

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.  
Held at the Marriott Tudor Park hotel, at 7:30pm.

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

*Also: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington and 16 members of the public.*

*The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Skinner.*

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received, and reasons for absence accepted from Cllr Shelley, Dunlop, and 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 Baigent and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Noticeboard – The Clerk stated that she was awaiting a response from Dandara.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

A number of residents attended the meeting to speak on the following issues:

- Land on Caring Lane.
- Quiet Lanes Initiative.

Land at Caring Lane

The Chairman invited the residents to speak on Caring Lane.

Cllr Stark spoke regarding this matter and briefed members on the current situation with regards to the land for sale along Caring Lane. He stated that this land was currently up for auction and was being sold in three plots.

He stated that he had written to MBC regarding this, and the concerns of residents that the land would become occupied by caravans. He spoke regarding the suggestion to have an Article 4 Direction placed on the site and stated that this was being looked into.

Residents spoke regarding this and asked the Parish Council if there was any action it could take to assist with this.

Dennis Spooner spoke regarding the Article 4 Direction and stated that this would only protect the site by taking away any permitted development rights, and therefore planning permission would be needed for any development on the land. He stated that this was something that MBC would be responsible for.

The Chairman thanked residents for attending the meeting and stated that the PC would raise this with the MBC Ward Councillor.

### **Quiet Lanes Scheme**

A number of residents attended to show their support in having a Quiet Lanes Initiative along Pilgrims Way, Water Lane and Thurnham Lane.

They spoke regarding the issues with speeding vehicles along the lanes, and stated that they would support the Scheme, and assist in any way they could.

Cllr Smith spoke regarding this and stated that the Parish Council had initially brought this up with KCC Councillor Prendergast who had advised the PC to ascertain whether there was public support for this. The PC has then reached out to its residents via the Downs Mail and Website.

He acknowledged the issues with speeding vehicles along Pilgrims Way, Water Lane and Thurnham Lane and stated that there was now a case to take to KCC.

The Clerk spoke regarding the need to complete a Highways Improvement Plan and submit this to KCC to start the dialogue with them. They would then look into this and come back to the PC with options of what was possible, and whether they would fund this.

This was discussed further, and it was agreed that the Clerk would complete a Highways Improvement Plan and submit this to KCC.

The Chairman thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

## **6. Clerk's Report.**

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

## **7. External Reports.**

### **a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.**

No matters were raised.

### **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

No matters were reported.

8. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.

Cllr Horne reported on the following:

- J8 Monitoring Committee had met to discuss Woodcut Farm, and he reported on this.
- He reported on the work of the Coordinating Group with regards to the Local Plan.
- He had attended a series of Webinars regarding water in the Southeast.

9. Saint Mary's Church.

No matters were reported.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

11. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Planning Matters.

22/500232/FULL 20 Longfields Drive Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 4PD

Erection of a single storey side extension creating a link between the house and garage. Ancillary alterations with partial garage conversion into gym.

***No objections.***

MBC Planning Decisions

21/506753/SUB

Nether Cottage Ashford Road Bearsted ME14 4NL

Submission of Details to discharge Condition 8 (Energy statement) and Condition 10 (Construction management plan) of planning permission 21/505494/FULL

Application Permitted

21/506515/FULL

9 Shillingheld Close Thurnham Maidstone Kent ME14 4QA

Conversion of garage into storage and habitable space with internal and external alterations, including alterations to rear windows and doors.

Application Permitted

21/505994/TPOA

Plot 5 (Former Rgva Site) Crismill Lane Bearsted Maidstone Kent ME14 4NT

Tree Preservation Order application : Trees T5, T6 and T7 - Uplift the Crown from approx 4 m to 7 m for 3 trees two sweet Chestnut and a Sycamore. The trees are close together (two right next to each other) and the canopies are blocking light to the garden grass and hedgerow below.  
Application Permitted

Members discussed this application and reports from residents that the work had been undertaken in accordance with the approval, however the owner had now completely removed the trees. The Clerk was asked to raise this with MBC Enforcement.

***Action: Clerk to action.***

Other Planning Matters.

Member considered a request from the Bearsted and Thurnham Society seeking the Parish Councils support in their application to have the Old School listed as an Asset of Community Value. The details of the submission were circulated to all members by email prior to the meeting.

This was discussed by all present, and it was proposed by Cllr Horne to support the submission by the B&T Society, this was seconded by Cllr Stark and greed by all present.

***Action: Cllr Smith to liaise with the B&T Society regarding the PC support.***

b. Highway Matters.

Cllr Horne referred to the discussions at a previous meeting regarding the relocation of village signs by Bearsted PC and he asked the Clerk to seek an update on the progress of this.

***Action: Clerk to action.***

**12. KALC Community Award.**

The Clerk reported that the deadline for applications for the award had now passed. It was agreed that this would be advertised earlier next year.

**13. Future Agenda Items.**

Queens Jubilee – Members discussed this and agreed that it was not able to arrange any parish celebrations in the timescales.

**14. Date of next Meeting.**

21<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

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

Signed.....

Dated.....