

**The Minutes of the meeting of Thurnham Parish Council  
held on 19th January 2015 at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel at 7:30 PM.**

***Councillors present: Denham  
Horne  
Skinner  
Smith  
Stark  
Wise***

***Also: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, MBC Councillors Nick de Wiggondene and David Burton and members of the press and public.***

***The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Daniel Skinner.***

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Waite and Shelley, the police and KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle.

**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 Smith 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.

***With Members permission the Chairman change the order of the agenda to allow Item 11, MBC Ward Councillors Report to take place.***

**11. External Reports.**

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

MBC Councillor Nick de Wiggondene gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the Peverel Drive Play Area and confirmed that MBC had now appointed consultants to draw up detailed plans for the renovation of the play area. He stated that as soon as these were available they would be brought to a meeting for discussion.

Cllr Denham spoke regarding the refurbishment of the play area and the need to keep residents informed.

Councillor de Wiggondene stated that he would liaise with Councillor Perry to ascertain the current progress of this matter.

Councillor de Wiggondene spoke regarding neighbourhood plans and introduced Borough Councillor David Burton to the meeting.

David Burton explained Maidstone Borough Council's position regarding neighbourhood plans and his role as a Cabinet Member.

He stated that Maidstone Borough Council Planning Officers were now supporting neighbourhood plans. He informed the members that approximately 8 to 11 parishes were currently going through this process and MBC now had a designated officer to assist with these.

He spoke regarding the key issues for a neighbourhood plan and the National Planning Framework. He stated that the Borough was currently working on its Local Plan and there was a need for neighbourhood plans to comply with this.

Cllr Horne suggested that it would be useful if the MBC Officer could write to Parish Councils regarding how they could assist with neighbourhood plans and any finance that was available. Councillor Burton spoke regarding the finance available and stated that MBC could also assist with limited manpower resources and evidence to support the neighbourhood plan evidence base.

It was confirmed that at present no Maidstone parishes had completed their neighbourhood plans however some were currently with the examination board. He stated that the neighbourhood planning process could take approximately 18 months to 2 years.

Cllr Denham spoke regarding the infrastructure needed to support housing in the area and the impact of development in the neighbourhood parishes. Cllr Horne asked whether it was possible for 2 to 3 parishes to undertake a neighbourhood plan. Councillor Burton confirmed that this was possible.

A general discussion took place regarding neighbourhood planning and the development of the Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan.

The Chairman thanked David Burton for his presentation. He and Councillor de Wiggondene then left the Parish Council meeting.

**5. Parish Councillor Vacancy.**

The Clerk confirmed that to date no applications had been received to fill this vacancy. It was agreed to continue to advertise until a suitable applicant was found.

**6. Public Comments and Observations.**

A resident in attendance at the meeting offered to assist the Parish Council in advertising the councillor vacancy through the Bearsted and Thurnham Society where possible. The Chairman thanked her for this offer.

**7. Police Report.**

Apologies were received from PCSO Tim Gurr.

**8. Chairman's Report.**

No matters were reported.

**9. Clerk's Report.**

The Clerks Report was noted by members.

**10. External Reports.**

*a. MBC Ward Councillors Report.*

MBC Ward Councillor Nick de Wiggondene gave his report at the beginning of the meeting.

*b. KCC Councillors Report.*

Apologies were received from KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle.

*c. Liaison with external parties*

Cllr Stark reported on the King George V Memorial Hall.

Cllr Horne reported on a Tri Parish Group meeting he had attended with representatives from Detling and Stockbury Parish Councils.

**11. Joint Parish Group/Local Plan.**

Cllr Horne reported on a meeting regarding the Local Economic Development Plan that he had recently attended and raised concerns regarding MBC canvassing for commercial use at Junction 8. He stated that he felt that there was no substance in the Economic Development Plan that had been put forward by MBC.

Cllr Horne reported on the progress of the work undertaken with CPRE regarding the appeal for Junction 8.

**12. Saint Mary's Church.**

No matters were reported.

**13. White Horse Woods.**

Cllr Horne reported that Cllr Waite was still in discussions with Medway Valley Partnership regarding this matter and was currently awaiting a full detailed cost analysis.

**14. Financial Matters.**

*a. Financial Statement.*

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

The cheques for payment were then signed by two authorised signatures.

*b. 2015/2016 Budget.*

The draft budget was circulated to all members.

It was proposed by Cllr Smith to increase the precept by 3% to £16,692 for the year 2015/16. This was seconded by Cllr Stark and agreed by all present.

***The precept was therefore agreed at £16,692.***

**15. Parish Matters.**

*a. Peverel Drive Play Area.*

Members spoke regarding the refurbishment of Peverel Drive Play Area and asked the Clerk to invite MBC Councillor John Perry to attend the next Parish Council meeting to give an update on this matter.

***Action: Clerk to invite Councillor John Perry to attend the next Parish Council meeting.***

*b. Play Area Improvements.*

No matters were raised.

*c. Footpath and Bridleways.*

CLlr Smith reported that Norman King and Mike Perring were both retiring from the Footpaths Group.

**16. Parish Council Committee Reports.**

*a. Planning Matters.*

14/506830/FULL      Quench House, Detling Hill, Thurnham - No objections.  
First floor side extension.

*b. Highways Matters.*

No matters were raised.

**17. Future Agenda Items.**

No matters were raised.

**18. Date of next Meeting.**

9th February 2015.

***There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8:35pm.***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_