

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 20th June 2022.
Held at the Marriott Tudor Park hotel, at 7:30pm.

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

Also: Mrs Babington, Clerk and Members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received, and reasons for absence accepted from Cllr Baigent, Duncan, and KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast.

2. Committees, Representatives and Outside Bodies.

The appointment of Committees, Representatives and Outside Bodies were agreed:

Planning

Cllr. Stark
Cllr. Wise
Cllr. Skinner (Chairman)
Cllr. Dunlop (reserve planning & TPO)

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. Baigent.
Tree Warden	Cllr. Smith & Cllr Dunlop.
A249 Action Group	Cllr. Horne
Highways	Cllr. Baigent & Cllr. Stark.
KALC	Cllr. Shelley.
ACRK	Cllr. Wise
Kent Downs	Cllr. Wise.
JPG/Coordinating Group	Cllr. Horne.
Tri-Parish Meetings	Cllr. Horne.

Memberships

Kent Association of local Councils (KALC)
Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK)
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)
ICO (information Commissioners Office)

Other Appointments

Internal Auditor - Martin Thomas and Co
External Auditor - Little John
Bank - Cooperative

3. Declaration of Interest.

No interests were declared.

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 Smith and agreed by all present.

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Noticeboard – It was agreed that the new noticeboard would be delivered to Cllr Shelley.

Litter Pick, Community Pay Back Scheme – The Clerk informed members that the Payback Scheme would expect the PC to arrange for the portaloos to be delivered to site. It was agreed that it was not within the PC remit as there was nowhere to site them in the Castle Hill area, and the PC did not own land in the area.

It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the litter pick group regarding this matter.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

Residents attended the meeting to speak regarding St Mary's Church and a Classic Car Show Fundraising Event they were arranging to raise funds for the church roof.

They spoke regarding the arrangement for this and asked the Parish Council to consider making a donation towards the event.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would make a donation of £300 to St Mary's Church to support the event and fund raising for the church roof. This was proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded by Cllr Smith, and agreed by all present.

Richard Horton attended the meeting to speak regarding the Quiet Lanes Scheme and the results of the speed monitoring survey. He spoke regarding the need for a 30mph speed limits along Pilgrims Lane, Thurnham Lane and Water Lane, and asked the PC to actively seek a reduced speed limit along the lanes as well as a Quiet Lane Scheme.

Cllr Smith said that the survey suggested that most traffic was travelling along the lanes at a sensible speed.

He spoke regarding the need for further details of the data and asked for PC approval to take this up with KCC and seek a further site meeting with Kent Highways.

This was approved.

Action: Clerk to follow up with KCC.

7. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

The following email from KCC was considered by members:

Interactive Speed Warning Sign on Ware Street

KCC removed this sign in March 2022 to investigate reports of poor reliability and have attempted to return the sign to normal operation. Due the age of the sign, which was installed in February 2010, a full repair has not been possible as many of the required parts are now obsolete.

With our limited resources, priority is currently given to safety critical schemes and this asset does not meet this criterion. Meaning, that we are unfortunately unable to fund an automatic replacement of the sign. For a replacement sign to be installed through alternative funding, we require evidence demonstrating that there is an ongoing safety issue where a Vehicle Activated Sign would be effective. The approach to the installation of these signs has changed in recent years and they now must only be installed where all other engineering options have been implemented and there remains a residual safety issue, this can be identified using the results of a recent Speed Survey (obtained through Traffic Schemes team) and by providing evidence of any other traffic calming measures present or considered.

Therefore, this equipment will not be replaced unless this is met, and an alternative funding source can be identified; some have used the Combined Member Grant for this purpose. The options are not to replace the sign and consider some other form of speed deterrent, or to buy a new sign for approx. £7,500. The original funding source for the removed installation was the Speed Limit Reduction Scheme, because of this I have contacted my colleagues in Traffic Schemes to inform them of the removal and for their own consideration. I will also be contacting your local Member with the same update and information.

