

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council
held on 21st July 2025 at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.**

Councillors present: *Duncan
Shelley
Skinner
Smith
Stark
Waters
Wise*

Also: Sherrie Babington (Parish Clerk), and members of the public.

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 were received and accepted from Parish Councillors Dunlop (personal).

2. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

To consider any applications for Co-option.

No applications were received.

3. Declaration of Interests.

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 declarations of interest were made.

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

No dispensation requests were considered.

4. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting and if in order sign as a true record.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2025 were circulated to all members.

It was proposed by Cllr Stark, seconded by Cllr Waters, and agreed by all present that these be accepted as a true record.

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.

A resident attended the meeting, and a discussion took place regarding devolution and the Community Governance Review for Thurnham West.

7. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk's report was received and noted.

8. Devolution and MBC Community Governance Review.

Update outlining the key actions and correspondence undertaken by the Parish Council over the past month in relation to the Community Governance Review under Delegated Authority.

- We submitted formal objections to the inclusion of Thurnham West in the current review, highlighting the potential impact on parish governance and representation.
- A written question has been submitted to the Full Council meeting on 16 July, requesting that consultation responses from Thurnham West be analysed separately from those of Grove Green to ensure fair and transparent representation.
- A supporting statement was circulated to all Maidstone Borough Councillors in advance of the meeting, outlining our concerns and rationale.
- We have liaised with our Ward Councillors and followed up on their positions regarding both the review and consultation arrangements.
- In anticipation of the consultation period, we are preparing a resident flyer to be distributed across Thurnham West, ensuring our community is well-informed and encouraged to participate.

These actions have been taken to try to safeguard the interests of Thurnham residents and maintain the effectiveness of the Parish Council in serving our community.

Members discussed and ratified the actions taken under Delegated Authority.

Members raised concerns that 60% of Thurnham being affected by the review and agreed that a questionnaire should be placed on the PC website to try to gauge residents' views and a flyer should be distributed to all residents of Thurnham East.

Action: Clerk to continue work on the resident flyer and circulate updates.

9. External Reports.

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

No apologies or reports were received.

b. To receive the KCC Councillor's Report.

No apologies or reports were received.

c. To receive the Police Report.

No report submitted.

d. To receive Parish Councillors Reports.

No matters were raised.

10. Parish Council Policy Review.

To review and adopt the PC Policies, Internal Controls and Risk Register for 2025.

The Clerk presented the reviewed policies, controls, and risk register.

Proposed by Cllr Wise, seconded by Cllr Shelley, and agreed by all present to adopt these.

11. St Mary's Church.

To receive a report on St Marys Church.

Cllr Smith updated members on St Marys Church.

12. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

To receive and approve the financial statement and payments.

The financial statement was circulated. Proposed by Cllr Stark, seconded by Cllr Shelley, and agreed by all present.

b. Highways Contribution.

To consider allocating a budget of up to £500 towards the cost of new road safety signage in partnership with Bearsted Parish Council, to raise awareness of horse riders, cyclists, and pedestrians.

Action: Members agreed unanimously to allocate £500.

c. Request for donation re Summer Playscheme.

To consider a funding request from the organisers of the Summer Play Scheme, who have asked Thurnham Parish Council to provide financial support to help fund additional activities for children.

Action: Members considered the request and agreed to a donation of £250 to cover the face painting for the Playscheme.

d. Request for donation/grant – St Mary's Church.

A request was received for an annual grant of £1,600 toward grass cutting in the churchyard and an additional £500 contribution toward hedge cutting.

Members considered the request and noted that the previous grant allocated to the church was financed from an annual grant from MBC and this was no longer available to the PC. It was therefore felt that a grant for the maintenance of the church yard was not possible, however the PC stated that they would continue to support church events.

Action: Clerk to respond to Church.

13. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications Received

25/502765/FULL - Longton Manor Stockbury Valley Stockbury Kent

Change of use of land for the stationing of 9(No) static caravan pitches, to be occupied by Gypsy and Traveller families, with associated hard surfacing/parking (part retrospective. Resubmission of 25/500261/FULL).

Action: PC to submit Objection.

25/502834/FULL - Thornham Friars Pilgrims Way Thurnham Kent ME14 3LN

Erection of a car barn. Installation of cast iron railings to the perimeter wall; new perimeter wall with electrically operated sliding gates; conversion of a stable block into ancillary annexe accommodation; conversion of garden shed into a workshop, outdoor bar and log store; erection of a pavilion; retrospective permission for a greenhouse, replacement of existing grass tennis court with a new hard surface court. Dormer window repair to north elevation of main house (revised scheme 22/501954/FULL).

Action: No objections.

25/502835/LBC - Thornham Friars Pilgrims Way Thurnham Kent ME14 3LN

Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations comprising of: installation of cast iron railings to the perimeter wall; new perimeter wall with electrically operated sliding gates; conversion of a stable block into ancillary annexe accommodation; conversion of garden shed into a workshop, outdoor bar and log store; erection of a pavilion; permission for the retention of a greenhouse; erection of a standalone car barn; dormer window repair to north elevation of main house. (Amended scheme to listed building consent 22/501955/LBC).

Action: No objections.

b. MBC Planning Decisions.

25/501837/FULL – 60 Peverel Drive Thurnham Kent ME14 4PS

Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of single storey rear extension and first floor side extension. Conversion of garage into habitable space together with associated external alterations.

Action: Application Permitted – noted by members.

25/502000/NMAMD – 33 Barty Way Thurnham Kent ME14 4GB

Non-Material amendment of application 24/505134/FULL: to window positions and inclusion of WC within Garage.

Action: Application Permitted – noted by members.

25/501660/ELEC – Coldblow Lane Adj to Ace High Close Thurnham Kent

Section 37 of Electricity Act 1989 consultation: Reinforcement of high voltage overhead lines involving reconductoring and addition of a third wire between poles 722681 and 722688 (7 existing spans).

Action: No objections recorded.

25/501115/FULL – 3 Baron Close Bearsted Kent ME14 4PZ

Garage conversion into a habitable space and addition of access door.

Action: Application Permitted – noted by members.

c. Other Planning Matters.

An issue was raised regarding land at Caring Lane where work was being undertaken without planning consent.

Action: Clerk to raise matter with Planning Enforcement.

14. Highway & PROW Matters.

a. To consider general highway and PROW matters.

To receive an update on the Highways and PROW matters.

Members stated that they would like a map of Thurnham PROW and asked the Clerk to liaise with KCC regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to action.

b. HIP (Highways Improvement Plan).

To receive an update on the Highways Improvement Plan.

No matters were raised.

15. Future Agenda Items.

To consider any future items.

No matters were raised.

16. Date of next Meeting.

Monday 15th September 2025

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8:47pm.

Signed:

Date: