

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 18th February 2019
at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel at 7:30 PM.

***Councillors present: Baigent
Denham
Horne
Skinner
Stark
Waite
Wise***

Also: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, KCC Cllr Shellina Prendergast, PCSO Matt Adlington and members of the press and public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Smith, Shelley and MBC Cllr Nick de Wiggondene-Shepperd.

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 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.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding an issue with flooding and overgrown hedges in Thurnham Lane.

She reported that the hedges were overgrown along the side of the Bearsted Golf Club and needed cutting back before the bird nesting season.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Bearsted Golf Club to ask them to cut the hedges.

Action: Clerk to Action.

She also raised concerns regarding the blocked drains that were causing a flooding issue in Thurnham Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would report these to KCC.

Action: Clerk to Action.

6. Police Report.

PCSO Matt Adlington attended the meeting with his colleague, he stated that he had no crime issues to report in the parish.

Cllr Denham reported on an issue with a car and van parked in Averanches Road. PCSO Adlington confirmed that the van had been removed and a notice had been placed on the car.

Ware Street Parking – PCSO Adlington was asked if he could check the vehicles parked on Ware Street to ensure that they were legal. A discussion took place regarding the issues with parking along this road and the problems with vehicles accessing and leaving Bearsted Station.

Cllr Stark informed PCSO Adlington that he had tried to report a person walking down the A20 late at night to the police, however he had failed to get through to them.

7. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

8. Clerk's Report.

The Clerks Report was noted by members.

Civic Service – Cllr Horne stated that he was due to attend the Civic Service to represent the Parish Council.

Community Payback Scheme – Members suggested litter picking as a project for the Community Payback Scheme.

9. External Reports.

a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor de Wiggondene gave his apologies to the meeting.

b. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her report to the meeting.

She reported on the budget increase at KCC and the savings that needed to be made.

Woodcut Farm Meeting - She confirmed that Hollingbourne Parish Council were not present at the meeting despite being asked to attend. She spoke regarding this matter and confirmed that KCC were on top of the issues and agreements would not be signed until they were satisfied. She stated that she felt reassured by the outcome of the meeting.

School planning application at Popes Wood – Cllr Prendergast notes that the PC had submitted objections to the application. She stated that there was an urgent need for primary school places in the Borough, she confirmed that the access was now being revised to come through the Kims site.

Cllr Denham spoke regarding the closure of the school at Detling when it was needed.

Cllr Prendergast stated that circumstances change, and the birth boom meant that there was a need for a new school.

Cllr Skinner stated that should the access to the school change, the PC may reconsider its views.

Trees on A20 – Cllr Prendergast confirmed that the coppicing of the trees along the A20 Ashford Road had been undertaken as part of the maintenance programme to remove dead and dying trees.

c. Liaison with external parties

Cllr Waite reported that further finds had now been allocated to the Leader Fund for this area.

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

Cllr Horne reported on the SE Water Environmental Focus Group had now been renamed the Environmental Scope Group and would meet quarterly to discuss water matters.

10. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported on a meeting held with MBC Officers to discuss the Local Plan.

He reported that the Comptroller and Auditor had now published a report that stated that the planning system was not working within local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate was not working and this was inadequate.

He stated that the Coordinating Team were concerned about this and these had now been reinforced by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

A discussion took place regarding this and the CIL System.

11. Saint Mary's Church.

No matters were reported.

12. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

The cheques for payment were then signed by two authorised signatories.

Bank Balances

Cooperative Community Direct Plus Account

Opening Balance on Current Account	£42708.49
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£1639.37
Closing Balance on Current Account	£41069.12

Cooperative 14 Day Account

Opening Balance on Current Account	£40278.78
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£0.00

Closing Balance on Current Account £40,278.78

Total Balance of all Parish Council Accounts **£81347.90**

b. Request for financial assistance from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

It was proposed by Cllr Skinner to make a donation of £200 to the CAB, this was seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.

13. Parish Matters.

a. Play Areas.

No matters were raised.

b. Footpath and Bridleways.

Howe Court – Members discussed the public footpath that ran through the garden of a property, it was noted that the owner had now constructed a new footpath, and there was due to be a formal application for a footpath diversion.

14. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Planning Matters.

Application Received

Application Received

19/500170/FULL

Nether Milgate Ashford Road Bearsted Maidstone Kent

Erection of a 20x60m all-weather riding arena (Revision to 18/502886/FULL).

Application Decisions by MBC

18/506482/FULL

Land to The Rear Of 12 Caring Lane Bearsted Kent ME14 4NJ

Erection of 5no. four-bedroom detached houses with detached double garages.

Application Refused

18/506466/FULL

Thurnham Court Thurnham Lane Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3LG

Conversion of existing garages to additional living accommodation. Addition of a glazed link extension to dwelling and replacement of an existing flat roof above the first-floor landing with a pitched roof, new dormer windows to the South East roof slope. Changes to fenestration and erection of garden belvedere.

Application Withdrawn

18/506313/FULL

Cobham Cottage Water Lane Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3LU

Erection of part single storey, part two storey rear extension with associated internal/external alterations (Resubmission of 18/500254/FULL)

Application Permitted

18/505555/FULL

The Black Horse Inn Pilgrims Way Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3LD

Removal of existing wedding facility and erection of a bungalow.

Application Permitted

18/505555/FULL

The Black Horse Inn Pilgrims Way Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3LD

Removal of existing wedding facility and erection of a bungalow.

Application Permitted

b. Enforcement Matters.

War Games – Clerk to establish current situation regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to Action.

c. Highway Matters.

Cllr Stark reported a flooding problem at Roundwell, caused by a blocked fully.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

15. Thinking Day discussion points.

Cllr Horne suggested that the LC should look at the background and topography of the parish.

The Clerk was asked to purchase a book of Thurnham history.

Action: Clerk to action.

16. Future Agenda Items.

Parish Council elections – The Clerk stated that she would forward the details for the forthcoming local elections to all members.

Action: Clerk to action.

17. Date of next Meeting.

18th March 2019.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.40pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....