

The Minutes of the Meeting of Thurnham Parish Council
held on 10th November 2025 at the Tudor Park Hotel, at 7:30pm.

*Councillors present: Duncan
Waters
Wise*

Also: Sherrie Babington (Parish Clerk), and members of the public.

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr Skinner.

1. 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 and accepted from:

- *Cllr Dunlop – Personal*
- *Cllr Skinner – Work*
- *Cllr Smith – Holiday*
- *Cllr Stark – Personal*
- *Cllr Shelley – Work*

2. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

To consider any applications for Co-option.

No applications were received.

3. Declaration of Interests.

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.

No declarations of interest were made.

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

No dispensation requests were considered.

4. Minutes from last Parish Council Meeting.

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting and if in order sign as a true record.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2025 were circulated to all members.

Proposed: Cllr Wise

Seconded: Cllr Waters

RESOLVED: Minutes approved.

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

The Clerk confirmed:

- The St Mary's porta-loo payment had been included in the November financial statement.
- No further outstanding items required discussion.

No additional matters were raised.

6. Public Participation.

No public representations were made.

7. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk's report was received and noted.

- KALC Community Awards 2026 – Members noted the scheme had opened for nominations, with submissions required by 30 January 2026. The Celebration Evening would take place on 8 April 2026 at Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham. Members were invited to put forward names for individuals or groups who had contributed significantly to the community.

RESOLVED: To defer decision until future meeting.

8. Local Government Reorganisation and MBC Community Governance Review.

The Clerk reported that the Democracy and Overview Committee had now met and formally agreed that Thurnham West and Grove Green would be excluded from Stage 2 of the Community Governance Review.

She confirmed that she has now written to Maidstone Borough Council requesting the full cost breakdown associated with the CGR process relating to Thurnham.

Action: Clerk to follow up the cost information from MBC.

9. External Reports.

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

No apologies or reports were received from Cllrs Thompson, Jones or Naghi.

b. To receive the KCC Councillor's Report.

No apologies or reports were received.

c. To receive the Police Report.

No report submitted.

Members unanimously expressed dissatisfaction with representatives failing to submit written updates.

RESOLVED:

A formal request to be sent requesting written reports when representatives cannot attend.

Action: Clerk to write to Borough Councillors, KCC Councillor and Police.

d. To receive Parish Councillors Reports.

No matters were reported.

10. **St Mary's Church.**

To receive a report on St Marys Church.

No matters were reported.

11. **Financial Matters.**

a. Financial Statement.

To receive and approve the financial statement and payments.

The financial statement was circulated.

Members raised no queries and approved the Financial Statement.

Proposed: Cllr Waters

Seconded: Cllr Wise

RESOLVED: Approved.

b. 2025/2026 Budget and Precept.

The 2025/2026 Budget and Precept need to be approved by the end of January – The Band D figures are usually published by MBC late December.

c. Pension – Auto-Enrolment

The Clerk awaiting confirmation of employer contributions prior to completing enrolment.

12. **Planning Matters.**

a. Planning Applications Received

25/503789/FULL - Thurnham Court Thurnham Lane Thurnham Kent ME14 3LG

Erection of a timber framed single storey car port. (Retrospective).

No Objections

b. MBC Planning Decisions.

25/503630/FULL

Griffins Weaving Street Weaving Kent ME14 5JS

Part demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a first-floor extension, two storey rear extension, replacement front porch, and garden store to side, including creation of driveway to front with 3no. parking spaces and sliding metal gate, and a paved terrace to rear.

Application Permitted

25/503624/FULL

10 Fulbert Drive Bearsted Kent ME14 4PU

Proposed first floor side extension with addition of an infill single storey extension to rear.

Application Permitted

25/503208/FULL

Shell Detling, Detling Hill Detling Kent ME14 3HT

Demolition of existing sales building, garage/workshop and forecourt. Erection of sales building, forecourt (domestic and HGV) including underground fuel tanks, pumps and canopies, provision of car parking and EVC hub and associated works.

Application Permitted

25/502326/FULL

Friningham Farm Friningham Detling Kent ME14 3JD

Change of use of agricultural buildings to Use Class B2 (general industrial), B8 (storage or distribution) and F1 (learning and non-residential institutions) along with the addition of an area of hard standing and improvements to the highway access with the A249 (part retrospective).

Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters.

No matters were raised.

13. Highway & PROW Matters.

a. To consider general highway and PROW matters.

Proposed Joint Speed Limit Reduction – Roundwell (Bearsted/Thurnham boundary)

Bearsted Parish Council has approached Thurnham Parish Council regarding a joint request to Kent County Council Highways to reduce the speed limit along Roundwell, from the A20 junction to the existing 30mph limit near Hillbeck House, from 40mph to 30mph.

Previous requests were declined due to the absence of street lighting and limited frontage development; however, with the upcoming speed reduction on the A20, there may now be grounds to revisit this.

Bearsted Parish Council proposes that both councils include the request in their Highways Improvement Plans (HIPs) and work together to provide supporting evidence.

Action: Members are asked to consider whether Thurnham Parish Council wishes to support and join with Bearsted Parish Council on this proposal, and to submit a joint HIP submission.

RESOLVED:

Thurnham Parish Council supports Bearsted Parish Council's proposal.

Delegated authority:

The Parish Council has delegated authority to Cllr Richard Smith to progress the submission and liaise directly with Cllr Val Springett (Bearsted PC).

Action: Joint HIP submission to be prepared.

b. HIP (Highways Improvement Plan).

To receive an update on the Highways Improvement Plan.

No matters were reported.

14. Heritage Award.

Refurbishment of the Heritage Award is being progressed.

- ***The brass plaque wording should be emailed to councillors for their review and update.***

- *The Clerk to arrange for the presentation box and repairs to the wood on the award to be carried out.*

15. Future Agenda Items.

There were no future items.

16. Date of next Meeting.

Monday 8th December 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.24pm.

Signed:

Date: