

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 9th December 2024.
Held at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

Councillors present: *Skinner*
 Smith
 Stark
 Wise

Also: Sherrie Babington, Parish Clerk.

The meeting was Chaired by 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 and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs Shelley, Dunlop, Duncan, Waters, these were accepted.

Apologies were also received from MBC Cllrs Naghi, Jones and Thompson and KCC Cllr Prendergast.

2. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

To consider any applications for Co-option.

No applications 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.

No interests were declared.

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

No dispensations were considered.

4. 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, subject to an agreed amendment, these were seconded by Cllr Wise 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 Participation.

To discuss any questions received by members of the public.

No matters were raised.

7. Clerks Report.

To receive the Clerks Report.

KALC Community Awards Scheme 2025

We are delighted to announce that we have now launched the 2025 KALC Community Awards Scheme, with support from Kent County Council, the High Sheriff of Kent, and the Mayor of Medway. This follows a very successful 2024 Awards Scheme, which was adopted by 85 member Councils.

The Award Winners receive a Framed Certificate. The Council can decide whether to present something extra to their winner.

Please find attached the following documents:

- An outline of the 2025 Awards Scheme.
- A Nomination Form for member Councils to complete and send to KALC
- A Nomination Form for residents to send to the Council, if the Council decides to seek nominations from the local community.

The first step is for the Council to agree to adopt the Scheme. The Council would then need to submit its Nomination to manager@kentalc.gov.uk by Friday 7th February 2025.

Members agreed a recipient for this award.

Action: Clerk to submit application to KALC.

Community Warden Service

You may be aware of the recent changes to the KCC Community Warden services. Unfortunately, they have reduced the number of Wardens significantly and this has resulted in some areas/parishes losing their Community Wardens. We are one of them.

We value the service that our Warden provides our community and surrounding areas and are keen to maintain this service. KCC have provided the attached document as a way for parishes to keep their Wardens. However, we do not feel that we could solely support the £45,000 wage for a full time Warden just covering Bearsted.

So, I am writing to several local Parishes to see if there is any interest in joining forces to pay for and keep the services of our Warden.

Please can you let me know if this is something you would be interested in.
Clerk to Bearsted Parish Council

Members are reminded that the matter of the Community Warden Service was briefly discussed at the last meeting and were tasked with considering the issue further for detailed discussion at the December Parish Council meeting. This initiative arises from a Kent County Council review of its warden service across Maidstone, which has led to a reduction in the number of wardens financed by the County. KCC is now offering parish councils the opportunity to fund a community warden at an annual cost of £45,000.

Members considered this matter and agreed that the PC could not justify the cost at this time.

Action: Clerk to respond to Bearsted PC.

8. External Reports:

a. To receive the MBC Ward Councillor's Report.

Ward Councillors Naghi and Jones gave their apologies to the meeting.

Ward Councillor Stephen Thompson gave his apologies to the meeting and members noted his written report circulated by email.

b. To receive the KCC Councillor's Report.

Apologies were received from KCC Cllr Prendergast.

c. To receive the Police Report.

No police attended the meeting and no report was submitted.

d. To receive Parish Councillors Reports.

Cllr Wise raised ongoing concerns regarding fly-tipping on the land at Water Lane, and the presence of burnt tyres at the site.

Cllr Smith referred to the Gypsy and Traveller site allocations and the site allocation at Bridge Farm.

9. St Marys Church.

To receive a report on St Marys Church.

Cllr Smith updated members on St Marys Church.

10. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

To receive and approve the financial statement and payments.

The financial statement was circulated to all members and was proposed by Cllr Stark, seconded by Cllr Wise, and agreed by all present.

b. 2025/2026 Budget and Precept.

The draft budget to be circulated as soon as MBC have released their Band D figures in late December. The Precept figure will need to be approved by the end of January 2025.

11. Planning Matters:

a. Planning Application Received

24/504676/OUT - Land at Woodcut Farm Ashford Road Hollingbourne
Section 73 Application (to remove the office safeguarding restriction) through the variation of condition 9 of application 21/506790/OUT to allow the 7,500m² of floorspace to include Use Class E(g)(i) (Offices) and/or Use Classes E(g)(iii) (Light industrial) and/or B8 (Storage and Distribution) floorspace on Plot C; and the variation of condition 10 to change the floorspace restrictions to allow for a maximum of 45,295m² of Use Class E(g)(iii) (Light industrial) and/or B8 (Storage and Distribution).

PC Objections – Clerk to action.

24/504955/FULL - 143 Hockers Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 5JY
Erection of a single storey rear extension and alteration to fenestration.

No objections.

b. MBC Planning Decisions

24/503212/FULL

Friningham Farm Friningham Detling Kent ME14 3JD

Retrospective application for the change of use of agricultural buildings to Use Class B2 (general industrial), B8 (storage or distribution) and F1 (learning and non-residential institutions) along with the addition of an area of hardstanding.

Application Refused

The Council hereby REFUSES Planning Permission for the above for the following Reason(s):
(1) The planning application has failed to demonstrate the acceptability of the development in relation to highway safety, including sufficient up to date supporting information, contrary to the aims of policies LPRTRA2, LPRQD5 and LPRSP15 of the Maidstone Local Plan Review (2024); and paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

c. Other Planning Matters.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012

Maidstone Borough Council

Tree Preservation Order No. 5013/2024/TPO

Location: Glenrowan House Roundwell Bearsted Kent ME14 4HL

Please find attached, for your records a copy of the above Tree Preservation Order, as made by The Maidstone Borough Council on 4th December 2024.

The Council's reasons for making the Order are the Council's grounds for making the Order are the Council considers that the trees contribute to amenity and local landscape character and it is expedient to make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to ensure their long-term retention following proposed development of the site under application 21/506239/OUT.

A copy of the Order has also been served on the owner and all interested parties.

Under the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, the Order will take immediate provisional effect for six months starting from the date on which it was made. The Order must be confirmed before the expiration of this period for the protection to be made permanent.

The Council will write to you again when the decision to confirm or not to confirm the Order has been made.

12. Parish Council Publicity.

It was agreed that the PC would publish an Annal Report for 2025.

Action: Clerk to progress.

13. Highway & PROW Matters.

a. To consider general highway and PROW matters.

Cllr Smith reported that a resident from the Sycamores had made representations at the recent Bearsted Parish Council meeting regarding the need for a safe crossing. He stated that there may be a need for parishes to make a contribution towards this. He confirmed that this had been referred to the Joint Traffic Group to take forward.

b. HIP (Highways Improvement Plan).

To receive an update on the Highways Improvement Plan.

It was agreed that this would be updated.

14. Future Agenda Items.

To consider any future items.

15. Date next Meeting

The dates of the 2025 meetings were agreed.

The date of the next meeting - Monday 20th January 2025.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.15pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....