

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 17th July 2023.
Held at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

Councillors present: *Duncan*
 Horne
 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. 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 Cllr Shelley, Dunlop and KCC Cllr Prendergast.

2. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

To consider any applications for Co-option.

No applicants 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.

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

No interests were declared.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Skinner to accept these as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Stark 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 Comments and Observations.

A resident and Planning Consultant attended the meeting to speak regarding a planning application that the Parish Council had raised objections to at the previous meeting. The Planning Consultant addressed the points raised in the PC objections. He asked the PC to reconsider its view based on the information he had just given.

The Chairman declared an interest and withdrew from discussions.

Members noted the comments from the applicant and a discussion regarding the PC's reasons for raising objections. A vote was then taken, and it was agreed that the objections submitted by the Parish Council were still relevant and should therefore still stand.

The Chairman thanked the applicant for attending the meeting.

7. Clerk's Report.

Parish Charter Review by MBC

Cllr Horne reported that the Parish Charter Review was an issue being considered by the KALC.

8. External Reports.

a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Stephen Thompson attended the meeting and gave his report covering the following:

- Community Governance Review.
- Biodiversity and Advisory Action Plan – invited PC input.

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 King George V Memorial Hall.

He stated that new smoke detectors had been installed at the hall, the finances were good, as were the bookings.

9. Community Governance Review (Parishes) - Stage 2 Consultation.

The Community Governance Review and the recommendations by MBC were circulated with the recommendation to move the Bearsted Parish area into another parish or Urban Maidstone. Members discussed the implications of the recommendations on the parish electorate.

It was agreed that the PC would draft a letter for all residents of the Bearsted Park area to advise them of the recommendations to change the parish boundary, moving them out of the Thurnham parish.

It was further agreed that the PC would submit its own representations to MBC objecting to their recommendation's and giving reasons why the boundary should not be changed.

It was agreed that the letter would be drafted by Cllr Smith and circulated to all members for approval. The Clerk would then print the letters, and these would be hand delivered by members to all residents of Bearsted Park.

Action: Cllr Smith and Clerk to action.

10. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

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

He reported that the inspector had issued a second letter in relation to the Local Plan, and he spoke regarding this.

He reported on the KALC Area Committee meeting he had attended, and the points covered at this meeting.

11. Saint Mary's Church.

Cllr Smith reported on St Mary's Church.

12. 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.

13. Committee Reports:

a. Planning applications to consider.

23/502955/FULL - Land at Longton Wood Coldblow Lane Thurnham Kent

Change of use of land for use as a wedding and events venue with camping area between May and September (inclusive), including erection of a single storey toilet and shower block (retrospective) and associated parking.

b. MBC Planning Decisions

No decisions to report.

c. Other Planning Matters.

Notification of Appeal Lodged with the Planning Inspectorate

Proposal: Outline application for erection of 2(no) dwellings (Matter of access being sought with all other matters reserved for future consideration).

Location: Glenrowan House Roundwell Bearsted

An appeal has been lodged 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 or in writing to Zone 3C, Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, quoting reference(s) APP/U2235/W/23/3315823.

14. Highway & PROW Matters.

a. To consider general highway and PROW matters.

Cllr Stark reported that the potholes had been filled near the roundabout at New Cut and the 30mph signs had been installed along the A20, Ashford Road.

He spoke about the possible closure of Caring Lane due to the SEW work in Leeds and stated that he was seeking clarity regarding this matter.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact KCC Cllr Prendergast regarding this.

Action: Clerk to action.

b. HIP - Quiet Lanes Initiative.

To receive an update on the Quiet Lanes Initiative.

Cllr Smith reported on this matter.

15. Future Agenda Items.

No matters were raised.

16. Date of next Meeting.

18th September 2023.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.50pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....