

The Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 20th May 2024.
Held at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

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

Also: Sherrie Babington, Parish Clerk, Members of the Public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.

1. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Elected Councillors.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received for all elected councillors.

2. To elect a chairman.

To receive and consider nominations for Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Smith to elect Cllr Skinner as chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Wise and agreed by all present.

Cllr Skinner accepted this position and took the chair.

3. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Skinner signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. To elect a vice-chairman.

To receive and consider nominations for Vice-Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Stark to elect Cllr Smith as vice chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Skinner and agreed by all present.

5. Apologies.

Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Waters, MBC Councillors Thompson and Jones, KCC Cllr Prendergast.

6. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

To consider any applications for Co-option.

The Clerk informed members that there were two applications for co-option to fill the vacancies following the local elections.

Members considered that applications from Geeta Dunlop and Ian Shelley.

It was proposed by Cllr Skinner to co-opt all three candidates onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.

The newly opted councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took their places around the table.

7. To appoint Committees & Representatives to outside bodies.**Planning**

Cllr. Stark

Cllr. Wise

Cllr. Skinner (Chairman)

Cllr. Dunlop (reserve planning & TPO)

Finance

Cllr. Shelley

Representatives for Outside Bodies

Footpaths	Cllr. Smith
Memorial Hall	Cllr Stark.
St Mary's Church	Cllr. Smith.
Police Liaison	All Councillors.
Tree Warden	Cllr. Smith & Cllr Dunlop.
Highways	Cllr. Smith & Cllr. Stark.
KALC	All Councillors
Kent Downs	Cllr. Wise.

Memberships

Kent Association of local Councils (KALC)

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)

ICO (information Commissioners Office)

Other Appointments

Internal Auditor - Martin Thomas and Co

External Auditor - Mazars

Bank - Cooperative

8. Declaration of Interest.

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with

the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.

To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

No interests were declared.

9. 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, these were seconded by Cllr Skinner and agreed by all present.

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

10. Matters arising from the Minutes.

To consider any matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

11. Public Participation.

To discuss any questions received by members of the public.

A resident from the Sycamores attended the meeting to speak regarding potential development on land at Barty Farm. He stated that the land was for sale and asked if there was anything that the PC could do to ensure that the new owners followed the conditions of planning.

The Chairman advised that should any activities contravening planning regulations take place on site that the PC would report this to Planning Enforcement.

MBC Cllr Springett spoke regarding the application and stated that Borough Councillor Stephen Thompson was due to liaise with MBC regarding the trees and TPOs on this.

12. Clerks Report.

To receive the Clerks Report.

The Clerk's report was noted by members.

13. External Reports:

a. To receive the MBC Ward Councillor's Report.

The Chairman spoke regarding the Borough Councillors now covering the parish and asked the Clerk to make contact to let them know the dates of future Parish Council meetings.

Action: Clerk to action.

b. To receive the KCC Councillor's Report.

Apologies were received from KCC Councillor Shelina Prendergast.

c. To receive the Police Report.

No report was received.

d. To receive Parish Councillors Reports.

No report was received.

14. Joint Parish Group & Local Plan.

To receive a report on the Coordinating Group and Local Plan.

No report was received.

15. St Marys Church.

To receive a report on St Marys Church.

No report was received.

16. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

To receive and approve the financial statement and payments.

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.

b. Request for a Grant/Donation.

Funding of three Portaloos

Last year Thurnham Parish Council very kindly paid for portaloos for our second successful classic car show at Thurnham to raise funds for the restoration of St Mary's Church.

We are planning the same occasion again on Sunday 18 August this year and wondered whether the parish council would be able to be generous with their support once again.

Last year we were again blessed with good weather and had a wonderful community event. Funds raised came to approximately £3,000 towards the church.

The portaloos company (Castle Portable Loo Hire Ltd) have held their price of £300 for two abled bodied and one disabled portaloos.

