

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 16th October 2023.
Held at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

Councillors present: *Duncan*
 Horne
 Shelley
 Stark
 Wise

Also: Mrs Babington, Clerk, MBC Councillor Stephen Thompson, and members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr Horne was voted as Chairman of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded by Cllr Wise and agreed by all present.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Horne.

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 Cllrs Dunlop, Skinner, Smith and KCC Cllr Prendergast.

2. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

To consider any applications for Co-option.

No applicants were considered.

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.

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

No interests were declared, and no dispensation requests were received.

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, this was seconded by Cllr Shelley and agreed by all present.

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

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

The Clerk confirmed that the agreed letter had been sent to all residents of Thurnham Lane regarding the issues with speeding vehicles and HGVs, and no responses or feedback had been received.

6. **Public Comments and Observations.**

No matters were reported.

7. **Clerk's Report.**

The Clerk's report was noted by members.

8. **External Reports.**

a. **MBC Ward Councillors Report.**

MBC Councillor Stephen Thompson gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the Local Plan and confirmed that the Design and Sustainability Report was a parallel document to the Local Plan, he stated that he would put his comments to the Inspector.

He spoke regarding the MBC Review of Polling Stations and stated that he had made comments as it appeared that residents of Caring Lane were expected to place their votes in Detling, and he felt that this was unacceptable.

He urged the Parish Council to make similar representations.

He updated members on the work of Ward Councillors in relation to the Court Farm planning application.

b. **KCC Councillors Report.**

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. **Police Report.**

No report was received.

d. **Liaison with external parties**

Cllr Stark reported on the progress of the King George V Memorial Hall.

9. **Community Governance Review (Parishes).**

The final proposal from MBC was noted by members.

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

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

He spoke regarding the land north of Ware Street and stated that this should not be included in the Local Plan.

He reported that the Parish Council had previously submitted its comments to the Inspector, but no action had been taken regarding these.

11. Saint Mary's Church.

The Clerk passed the PC Poppy Wreath to Cllr Horne to lay at St Marys for Remembrance Sunday.

12. 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.

b. 2022/2023 Audit Certificate.

Audit Clearance Notice and certificate was circulated with meeting papers was noted by members. It was noted that the auditor had raised concerns regarding the level of reserves held by the PC and had suggested that these should be earmarked.

This was discussed and it was agreed that this should be considered in January with the 24/25 budget.

13. Planning Matters:

a. Planning applications to consider.

23/503890/FULL - Griffins Weaving Street Weaving Kent ME14 5JS

Partial demolition of existing chalet bungalow, removal of existing roof and erection of new first floor and second floor and single storey rear extension and replacement side garage.

23/503917/FULL - Brickfield Cottages Coldblow Lane Thurnham Kent

Demolition of existing bungalow, 1no. outbuilding and 2no. tanks with fencing. Erection of 1no. four-bedroom dwelling with associated works and landscaping.

b. MBC Planning Decisions

23/503214/FULL

The Black Horse Pilgrims Way Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3LD

Erection of two storey outbuilding to provide 4no. guest rooms (resubmission of 17/505542/FULL).
Application Permitted

23/503218/FULL

8 Fancy Row Thurnham Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 4PL

Erection of a single storey side/rear extension.

Application Permitted

23/503183/FULL

The Black Horse Pilgrims Way Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3LD

Change of use of part of existing building to create 7no. letting rooms, including internal alterations and external window and door alterations (resubmission of expired planning permission 16/500835/FULL).

Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters.

No matters were considered.

14. Highway & PROW Matters.

a. To consider general highway and PROW matters.

Cllr Stark spoke about the SE Water and reported that this had now been completed and the bollards along Caring Lane removed.

It was reported that Bearsted Parish Council were looking to form a Joint Group of local parishes to consider highway related matters.

It was agreed that Thurnham would wish to be part of this Group.

Action: Clerk to respond to Bearsted PC.

b. HIP - Quiet Lanes Initiative.

To receive an update on the Quiet Lanes Initiative.

No matters were reported.

15. Heritage Award.

It was agreed that the Heritage Award should be refurbished, and a presentation box made, therefore the presentation of the Award would be delayed until this had been completed following its return to the PC in May 2024.

16. Future Agenda Items.

No matters were raised.

17. Date of next Meeting.

20th November 2023.

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

Signed.....

Dated.....