

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 16th April 2018
at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel at 7:30 PM.**

***Councillors present: Baigent
Horne
Shelley
Skinner
Smith
Stark
Waite
Wise***

Also: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, and members of the press and public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Daniel Skinner.

1. To elect a Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Smith to elect Cllr Skinner as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.

Cllr Skinner accepted this role and took the Chair.

2. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the elected Chairman.

Cllr Skinner signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Denham, KCC Cllr Prendergast and MBC Cllr Nick de Wiggondene.

4. To elect a Vice Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Skinner to elect Cllr Smith as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.

Cllr Smith accepted this role.

5. To appoint Parish Council Committees, Representatives to Outside Bodies and other external parties.

The appointment of the following Committees, Representatives to Outside Bodies and external parties were approved by members. (Horne/Stark)

Planning

Cllr. Stark

Cllr. Wise

Cllr. Skinner(Chairman)

Finance

Cllr. Shelley

Representatives for Outside Bodies

Footpaths	Cllr. Smith & Cllr Baigent.
Memorial Hall	Cllr Stark.
St Mary's Church	Cllr. Smith.
Police Liaison	Cllr. Denham.
Tree Warden	Cllr. Waite.
A249 Action Group	Cllr. Waite & Cllr Horne
Highways	Cllr. Baigent & Cllr. Stark.
KALC	Cllr. Shelley.
ACRK	Cllr. Waite.
Kent Downs	Cllr. Wise.
JPG	Cllr. Waite and Horne.
Tri-Parish Meetings	Cllr. Waite and Horne.

6. Declaration of Interest.

No interests were declared.

7. 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.

8. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Cllr Waite stated that he was still to progress the response to the Waste Consultation.

9. Public Comments and Observations.

Mary Richards spoke on behalf of the Bearsted and Thurnham Society and reported that the shops in Bearsted had now been purchased by the tenant and therefore they would now remain. She thanked that community for their support.

10. Police Report.

PCSO Adlington attended the Annual Meeting of the Parish and gave his report to all present.

11. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Quinn Estates asking to attend a PC meeting to give a presentation on the proposed development at Binbury Park. He asked members for their views.

Members discuss this, and it was agreed that Quinn's would be asked to attend the July meeting. It was further agreed that the meeting would be publicised to enable residents to attend if they wished. The Bearsted and Thurnham Society offered to assist with the publicity for the meeting.

The Chairman reported that he had met with the Chairman of Bearsted Parish Council to discuss the parking on Ware Street. He stated that BPC had suggested that Bearsted PC could put in four parking bays as passing places and residents parking.

Cllr Skinner stated that he was concerned about this option and had asked if they would forward the plans to Thurnham PC.

He spoke regarding the parking problems and stated that he did not feel that this would solve the issue. He stated that his concerns were for pedestrians and they would still have to cross between the traffic.

A discussion took place regarding the parking issues and the danger to pedestrians and it was agreed that Cllr Skinner would liaise with Bearsted PC regarding the plans.

12. Clerk's Report.

The Clerks Report was noted by members.

Grant request from Bearsted PC for Play Scheme.

Members considered the request from Bearsted Parish Council for a grant towards their summer playscheme.

It was agreed that this item should be placed on the next agenda for further consideration. The Clerk was asked to ascertain how many children from Thurnham attended the Bearsted Scheme.

Action: Clerk to action.

13. External Reports.

a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor de Wiggondene 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

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

Cllr Waite reported on the Leader Meeting he had attended and stated that they had received additional funds to allocate to projects.

Cllr Horne reported that he had attended a Rail Summit meeting and a meeting regarding the White Horse Woods.

He spoke regarding the meeting with KWES regarding the White Horse Woods and the future options for the site. He suggested that this could become a Charitable Body made up of Stockbury, Detling and Thurnham Parish Councils.

A discussion took place regarding this and the access to the Woodland.

Cllr Smith stated that the White Horse Woods was a financial burden to KCC and he felt that it would be dangerous to set up a Charitable Trust without knowing the running costs to KCC or a business plan of the costs. He stated that the Parish Councils should take on the financial liability.

Cllr Horne stated that if the Parish Council did nothing then the Woodland would not be maintained. He stated that KWES was submitting a grant application to the Big Lottery for the Woodland.

Cllr Waite stated that it was unclear what Alison Wainman from KWES wished to achieve from the grant application.

Cllr Horne suggested that his report was forwarded onto Stockbury and Detling Parish Councils to ascertain their views. This was agreed.

14. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported that the Government had held a consultation on the NPPF and the Coordinating Team had put in their views.

He stated that local authorities were under a statutory duty to review their Local Plans every five years, if they had the funds to do so.

15. Saint Mary's Church.

The Clerk reported that the new Vicar of St Mary's Church was due to attend the June 2018 Parish Council Meeting.

16. General Data Protection Regulations.

The Clerk circulated Policies and information regarding the General Data Protection Regulations to all members.

It was proposed by Cllr Horne to adopt the policies and forms relating to the General Data Protection Regulations, and to appoint the Clerk as the Data Protection Officer for Thurnham. This was seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.

17. 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.

The cheques for payment were then signed by two authorised signatories.

Bank Balances

Cooperative Community Direct Plus Account

Opening Balance on Current Account	£54272.93
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£2469.08
Closing Balance on Current Account	£51803.85

Cooperative 14 Day Account

Opening Balance on Current Account	£40266.19
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£0.00
Closing Balance on Current Account	£40,266.19

Total Balance of all Parish Council Accounts **£92070.04**

b. 2017/2018 Accounts and Annual Return.

The Accounts and Annual Return were circulated to all members.

Cllr Shelley informed members that he had undertaken an inspection of the accounts and these had also been through an independent audit by the Parish Councils appointed Auditor.

The Council considered and approved the Statement of Internal Control for the year ending 31 March 2018. (Proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.)

The Chairman and Clerk signed the Statement on behalf of the Council.

The Council considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18. (Proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.) The Chairman and Clerk signed the Statement on behalf of the Council.

The Council considered and approved the Accounting Statements and supporting documents as provided by the Responsible Financial Officer who had prior to the meeting signed Section 2 of the Annual Return for 2017/.18. (Proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.)

The Chairman signed the Statement on behalf of the Council.

18. Parish Matters.

a. Play Areas.

No matters were raised.

b. Footpath and Bridleways.

No matters were raised.

19. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Planning Matters.

Application Received

18/501636/FULL Blenheim 5 Ace High Close Thurnham Maidstone Kent
Erection of a single storey rear extension with balcony above.

18/502281/FULL Radar Studio Coldblow Lane Thurnham Maidstone Kent
Erection of two dwellings with associated parking.

MBC Decisions

18/500220/ADV
Land at The Oast House Barty Farm Roundwell Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4HN
Advertisement consent for to display 1no. Hoarding board.
Application Refused

b. Enforcement Matters.

The Clerk updated members on the enforcement action regarding Longton Woods.

c. Highway Matters.

Cllr Stark stated that there were bright lights at the bridle way leading to Commonwood House at its junction with Roundwell. The Clerk was asked to raise this with MBC.

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with KCC regarding the overgrown vegetation opposite numbers 2 and 3 Caring Lane and they had clarified that this was private land and not their responsibility.

20. Thinking Day discussion points.

Cllr Horne stated that he would put a paper to the next meeting.

21. Future Agenda Items.

It was agreed that the White Horse Woods would be placed on the next agenda.

22. Date of next Meeting.

18th June 2018.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.08pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....