

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 19th October 2020
By Zoom at 7:30 PM.

***Councillors present: Baigent
Dunlop
Duncan
Horne
Shelley
Skinner
Smith***

Also: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast, MBC Councillor Nick de Wiggondene-Shepperd and Chris Lawson – Downs Mail.

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 Stark, 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 Baigent 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.

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.

It was agreed that the dates of the future meetings should be advertised on the PC Notice Boards.

6. Clerk's Report.

The Clerks Report was noted by members.

7. External Reports.

a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor de Wiggondene gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the MBC Local Plan process and the discussions that had taken place at MBC. Cllr Horne asked about the land allocations in the Local Plan for development along Ware Street. Cllr de Wiggondene-Shepperd stated that a large site along Ware Street had been included in the Call for Sites, whether this would succeed was unknown at present.

He stated that the land designation for the setting of AONB was approved and there were reassurances by Planning was that the protection in place would remain in place.

He stated that it was unknown what the SPI Committee would decide.

He reported that he had now resigned from the Conservative Party.

b. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her report to the meeting.

She referred to correspondence forwarded to her regarding speeding on the A20 Ashford Road. She stated that she had circulated a response to members confirming that no action would be taken regarding the speed reduction at present. She referred to the crash records, and stated that there had been 11 incidents, but none were as a result of speed.

She stated that she was working with local parishes and residents regarding mitigation for the access to Woodcut Farm site.

She reported on the Leeds Langley Relief Road and stated that the only way that this would be built was from enabling development. She stated that the Leader of KCC had written to the Leader of MBC to explain this.

Cllr Prendergast spoke regarding the planning consultations currently taking place, and the implications on infrastructure in the south east.

She reported that KCC was in the process of preparing for the Brexit transition, they were working with Government and Highways England regarding this.

She spoke regarding the KCC budget pressures due to Covid and stated that there was a potential budget gap of 100 million in next year's budget. She stated that KCC had now launched its budget consultation.

A general discussion took place regarding the Local Plan and development in Maidstone.

c. Liaison with external parties

No matters were reported.

8. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported that the team was currently working in relation to Planning Inquiry for the St Nicolas Church site in Otham. He stated that a FOI request had been made to MBC for information to support this.

He stated that the appeal was due to start towards the end of November 2020.

9. Saint Mary's Church.

Cllr Smith reported that the Harvest celebrations would take place at St Marys Church on 25th October 2020.

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 Horne, and agreed by all present.

11. Parish Council Committee Reports.*a. Planning Matters.***Application Received**

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 20/504002/LBC | Parsonage Farmhouse Thurnham Lane Thurnham
Listed Building Consent for replacement windows to property and formation of one new window opening to left side. |
| 20/504001/FULL | Parsonage Farmhouse Thurnham Lane Thurnham
Consent for replacement windows to property and formation of one new window opening to left side. |
| 20/504430/FULL | End Cottage Barty Farm Roundwell Bearsted Maidstone
Erection of a single storey rear extension. |

MBC Planning Decisions

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 20/504304/NMAMD | 15 Caring Lane Bearsted ME14 4NJ
Non-material amendment: To reduce the first-floor extension and no longer use the existing flat roof as a balcony (original application ref: 20/500855/FULL).
Application Permitted |
| 20/502889/FULL | Scammell Lodge Friningham Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JD
Removal of existing residential caravan and ancillary structures for the siting of 7no. new residential mobile homes with associated parking.
Application Refused |

20/503661/LDCEX

Silverhill Caring Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NJ

Certificate of Lawful development for existing use as 1no. residential dwelling.

Application Refused

20/503177/FULL

Woodlands 25 Caring Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NJ

Construction of a hard tennis court with fenced enclosure.

Application Permitted

b. Highway Matters.

The Chairman referred to an email received from a resident of Caring Lane regarding speeding traffic.

He stated that he did not feel that this was an issue having cycled along Caring Lane.

Cllr Duncan agreed that she had not noticed a difference in the traffic speed but had noticed that Caring Lane was being used as a rat run since a road closure in Leeds.

Members noted the comments received from Cllr Stark regarding this matter, stating that living along Caring Lane, he did not feel that this was an issue.

Members discussed the traffic survey undertaken for Caring Lane in 2018 and the results of this.

Cllr Smith stated that he regularly walked the lanes in Thurnham, and he had noticed the irrational driving of vehicles on some occasions. He stated that he felt that it was a general problem in the area rather than being specific to Caring Lane.

He suggested that the PC may wish to look into the Quiet Lanes Scheme and signage to see if this could assist with ongoing issues.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that he would look into this and report back to a future PC meeting.

Action: Cllr Smith to progress.

It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the resident and forward a copy of the traffic survey to them.

Action: Clerk to progress.

c. Parking on Ware Street.

This was discussed and the Clerk stated she had sought an update regarding from Bearsted Parish Council, and they had confirmed that to date no further action had been taken due to Covid.

Cllr Smith stated that the cars parked along Ware Street had increased, and cars were now parking for 30m causing a visibility issue.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would await an update from Bearsted Parish Council.

12. Policy Review.

The Parish Council policies were discussed, it was agreed that these would be fully reviewed at the November 2020 meeting.

13. Future Agenda Items.

Cllr Duncan spoke regarding footpath's and reported a problem with the footpath passing over the Golf Club from Caring Lane. She stated that this was overgrown, she had spoken to the Tudor Park Hotel about this and their responsibilities to keep this clear.

Cllr Smith stated that he would look into this and report back to the Clerk.

Cllr Duncan reported that Bearsted Medical Practice worked with Bearsted Parish Council on some matters, and she asked for the PC view on displaying their notices on the PC noticeboards. This was discussed and agreed by members.

14. Date of next Meeting.

11th November 2020.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....