

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 15th March 2021.
By Zoom at 7:30 PM.

***Councillors present: Baigent
Dunlop
Horne
Shelley
Skinner
Smith
Stark***

Also: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, Press and Representatives from Stockbury and Detling Parish Councils.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.

The Chairman welcomed all to the Meeting.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received, and reasons for absence accepted from Cllrs Wise, MBC Councillor Nick de Wiggondene-Shepperd, KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast and the Police.

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.

The Chairman welcomed representatives from Stockbury and Detling Parish Council's who had attended the meeting to hear the views of Thurnham regarding the Binbury Park planning application.

He stated that with members permission he would bring forward the agenda item to enable this to be discussed.

This was agreed.

11. Binbury Park Planning Application.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had been consulted on the planning application submitted for Binbury Park, the Parish Council had objected to this previously, and the revised details were due to be discussed at the meeting.

He welcomed Representatives from Stockbury and Detling and asked them if they would give their views regarding this application to the meeting.

Detling Parish Councillor Gary Bryant spoke regarding the affects of traffic on Detling Hill, the increase in traffic and the potential queues due to lack of infrastructure should the development take place.

He stated that should the development go ahead Detling would like the traffic issues addressed first.

He said that the A249 was a dangerous road, and a primary concern was safety.

He spoke regarding the school provision and stated that this would not be a positive, as it was not viable for school walkers.

Cllr Skinner stated that the traffic assessment was not offering any solutions, only traffic lights that would not be effective.

Stockbury Parish Councillor Phil Woods stated that Stockbury PC shared the same concerns regarding traffic, the Junction 5 consultation was driven by demand for more housing north of the M2, and therefore the A249 would be busier regardless of Binbury Park. There had been no consultation with KCC regarding infrastructure, and they agreed with the views put forward by Detling.

He stated that Stockbury PC were concerned for the twenty residents living along Bimbury Lane, as when there were issues with the A249 drivers used Bimbury Lane as a cut through, and this brought Stockbury to a halt.

He stated that the AONB should be protected, and planning authorities should not allow building on an AONB as this would set a precedent. There were no positives for Stockbury and therefore the PC would be objecting to the planning application.

This was discussed further, and it was noted that the current application was for phase one and there were two more phases to follow.

Cllr Skinner thanked them for their views and asked Thurnham Councillors for their views on this application.

Cllr Smith spoke regarding the previous letter of objection submitted by the PC, he stated that this was a comprehensive objection written by a Planning Consultant and the points raised in this still stood.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that the PC should have the previous letter revised to reiterate the concerns and objections for the Parish Council. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Planning Consultant regarding a revision to the letter.

The PC authorised expenditure up to £400 to finance the costs of this. (Horne/Stark)

The Chairman asked representatives from Stockbury and Detling, that subject to their PCs agreeing to object to the application, if they would support the submission of a joint letter from all three parishes objecting to the application in addition to submitting individual objections.

This was agreed by the representatives present, subject to formal approval from their Parish Councils.

The Chairman asked Thurnham Councillors to vote whether they were in favour of objecting to the application.

Members voted unanimously in favour of submitting a strong objection to the application, and to submitting a joint letter of objection from Thurnham, Detling and Stockbury Parish Councils.

Action: Clerk to contact Planning Consultant regarding the letter of objection.

6. Clerk's Report.

The Clerks Report was noted by members.

7. External Reports.

a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor de Wiggondene-Shepperd gave his apologies to the meeting.

b. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. Liaison with external parties

No matters were reported.

8. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported on the work of the Coordinating Team in relation to the Duty to Cooperate.

He reported that it was with great sadness that he had to inform members that the Chairman of CPRE, Gary Thomas had died. He spoke regarding his work with the parishes and stated that he would be enormously missed.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter of condolence to his widow.

Action: Clerk to action.

9. Saint Mary's Church.

Cllr Smith reported that the roof at St Marys Church was in need of repair and the church was looking a funding stream for this.

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.

11. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Planning Matters.

Application Received

21/500647/FULL 23 Fulbert Drive Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4PU
Erection of a first-floor side extension.

18/504836/EIOUT Binbury Park Bimbury Lane Detling Maidstone Kent
Outline application (with all matters reserved apart from access) for the
Erection of up to 1,750 dwellings including affordable housing, 46,000 sq.m
of Commercial space, a hotel, a local centre, a new primary school, a park,
and ride facility ...

21/501102/FULL Land Adjoining Gore Meadow and Gore Cottage Ashford Road Bearsted
Kent
Creation of a permeable surfaced visitor car park in existing meadow field,
including new access to A20 (resubmission of 20/506039/FULL).

MBC Planning Decisions

20/505677/FULL
Shell Detling Detling Hill Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3HT
Removal of underground tanks with insertion of new underground tanks, replacement and
repositioning of canopy and fuel pumps, creation of 5no. car parking spaces and associated works.
Application Permitted

b. Highway Matters.

Cllr Smith stated that he was still looking into the Quiet Lane Scheme, he stated that a note had
been placed in the Downs Mail to ask for views and no responses had been received.
This was discussed by members and it was agreed that the PC would place another item in the
Downs Mail and website to seek residents' views on the Quiet Lanes Scheme.

12. PC Communication.

Cllr Skinner spoke regarding PC communication and the way in which the Parish Council
communicated with the electorate.

It was agreed that this matter would be considered further at a future meeting.

The Clerk was asked to follow up the request with Dandara to have a noticeboard at the new
development in the parish.

Action: Clerk to progress.

13. Community Award.

The Chairman stated that Cllr Duncan was drafting an article for the Downs Mail regarding this
award.

14. Future Agenda Items.

No matters were raised.

15. Date of next Meeting.

19th April 2021.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.55pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....