedings for  
Thursday 4 May 2023

Publication of Notice of Election	Monday 20 March 2023
Receipt of Nominations	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2023
Withdrawal of Candidate	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2023
Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated	4:00 pm Wednesday 5 April 2023
Last Date for Registration	Monday 17 April 2023
Receipt of Postal Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 18 April 2023
Publication of Notice of Poll	Tuesday 25 April 2023
Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 25 April 2023
Deadline for receiving applications for Voter Authority Certificates	5.00 pm Tuesday 25 April 2023
Appointment of Poll and Count Agents	Wednesday 26 April 2023
First Day to Issue Replacement Lost Postal Ballot Papers	Thursday 27 April 2023
Last Day to Issue Replacement Spoilt or Lost Postal Ballot Papers	5:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2023
Deadline for production of Temporary Voter Authority Certificates	10.00pm Thursday 4 May 2023
Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2023
Day of Poll	7:00 am to 10:00 pm 4 May 2023
Return of Election Expenses	Thursday 1 June 2023

14. Future Agenda Items.

No matters were raised.

15. Date of next Meeting.

17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.37pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....