

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.  
Held at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

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

*Also: Mrs Babington, Clerk.*

*The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.*

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Baigent, Dunlop, Duncan, 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 Stark to accept these as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

6. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

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.

Cllr Horne reported that he had represented the Parish Council and given a Reading at the Church Christmas Service.

8. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported on the Local Plan Inspection Hearing.

He stated that this had been paused at present to enable the Inspector to consider questions and it was due to resume in March.

He spoke regarding the Ward Boundary changes and the implications that this would have on the parish boundary.

This was discussed and Cllr Horne suggested that the Parish Council makes representations to MBC on the proposed changes in order to protect the parish boundary.

The Clerk informed members that the Community Governance Review was due to take place, and this would consider the Parish Council boundaries, there was currently a survey being undertaken by MBC to establish initial views and the PC should make representations to this.

This was discussed further, and it was agreed that Cllrs Skinner and Horne would draft a letter to MBC for the Clerk to submit.

***Action: Cllrs Skinner, Horne, and Clerk to action.***

9. Saint Mary's Church.

Cllr Smith reported on the financial position of the church.

He reported that St Marys had held a Christmas Fair that had been a success and raised funds for the church.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. 2023/2024 Budget and Precept.

The Clerk circulated a draft budget and supporting report to all members for their consideration.

This was noted, and Cllr Smith proposed a 0% increase to the Band D Tax Rate for the 2023/24 precept of £23934, this was seconded by Cllr Shelley and agreed by all present.

The draft budget was approved by members with a 2023/2024 precept of £23934.

***Action: Clerk to submit the signed precept demand form to MBC.***

**11. Parish Council Committee Reports.****a. Planning Matters.**

22/505138/FULL - 2 Caring Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NJ

Loft conversion including raising of roof gable, insertion of rear dormer and rooflights to front roof scope. Erection of a single storey rear extension and pitched roof to existing garage.

22/505861/LBC - The Studio Parsonage Farmhouse Thurnham Lane

Listed Building Consent for works associated with the conversion of an open fronted car barn to provide an extension to the existing self-catering holiday accommodation.

22/505860/FULL - The Studio Parsonage Farmhouse Thurnham Lane

The conversion of an open fronted car barn to provide an extension to the existing self-catering holiday accommodation.

22/505798/FULL - Cosy Cot Firs Lane Hollingbourne Maidstone Kent ME17

Loft conversion with rear dormer and 4no. roof lights to front elevation.

23/500156/FULL - Friningham Farm Friningham Detling Maidstone Kent

Retrospective application for creation of an earth bund for a cattle enclosure.

22/505992/FULL - Kalmia Thurnham Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LG

Erection of single storey self-contained annexe outbuilding

**MBC Planning Decisions**

22/504894/AGRIC

Howe Court Woods Crismill Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LY

Prior notification for the erection of a timber framed barn on a concrete slab. For its prior approval to: - Siting, design and external appearance.

Prior Approval Not Required

22/504554/TPOA

Oakridge House Crismill Lane Bearsted Kent ME14 4NT

TPO application: Height reduction of one Poplar as shown in photograph within tree pruning information document (Approx 25m tall and 5m wide currently); Crown reduction of one Oak as shown in photograph within tree pruning information document (Approx 18m high and 12-15m wide currently).

Application Permitted

22/502512/FULL

Land Northeast of The M20 And South East Of Water Lane Thurnham Kent

Proposed engineering operations for excavation of soils and deposited materials, and regrading and levelling of land for agricultural use.

Application Withdrawn

b. Highway Matters.

Cllr Stark reported that there were temporary traffic lights on Ashford Road outside of the warehouses.

It was reported that following the road works the verges were in a poor condition.

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

Cllr Stark reported on a flooding issue in Caring Lane that had been reported to KCC.

c. Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Smith reported on a meeting he had attended with Bearsted and Boxley Parish Councils to discuss Highway related issues in the parishes. He stated that there were three major issues that were considered. The speed limit on the A20, traffic at Roundwell, and the increase in traffic on Ware Street.

At the November meeting Thurnham had agreed to include improving road markings coming into Thurnham from Roundwell onto the A20 on its HIP, along with Quiet Lanes.

He stated that the HIP had been drafted and he would now liaise with Bearsted and Boxley PCs regarding this before submitting it to KCC.

**Action: Cllr Smith to progress.**

12. Parish Council Publicity.

The Clerk reported that the Bearsted and Thurnham Parish News had agreed to the PC sending in their submissions with no cost. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft an item for the publication and circulate to the Chairman and Cllr Smith.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

13. Heritage Award.

Possible recipients for the Award were discussed.

14. Future Agenda Items.

No matters were raised.

15. Date of next Meeting.

20th February 2023.

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

Signed.....

Dated.....