Thurnham Parish council support was and is extremely appreciated.

This request was considered by members, and it was proposed by Cllr Wise to award the grant of £300, this was seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.

Action: Grant of £300 approved by the PC.

c. 2023/2024 Accounts, Internal Controls and AGAR.

To receive and agree the 2023/2024 Accounts, Internal Controls and AGAR.

i. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024. The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.

- ii. To approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2023/24, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2024 and if necessary, the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2022/23) to this year (2023/24) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2 to be sent to the External Auditor. The Chair of the meeting to sign.

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts and AGAR were currently with the internal auditor and would therefore be presented to the next PC meeting for formal consideration.

17. Planning Matters:

a. Planning Application Received

23/505534/FULL - Land North East Of The M20 And South East Of Water Lane Thurnham Kent
Proposed engineering operations for excavation of soils and deposited materials, and regrading and restoration of land (resubmission 22/502512/FULL).

24/500854/FULL - 17 Peverel Drive Thurnham Kent ME14 4PS

Erection of a part two storey side and/part first floor side extension with conversion of existing garage.

No objections.

24/501120/FULL - 4 Peverel Drive Thurnham Kent ME14 4PS

Erection of first floor side extension.

No objections.

24/501905/FULL - The Granary Chapel Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 4PF

Removal of external front stairs, first floor decking and pergola. Erection of single storey extension to west side, replacement of windows to existing building.

No objections.

b. MBC Planning Decisions

24/500854/FULL

17 Peverel Drive Thurnham Kent ME14 4PS

Erection of a part two storey side and/part first floor side extension with conversion of existing garage.

Application Permitted

24/500806/SUB

Kalmia Thurnham Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LG

Submission of details to discharge condition 8 (renewable energy) and 9 (landscape scheme) of planning application 23/504918/FULL.

Application Permitted

24/500444/TPOA

The Lodge Water Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LT

TPO application to fell three English Oak trees designated as T1, T2 and T3 within tree preservation order TPO No. 14 of 2007.

Application Refused

Following consideration of your application the Local Planning Authority has REFUSED

CONSENT under Tree Preservation Order Number 14 OF 2007 for the tree work referred to above. The grounds for such refusal are:

(1) The Council considers that the three Oak trees (listed as T1/T2/T3 in the application and in the TPO schedule) make a positive contribution to local landscape/sylvan quality and amenity of the area. The proposed felling works would be to the detriment of those attributes. The application is not supported by any arboricultural evidence to suggest that the tree presents a current, identifiable hazard or that it is reasonable to fell trees of perceived amenity on the grounds stated in the application.

Therefore, the Council does not consider that the reasons and supporting evidence for the proposed works are sufficiently robust to outweigh the loss of amenity that would result, which would be to the detriment of the sylvan character and amenity of the area and would therefore be contrary to policies intended to confer protection to trees and tree cover, specifically Maidstone Borough Local Plan October 2017 - Policy DM 3, Local Plan Review, draft plan for submission (Regulation 22) dated October 2021, Maidstone Landscape Character Assessment (March 2012 amended 19 July 2013) and Supplement (2012- Saved Sections of the Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Guidelines 2000) together with Government Policy: Planning Practice Guidance; Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas

c. Other Planning Matters.

No other planning matters were raised.

18. Highway & PROW Matters.

a. To consider general highway and PROW matters.

Cllr Stark reported that he had cut back the overgrown vegetation on the corner of Caring Lane to improve visibility.

It was reported that the barbed wire was still obstructing the PROW to the rear of the golf club.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

b. HIP (Highways Improvement Plan).

To receive an update on the Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Smith reported that the Joint Highways Group was currently working with KCC on Quiet Lanes and other highway issues.

- 19. **Future Agenda Items.**
To consider any future items.

It was agreed that Policy Review would be placed on the next agenda.

Action: Clerk to action.

- 20. **Date next Meeting**
Monday 15th July 2024

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.25pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....