

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 21st November 2022.
Held at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

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

Also: Mrs Babington, Clerk.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast.

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, this was seconded by Cllr Wise and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

6. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

The Chairman informed members that he had been invited to give a reading at the Church Christmas Service, however he was unable to do it this year. He asked if any member would wish to give the reading on his behalf. This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Horne would give the reading on behalf of the Chairman.

Action: Clerk to respond the invitation.

7. 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. He reported that the bookings and financial situation of the hall was good.

Cllr Horne reported on a site meeting he had attended at Woodcut Farm development. He stated that the buildings were of high quality and landscaping was yet to be done. He did express concern regarding the access to the site.

Cllr Duncan stated that there was a lot of rubbish on the path on the A20 leading to the development from contractors working on the site. The Clerk was asked to raise this matter with the developer.

Action: Clerk to progress.

8. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported on the Local Plan Inspection Hearing.

9. Saint Mary's Church.

Cllr Smith reported on the financial position of the church.

He reported that he had laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Service held at Saint Mary's.

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 Stark, and agreed by all present.

b. 2023/2024 Budget and Precept.

The Clerk informed members that the budget would be drafted and circulated for consideration in advance of the PC meeting to discuss this. She stated that it was advisable to wait until the tax band rates had been published by Maidstone Borough Council before agreeing the precept and budget, as this would give the PC a clearer review on the effect of any increase on residents. This was agreed.

11. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Planning Matters.

22/505225/TPOA - Land Adjacent to The Pines Caring Lane Bearsted Kent

TPO Application to raise the crown of Five Mature Oak Trees (T1-6). Proposed to lift crowns to a height of 3m. The crowns currently rests/sweeps the ground making it impossible to walk the land or maintain the ground around the stem.

22/505012/FULL - Sunn Lodge Weaving Street Weaving Maidstone Kent

Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of single storey rear extension, insertion 1no. roof light and changes to fenestration.

22/505347/FULL - 143 Hockers Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 5JY

Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of single storey side and rear extensions with first floor balcony above (Revision to Planning Application ref: 22/501459/FULL)

PC Objections - Over development of site.

22/505216/FULL - Gorse Tor Detling Hill Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JG

Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of a single storey side extension and a single storey rear extension including changes to fenestration.

22/505385/OUT - Land at Woodcut Farm Ashford Road Hollingbourne Kent ME17 1XH

Section 73 - Application for variation of condition 14 of application 21/506790/OUT to require the approved off-site footway/cycle works to be carried out by 31st March 2023 rather than prior to occupation. (Outline application for a mixed commercial development comprising B1(a), B1(b), B1(c) and B8 units, with a maximum floor space of 45,295 square metres).

MBC Planning Decisions

22/503374/FULL

14 Caring Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NJ

Hip to barn end loft conversion with front dormer, rear box dormer and roof alterations. Erection of a first-floor rear/side extension and front porch including changes to fenestration (part retrospective).

Application Permitted

22/503214/LDCEX

Cold Blow Farm Coldblow Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LR

Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) for use of the land for the stationing of (Maximum of 4) caravans for use as temporary contractor's accommodation.

Application Permitted

b. Highway Matters.

Cllr Stark reported that road works on Ashford Road were currently being undertaken.

Cllr Smith reported that he would attend a joint meeting with Bearsted Parish Council to discuss joint highway matters.

c. Quiet Lanes Scheme.

Cllr Smith updated members on the progress of the Quiet Lane Scheme and the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP). He stated that KCC have now changed structure, he asked the Clerk to establish the current status of the HIP and arrange a meeting to try to take this forward.

Action: Clerk to action.

12. Parish Council Publicity.

Members discussed ways in which the Parish Council could promote itself within the parish and the following was agreed:

- Periodic newsletter/Annual Report
- Encourage resident to sign up to the website's news and update emails.
- Update noticeboard with sign up notice for website.

13. Heritage Award.

Possible recipients for the Award were discussed.

14. Future Agenda Items.

Community Award.

15. Date of next Meeting.

12th December 2022.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.51pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....