

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 29th April 2019
at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel at 7:30 PM.

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

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Baigent, Waite, Denham, KCC Cllr Shellina Prendergast and MBC Cllr Nick de Wiggondene-Shepperd.

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, subject to an agreed amendment, this was seconded by Cllr Wise 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.

The owner of the Apocalypse War Games site attended the meeting to speak regarding his business. He stated that a planning application was currently with Maidstone Borough Council and he spoke regarding this, the history of the site and how he wished to see this business develop.

The Chairman informed the resident that after considering the application, the Parish Council had submitted an objection to the Borough Council.

This was discussed by all present.

A resident attended the meeting and spoke of her disappointment at the Parish Councils decision to withdraw its objections to the schools at Popes Wood. She stated that given the number of residents who were opposed to this application, she felt that the Parish Council should have supported its residents.

She stated that the application was considered by the Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee on 25th April, with a recommendation from Planning Officers to withdraw the application

until after the elections, however this was approved by the Planning Committee, she stated that there was high anger at the MBC meeting.

Cllr Smith stated that the report in the local press was not completely reflective of the Parish Councils views. He stated that the Parish Council was concerned regarding the access and objections regarding this had been submitted to the Borough Council. When the application was revised and the access changed, the Parish Council no longer had a valid objection and therefore had no option but to withdraw this.

Cllr Horne spoke regarding the procedure followed by the Borough Council with regards to this meeting and stated that it was unfortunate that a note had been released prior to the meeting stating that it should be deferred and not heard until after the elections, but the Committee went on to determine the application anyway .

Cllr Smith stated that on many occasions parents had attended Parish Council meetings because they couldn't get their children into a local school. He stated the Parish Council had to balance this with the fact that KCC was trying to build another school, there is a lot of development in the area and school places were needed.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had reluctantly withdrawn its objections as they were no longer valid due to the access being changed.

The Chairman welcomed Reverend Paul Kite, Vicar in charge St Marys Church to the meeting and invited him to give members an update on the Church.

Reverend Paul Kite spoke regarding the progress of St Marys Church and stated he would answer any questions that the PC may have.

Cllr Smith thanked the Reverend for attending the meeting, he stated that the Parish Council took an interest in the Church and was very concerned at the threat of its closure. He stated that the Parish Council had worked with the Archdeacon and a small group to try to promote the church for other purposes, the group has met a few times and several concerts had been held at there.

Reverend Kite stated that he intended to arrange a meeting with the group and the Trustees to have conversations regarding the church, he said that with the merging of Thurnham and Detling Churches, St Mary's Church now had his own PCC again.

He confirmed that there were no plans to close St Marys Church, and in the future at a weekly service would take place whilst Detling Church had maintenance undertaken.

He stated that parking was an issue and possible solutions were being investigated.

Cllr Smith asked about congregation numbers and it was confirmed that there was generally ten per service.

Reverend Kite stated that he was looking at how this could be improved in the future. He confirmed that St Marys was self-sufficient and bringing Thurnham and Detling congregations together would increase the numbers to between thirty and fifty.

He reported that maintenance to the roof was needed on St Marys Church and the finance for this would be looked as a priority along with parking.

Reverend Kite confirmed that St Marys had now become a Chapel of Ease and legally it could no longer hold weddings, however it had been agreed that this would be addressed, and a Bishops Order would be obtained to enable weddings to take place in the future.

The Chairman thanked Reverend Kite for attending the meeting and updating members of St Marys Church.

6. Police Report.

PCSO Matt Adlington gave his apologies to the meeting.

7. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

8. Clerk's Report.

The Clerks Report was noted by members.

9. 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 Horne reported that he had attended a water meeting arranged by Southeast Water. He spoke regarding the demand for water and the shortage in the south-east.

A resident confirmed that the Bearsted and Thurnham Society were due to meet on the 14th June 2019 and a presentation regarding water would take place at this meeting.

10. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne spoke regarding the Maidstone Borough Councils Local Plan Review and stated that the Coordinating Team was considering this matter. He stated that he would report back to a future meeting.

11. Request from Boxley Parish Council to form a Joint Working Group.

The Chairman stated that a letter had been received from Boxley Parish Council inviting Thurnham PC to form a joint working party with them looking at highway matters.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Boxley Parish Council to establish further details.

Action: Clerk to progress.

12. Saint Mary's Church.

No further matters were reported.

13. 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.

