

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2007

A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON Wednesday 7th November 2007 (postponed from 23rd October 2007) at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall

PRESENT: Mr K Alexander
Mrs S Close
Mr M Hitchins
Mr R Turner
Mr S Wickens
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllr J Gibson
Cllr R Thick
Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

PCSO Tom Smith

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on items on the Agenda

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 21st August 2007 were circulated approved and signed as a true and correct record.

LOCAL POLICING

PA reported that a PC Paul Kemsley, who has recently become our 'local Bobby' replacing Georgina Messenger, had contacted her. He was due to attend our meeting but unfortunately had spent the day in court and would not make it; he hoped that he would be able to make the next one when he could introduce himself. His contact number is 07870 252171.

The Police Support Clerk (Mannie Curd) had emailed PA to say that there had been no crimes in our area, PA could not understand this because she had received reports through something called Ringmaster email which is to do with Neighbourhood Watch informing that a tractor had been stolen in Headcorn Road and a pair of gates had also been stolen from Liverton Hill. Mannie Curd said that she would look into this; it seems possible that she is looking for crimes under Boughton Malherbe and not Grafty Green or Liverton Hill.

ACTION PA

MATTERS ARISING from Minutes of 21ST August 2007

40-30 Mile Speed Limit Sign Changes

PA reported that just prior to this meeting, the report on the speed survey had been received. Where the original tube had been laid at the North end of the village, the average speed, which was around 36mph had only increased slightly both north and southbound, but where the new survey tube had been laid, more centrally, the average

372

was around 40mph both north and southbound. The speeds were discussed and the general opinion of the Parish Councillors was that if speeds were checked either in the morning or evening it would be a lot higher, people driving through the village after rush hour probably drove a lot slower which was obviously bringing the average speed down considerably. It was agreed that a letter should be written to both Highways and the Police making this point. **ACTION PA**

HGV's Weight Restrictions

As previously stated nothing further has been done, once the speed issue is sorted out, then this would be addressed. **ACTION PA**

No. 59 Bus

Nothing much to report, the Nu-Venture Saturday service was 'going well' and no changes were to be made to the Arriva Monday to Friday service at the moment. In response to the Post Bus service ending, Arriva have suggested that if Lenham P.C. were to contribute they would run a Community Bus, KA believes that Lenham P.C. have agreed to this. **ACTION PA**

Potholes Woodcock, the Lane & Church Road

This item would always be on Matters Arising; before reported potholes are filled others have appeared and would not be repaired until marked out and instructions given to fill. **ACTION PA**

Proposed Closure of Platts Heath School

Discussions are still going on. **ACTION KA**

Travellers Sites/Petsfield

Nothing further to report. With regard to Petsfield a letter had been received from MBC confirming receipt of the letter written on behalf of the PC objecting to the Planning Application. PA had contacted MBC in September and they were still waiting for information from the Applicant. PA is to find out what the latest is. **ACTION PA/ RTHICK**

Willow Tree Cottage-Fire Hydrant

PA reported that although the fire hydrant collapse had been filled it was now not so deep but wider and causes the same problem as before when it rains. Earl Bourner was arranging for Dennis Gower to investigate. **ACTION PA**

Liverton Hill Farm

Earl Bourner had advised that Andy Mitchell was currently organising another road closure for Liverton Hill to re-instate the double kerbing. **ACTION PA**

Public Footpath-Church Road

Ian Hayes has still not been able to arrange a site visit because of more urgent priorities where routes are totally obstructed, and although the path is not the most pleasant it is still walkable. As soon as he can he will inspect. **ACTION PA**

Dormer Windows

PA reported that the Dormer Windows have been correctly installed by the owner and complies with current legislation.

Pothole – Ivy House Farm

373

PA had been told by Earl Bourner that this repair had been carried out, but the Davidson's had since advised her that this wasn't the case and in turn EB has instructed Dennis Gower to inspect along with water still leaking opposite. **ACTION PA**

Various Requests from Rosemary Smith for the Village Green

RT had spoken to Rosemary about the seat, she has volunteered her husband to repair it and she would let us know what the cost would be. Rosemary has also been consulted about the ground sinking on the green and has advised that this shouldn't be done until the spring; in the meantime, Robert has agreed to source the soil.

ACTION MH & RT

Water opposite the Garden Centre

PA advised that this repair has now been done.

ACTION PA

Revised Code of Conduct

The Clerk reported that the notice declaring the Parish Council had adopted the revised Code of Conduct had been put into the September issue of the Downs Mail at a cost of £35. Mike Hitchins said that he had not seen the advertisement; PA said she would ring the newspaper to find out what had happened.

ACTION PA

30 Mile Speed Limit Signs

PA had received a letter from Kent Highways saying that they had made a site visit and were concerned about the existing 30mph sign and that the vegetation would cause a constant problem with visibility, they did not think it would be a good idea to put the other sign opposite because of the very same reason. They also feel that the current location was having very little effect on reducing the speed of vehicles and they should be sited closer to the built up part of the village nearer to the property known as Kimburn. PA circulated copies showing the current and proposed locations for discussion. It was agreed that PA should contact Kent Highways and ask them to leave the existing sign where it is and erect the new sign opposite, that they should contact the landowner to cut the vegetation and keep it cut and that to something should be done to make drivers more aware of the 30mph speed limit, i.e. red tar.

ACTION PA

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Land At Elmstone Hole Farm, Elmstone Hole Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AJ

Ref MA/07/1053

Agenda of Planning Committee 30th August 2007 adjourned till 6/9/07

Notification of Planning Committee meeting to be held on 6th September 2007

Planning Permission granted 6/9/07

The Dower House, Chilston Park, Lenham ME17 2PH - Ref MA/07/1533

Application for listed building consent for Loft conversion with two additional Dormers and gable with balcony and single storey side extension – application withdrawn re letter 22nd August. Planning Permission granted re letter dated 10th September.

Gardners Cottage, Chilston Park, Lenham – Ref MA/07/1493

Application for listed building consent for the erection of a ground & 1st floor extension, permission granted.

375

Balance in Hand as at 07/11/07

£ 4511.63

Based on the above current balance, the following payments were agreed: -
Village Hall of £1500 towards new curtains for the stage and toilet doors which Robert estimated would cost around £2000, £500 to the Gardening Club and a further £500 to the Church.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RT informed the meeting that Henry Town, an old gentleman who had lived in the village for years, was now in a residential home in Staplehurst.

Date of Next Meetings

22nd Jan 2008

18th Mar 2008

13th May 2008 Annual Parish Council Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting

19th Aug 2008

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Signed..... Dated