This was discussed and it was agreed that it was a KCC responsibility to replace the sign and the PC would not be willing or have the funds to finance this.

Action: Clerk to respond to KCC.

8. 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

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

9. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported on the timetable for the Local Plan Inquiry and the Planning Inspector, and the work of the Coordinating Team.

10. Saint Mary's Church.

No matters were raised.

11. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

Members discussed the situation regarding the Downs Mail, and it was agreed that publicly would be placed on the next agenda.

Action: Clerk to place item on the next agenda.

b. 2021/2022 Accounts and AGAR.

Members considered the 2021/2022 Accounts and AGAR. This was circulated to all members and discussed. It was agreed to approve these as follows:

- i. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2022. The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.

It was proposed by Cllr Smith to accept and approve the annual Governance Statement for 2021/22, this was seconded by Cllr Shelley and agreed by all present.

- ii. To approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2021/22, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2022 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2022, if necessary, the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2020/21) to this year (2021/22), the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2, and the Exemption Certificate to be submitted to the External Auditor. The Chair of the meeting to sign.

It was proposed by Cllr Smith to approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2021/22, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2022 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2022 and the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2020/21) to this year (2021/22) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2. This was seconded by Cllr Shelley and agreed by all present.

12. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Planning Matters.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 20/506149/FULL | Scammell Lodge Friningham Detling ME14 3JD
Amended details. |
| 22/501955/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 outdoor bar and log store; erection of a pavilion; permission for retention of a greenhouse. |
| 22/501954/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; retrospective permission for a greenhouse, replacement of existing grass tennis court with a new hard surface court. |

MBC Planning Decisions

22/501459/FULL

143 Hockers Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 5JY

Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of a single storey side and rear extensions with first floor balcony above.

Application Refused

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

(1) The proposed extension, by reason of its depth, height, siting, scale, and proximity of the extension to the boundary would result in an unneighbourly form of development by reason of having an overbearing impact on the amenity/garden space of the occupiers of No.145 Hockers Lane's. To permit the proposal would therefore be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework 2021, Policy DM1 of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2017 and the design guidance set out in the Council's adopted Residential Extensions Supplementary Planning Document.

22/501340/FULL

Bangor Weaving Street Weaving Maidstone Kent ME14 5JS

Loft Conversion with new roof, a side dormer, and solar panels. Erection of a single storey rear extension with 1no. roof light.

Application Permitted

22/501336/FULL

The Cottage Crismill Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LY

Erection of a replacement detached four-bedroom dwelling with associated parking.
Application Refused - PTO

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

(1) The proposed development, due to its presence, scale, and contemporary appearance with significant amounts of glazing would have a harmful impact on the rural character of this area, with the proposal failing to preserve the intrinsic character and appearance of the countryside. Additionally, the development would have a harmful impact upon the openness of the Kent Downs AONB, by way of introducing additional built form onto the application site, not in accordance with policy SD8 of the AONB Management Plan (2021-2026). As such the development is contrary to policies SS1, SP17, DM1, DM30, and DM32 of the adopted Local Plan (October 2017) and the NPPF (2021).

(2) The proposal would introduce additional bedrooms and "residential" floor space into this unsustainable countryside location, beyond what is contained within the existing dwelling. The proposal site located outside of any settlement (as defined in the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2017) would result in an unsustainable form of housing development with future occupants reliant on private vehicle use to gain access to goods, services, and facilities for daily needs and, as such the proposal would be contrary to policies SS1 and SP17 of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2017 and guidance within the National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

Cllr Dunlop gave members an update on the trees at Crismill Lane.

b. Highway Matters.

No matters were raised.

c. Quiet Lanes Scheme.

No further matters were raised.

13. Heritage Award.

Possible recipients for the Award were discussed – to be agreed by October 22.

14. Future Agenda Items.

- Parish Council Publicity

15. Date of next Meeting.

18th July 2022.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.35pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....