

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 14th December 2020
By Zoom at 7:30 PM.

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

Also: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.

The Chairman welcomed all to the Meeting.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received, and reasons for absence accepted from Cllr Wise and Dunlop, KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast, MBC Councillor Nick de Wiggondene-Shepperd and the Police.

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 Horne to accept these as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by all present.

The Minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised, and no public were present.

6. Clerk's Report.

The Clerks Report was noted by members.

7. External Reports.

a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor de Wiggondene-Shepperd gave his apologies to the meeting.

b. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

Cllr Skinner stated that he was concerned about an increase in traffic on the A20 during the first few weeks in January due to the Brexit transition. He stated that traffic was using the village during the test night, and as a result bollard had now been placed at the Newnham Court Roundabout to prevent traffic from accessing the village.

c. Liaison with external parties

No matters were reported.

8. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported that the Planning Inquiry for the St Nicolas Church site in Otham had now concluded, and the outcome was awaited. He stated that he was in admiration of Otham PC and the residents of Otham for their work during the Inquiry.

He stated that this was important for all parishes, as MBC Planning Officers recommended approval for the scheme, and they were also the officers that had to defend this at the Inquiry.

Cllr Horne referred to an article regarding Frinningham Manor Farm and an issue concerning the identification of Thurnham, he suggested that the PC should address this at some point.

Members discussed ways in which the PC could increase its identity profile in the Parish and inform new residents that they were in Thurnham.

Cllr Skinner suggested that the PC considered circulating a leaflet to all residents on the new Barty Farm development to inform them of their identity.

This was discussed and it was agreed that this would be progressed in the New Year when the occupancy of the new houses was established.

9. Saint Mary's Church.

Cllr Smith reported that St Mary's Church was now holding a service between 10 and 12am on every other Sunday.

Cllr Horne stated that he had been informed that the new Vicar had now moved on to another Parish. Cllr Smith stated that he would seek an update on this matter and report back to the next meeting.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. 2021/2022 Budget and Precept.

The Clerk circulated a draft budget and report for members consideration.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that the PC would establish the number of new properties being built within the Parish at the Barty Farm development before determining the precept at the January 2021 meeting.

Action: Clerk to action.

11. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Planning Matters.

Application Received

20/505052/FULL The Oast House Barty Farm Roundwell Bearsted
Demolition of single storey rear extension and erection of first floor extension to re-instate south-east roundel and roof. Conversion of 2no. residential dwellings into 4no. residential dwellings with insertion of solar panels, creation of additional parking spaces with electrical charging points, cycle/bin store and associated fencing.

20/505169/FULL High Chymes Ware Street Weaving Maidstone Kent
Erection of a front porch and single storey rear extension.

MBC Planning Decisions

20/504882/FULL

Crismill Manor Crismill Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NT

Alterations to existing annexe in curtilage of Listed Building. (Resubmission of 20/503228/FULL)
Application Permitted

20/504883/LBC

Crismill Manor Crismill Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NT

Listed Building Consent for alterations to existing annexe in curtilage of Listed Building.
(Resubmission of 20/503229/LBC)
Application Permitted

20/504672/FULL

10 Peverel Drive Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 4PS

Erection of a first-floor side extension.
Application Permitted

20/504430/FULL

End Cottage Barty Farm Roundwell Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4HL

Erection of a single storey rear extension.
Application Permitted

20/504380/SUB

RGVA Crismill Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NT

Submission of details pursuant to condition 11 (archaeological field evaluation) - part discharge (part i) - of application 20/500293/OUT.
Application Permitted

20/503364/FULL

The Coach House Thurnham Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LQ

Designation of land as garden use (Retrospective).

Application Permitted

b. Highway Matters.

The Clerk spoke regarding concerns raised about the parking at the bottom of Hockers Lane and the issues that this was causing to drivers.

Members discussed the suggestion to have double yellow lines installed along this route.

This was discussed and it was agreed that this matter should be raised with KCC Councillor Sheila Prendergast to see whether this could be progressed.

Action: Clerk to liaise with KCC Councillor Prendergast.

Cllr Stark reported on an incident in Caring Lane where an HGV had blocked the road.

He reported that the litter bin requested by the PC had been installed by MBC, unfortunately some people were not using this, and litter was still being dropped in the area.

Cllr Skinner stated that Chapel Lane, adjacent to the Bell bridge had been flooded, and it had been reported that Network Rail was running a pipe drain off their land into a private drain.

He stated that he would inspect the area and circulate an update to enable members to decide if the PC should send a letter regarding this.

Action: Cllr Skinner to action.

Cllr Smith reported that he was still looking into the Quiet Lanes Scheme.

c. Parking on Ware Street.

It was reported that this matter was now being progressed by Bearsted Parish Council.

12. Future Agenda Items.

Cllr Duncan – Community Award.

13. Date of next Meeting.

18th January 2021.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.50pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....