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

Bank Balances

Cooperative Community Direct Plus Account

Opening Balance on Current Account	£40000.43
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£18600.00
Less Account for payment	£2046.00
Closing Balance on Current Account	£56554.35

Cooperative 14 Day Account

Opening Balance on Current Account	£40278.78
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£0.00
Closing Balance on Current Account	£40,278.78

Total Balance of all Parish Council Accounts **£96833.13**

b. 2018/2019 Accounts and Annual Return.

The Clerk informed members that she was currently in the process of drawing up the end of year accounts for 2018/19 and these would be presented to the members at the next Parish Council meeting.

14. Parish Matters.

a. Play Areas.

No matters were raised.

b. Footpath and Bridleways.

No matters were raised.

15. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Planning Matters.

Application Received

- 19/501241/FULL 15 Peverel Drive Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 4PS
Erection of two storey rear extension.
08/04/2019
- 19/501894/FULL The Potted Garden Nursery Ashford Road Bearsted
Retrospective application for the erection of new boundary fencing and
installation of proposed planters
14/05/2019
- 19/501813/FULL Thurnham Court Thurnham Lane Thurnham ME14 3LG
Proposed conversion of existing garages to additional living accommodation
with the creation of a glazed link extension to dwelling. Renewal of existing flat
roof above the first-floor landing with installation of sky light and replacement
of bay window with glazed to north west elevation. Erection of garden
belvedere. Internal alterations and changes to fenestration.
08/05/2019
- 19/501814/LBC Thurnham Court Thurnham Lane Thurnham ME14 3LG
Proposed conversion of existing garages to additional living accommodation
with the creation of a glazed link extension to dwelling. Renewal of existing flat
roof above the first-floor landing with installation of sky light and replacement
of bay window with glazed to north west elevation. Erection of garden
belvedere. Internal alterations and changes to fenestration.
08/05/2019
- 19/501255/FULL 11 Caring Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NJ
Erection of detached rear garden annexe with decking.
29/04/2019
- 19/501560/FULL 4 Chapel Lane Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 4PF
Erection of a two storey pitched roof side and rear extension
17/05/2019

Application Decisions by MBC

- 9/500817/FULL
12 Mamignot Close Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 4PT
Creation of first floor side extension with front and rear dormer windows, enlargement and
alterations to existing conservatory to form single storey rear extension.
Application Permitted
- 19/500657/FULL
3 Aldington Court Cottages Pilgrims Way Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 3LW
Demolition of existing rear extension and coal shed. Erection of single storey rear extension.
Application Permitted

19/500147/FULL

137 Hockers Lane Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 5JY

Erection of a new chalet style dwelling.

Application Permitted

19/500170/FULL

Nether Milgate Ashford Road Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NN

Erection of a 20x60m all-weather riding arena (Revision to 18/502886/FULL).

Application Permitted

b. Popes Wood School Planning Application.

No further matters were raised.

c. Enforcement Matters.

No matters were raised.

d. Highway Matters.

Cllr Stark reported that the Keep Left Sign on the A20 had been knocked down.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

e. Parking on Ware Street.

The Chairman referred to circulated correspondence from Kent County Council regarding proposed parking restrictions on Ware Street.

He stated that the KCC were seeking the views of the Parish Council and he asked members to consider the three options.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would support the proposals for double yellow lines on Ware Street and would support options one and three put forward by Kent County Council.

The Clerk was asked to respond to Kent County Council and to place the details on the Parish Council's noticeboards to seek the views of the electorate.

Action: Clerk to respond to KCC.

The Chairman referred to a letter received from Bearsted Parish Council, to the Clerk expressing their disappointment at the Parish Council's request for double yellow lines along Ware Street. He circulated a draft response and asked members if they wished to consider this in light of the proposals put forward by Kent County Council.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would send a response to Bearsted Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to progress.

16. Thinking Day discussion points.

It was agreed that we would consider this at a future meeting.

17. Thurnham Heritage Award.

The Chairman asked members to consider a recipient for the Thurnham Heritage Award for 2019.

18. Parish Council Elections.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council was uncontested in the elections and there were currently three vacancies on the council. He stated that these would be considered at the next PC meeting.

19. Future Agenda Items.

The following was agreed as an agenda item for the April PC meeting:

- 2018/19 Accounts and Annual Return.
- Parish Councillor vacancies.

20. Date of next Meeting.

20th May 2019.

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

Signed.....

Dated.....