

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.  
Held at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

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

*Also: Mrs Babington, Clerk.*

*The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.*

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Dunlop, Duncan, Smith 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 Horne 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.

The Green Candidate attended the meeting and spoke regarding the Borough Councils Diversity and Climate Change Draft Action Plan.

A resident from the Sycamores Residents Association attended the meeting to speak regarding the location of the new notice board on the development. He stated that the Residents Association had now agreed that the notice board should be moved, and he had attended the meeting to seek permission to have the board moved to a more visible location.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the Residents Association should seek the support of the Management Company and formally submit a plan and request for the PC to consider.

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

No matters were reported.

**8. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.**

Cllr Horne reported on the Local Plan and the work of the Coordinating Group.

He stated that the KALC had submitted a comment on the Gypsy and Traveller Call for Sites.

He spoke regarding the Planning Committee permitting development at Church Road Otham under appeal, with a condition to have traffic lights at the junction with Willington Street. KCC had now stated that it was impossible to comply with this condition as it would be dangerous. It was hoped that MBC would issue a Stop Order until this matter was resolved.

He suggested that should Otham PC write to MBC, that Thurnham PC should submit a letter of support.

This was agreed.

***Action: Clerk to action.***

**9. Saint Mary's Church.**

No matters were reported.

**10. Financial Matters.**

a. Financial Statement.

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

**11. Parish Council Committee Reports.**

a. Planning Matters.

23/501227/FULL - Leyfield Lodge Ware Street Weaving Maidstone Kent  
Erection of a single storey rear extension including 2no. rooflights.

23/501479/LBC - Thornham Friars Pilgrims Way Thurnham Maidstone Kent  
Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations comprising of erection of a car barn and alterations to utility roof; 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 retention of a greenhouse (revised scheme to 22/501955/LBC).

23/501478/FULL - Thornham Friars Pilgrims Way Thurnham Maidstone Kent

Erection of a car barn and alterations to utility roof; 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 retention of a greenhouse (revised scheme to 22/501955/LBC).

b. MBC Planning Decisions

23/500408/FULL

The Moorings Firs Lane Hollingbourne Kent ME17 1XJ

Erection of 1(no) residential dwellinghouse (Use Class C3).

Application Refused

The Council hereby REFUSES Planning Permission for the above for the following Reason(s):

(1) The proposal would introduce backland development that would be at odds with the prevailing character of development in this countryside location; and the introduction of a new dwelling here, along with its associated domestic paraphernalia, would erode the largely undeveloped nature of the site. This encroachment of built form further into the countryside would erode the gap between Firs Lane and Caring Lane that acts as a buffer between built development, and the proposal would fail to conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Len Valley Landscape of Local Value. There are no overriding planning reasons to allow the proposal, and the identified harm to the intrinsic character and appearance of the countryside hereabouts would be contrary to policies SS1, SP17, DM1 and DM30 of Maidstone Local Plan (2017); the Landscape Character Assessment (2012 amended July 2013) and the Maidstone Landscape Capacity Study: Sensitivity Assessment (Jan 2015); and the National Planning Policy Framework (2021).

23/500338/TPOA

Little Lauriston Crismill Lane Bearsted Kent ME14 4NT

TPO Application to lift the crown of One Sycamore Tree (T1) to 4m.

Application Permitted

23/500156/FULL

Fringingham Farm Fringingham Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JD

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

Application Permitted

22/505655/SUB

Plot 6 Little Lauriston Crismill Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NT

Submission of details pursuant to condition 5 (arboricultural method statement) of application 21/503334/REM.

Application Permitted

22/505347/FULL

143 Hockers Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 5JY

Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of single storey side and rear extensions.  
(Revision to Planning Application ref: 22/501459/FULL)  
Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters.

The following applications from outside of Thurnham were discussed and considered by members:

MC/23/500899 – Land at A20.

**Action: PC Object and support Hollingbourne PC objections.**

MC/23/500491 – Snowfield, Yeoman Lane.

It was agreed that the Planning Committee would liaise with Bearsted Pc to establish their views regarding this application and support them if they raised objections.

d. Highway & PROW Matters.

CLlr Stark spoke regarding the disruption on the A20 due to the roadworks.

e. HIP - Quiet Lanes Initiative.

*No matters were reported.*

12. Parish Council Elections.

The Clerk reported that Thurnham was uncontested with 5 elected councillors from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

13. Future Agenda Items.

The Chairman spoke regarding Thurnham Infants School and the recruitment of a new Headteacher. He suggested that the PC invited a representative from the school to attend a PC meeting to give an update on its progress.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

The Parish Council was asked by the Green Party Candidate to consider the principal of local power networks.

This was discussed and it was agreed that this would not be something that the PC would pursue.

14. Date of next Meeting.

15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.27pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....