



# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs B Adams; T Andrews; N Eastwood; R Turner

**In attendance:** Cllr Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council); Clerk Mrs Vickie Ford

In the absence of the Parish Council Chairman, the Clerk opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

### **M01/07/23 Chairman**

RESOLVED: in the absence of Cllr Galton, Cllr Turner to chair the meeting.

**Anybody filming or recording this meeting kindly requested to declare it:** none

### **M02/07/23 Apologies**

Apologies from Cllr R Galton were received and accepted; Apologies from Cllr S Prendergast (Kent County Council); and Cllr M Round (Maidstone Borough Council) were noted.

### **M03/07/23 Co-option of a Member**

RESOLVED: to co-opt Tracey Andrews as a member of the Parish Council.

Cllr Andrews signed the acceptance of office form and book.

### **M04/07/23 Declarations:**

**Any lobbying:** none declared

**Any interest in items on the agenda:** none declared

**Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests:** none declared

### **M05/07/23 Approval of Minutes**

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the annual meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

**M06/07/23 Public Session:** no public session (five members of public present)

### **M07/07/23 Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and Kent County Council (KCC) Reports**

Cllr Trzebinski reported that he had resigned from the MBC Planning Committee but would be attending the Committee's meetings as and when required. He had received many emails regarding the water supply; and had notified the Leader of MBC that he would be asking a question at the next Council meeting with the aim of the Council sending a letter to South East Water (SEW).

Cllr Turner remarked that the water supply problems had most likely not arisen from a shortage but from a lack of ability to process. Cllr Trzebinski said that MBC was looking at all issues regarding water.

Cllr Round had been working on the traffic diversions during the road closures through Leeds.

Cllr Turner enquired if MBC was pressing for the long-delayed resurfacing of the M20 between junctions 8 and 9. Cllr Trzebinski undertook to pursue.

Cllr Prendergast (KCC) had reported that, for medical reasons, she was trying to avoid driving late in the day and therefore had sent apologies. However, she would be happy to pick up on any issues outside of formal meetings. She was continuing to support Lenham with their efforts on Heathlands and had recently, with Helen Whately MP, met with senior officers at Kent Police HQ to discuss the ever increasing rural crime issues. She noted that there were now named constables in every area and expressed her hope that

the Parish Council would have already made contact and addressed any issues. Cllr Trzebinski commented that he was asking for Police Officers to visit the Villages as part of their beat.

#### **M08/07/23 Planning Outcomes since 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Noted that:

23/501050/FULL Erection of 2no. mixed-agricultural buildings, for housing of livestock and storage of hay and machinery on a seasonal rotation (retrospective) on land at Land at Ash Tree Farm, Woodcock Lane, Boughton Malherbe, ME17 2AZ: **GRANTED**

22/505186/FULL Insertion of a rooflight (retrospective); and

22/505187/LBC Listed Building Consent for the installation of 1 rooflight, insertion of 2 staircases and an internal window (works complete) at Woodsden Barn, Lenham Road, Headcorn, TN27 9LJ: **GRANTED**

#### **M09/07/23 Local Policing/Community**

Police/Crime Report: It was noted two crimes had been reported in the Parish since 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Cllr Turner asked if a meeting with the Police had been arranged and the Clerk reported that she had suggested a time and place but was awaiting a reply.

#### **M10/07/23 Traffic Calming Scheme**

Members had before them two proposed reports based on data from the two traffic surveys carried out before and after the traffic calming scheme was installed.

RESOLVED: Due to the unauthorised disclosure of the reports to an unknown number of residents, to publish both in the Malherbe Monthly.

The Clerk was asked to draft a covering note for publication with the reports to give a brief explanation; and to circulate to Councillors for their consideration.

#### **M11/07/23 Liverton Hill, Ditches, Gullies, Potholes, Water Leaks**

Cllr Adams stated that Crumps Lane was unsuitable for use as a diversionary route.

It was noted that the potholes near to Offen Farm had still not been repaired.

Cllr Adams was asked to inspect the large hole at the end of Eastwood Road.

#### **M12/07/23 59 Bus**

The Clerk reported that, thanks to contributions of up to £825 and £300 from Kingswood and Broomfield and Ulcombe Parish Councils respectively, an agreement had been signed with Nu-Venture which would secure the once-weekly service up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Cllr Eastwood asked if passenger numbers were available; the Clerk advised that these had been circulated on a monthly basis. Cllr Eastwood stated that he did not regard the service as sustainable in its current form without financial support from other Parish Councils along the route. He asked the Clerk to organise a further meeting for all parties concerned, which she agreed to arrange for September.

#### **M13/07/23 Highways Improvement Plan**

The Clerk had been contacted by KCC Highways Community Engagement Officer, who had asked the Parish Council to review and update its Highways Improvement Plan (HIP).

RESOLVED: to delete item 3, which related to maintenance of the originally-proposed traffic calming scheme and was no longer required; to remind KCC that the repainting of road markings was still outstanding (item 1)!

#### **M14/07/23 Footpaths**

It was noted that public right of way KH481 between Headcorn Road and Church Lane had been cleared.

#### **M15/07/23 Councillor Reports on any External Meetings Attended**

Cllr Turner reported that he and the Clerk had attended a Parishes meeting with Helen Whately MP on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June. The MP had undertaken to follow up the resurfacing of the M20 concrete road surface between J8 and J9, which had been promised around 20 years ago, with the Secretary of State for Transport. The question of whether street cleansing was taking place in the Parishes had been raised: the Clerk agreed to check if this was happening in Boughton Malherbe.

#### **FINANCE**

**M16/07/23 Balances at the Bank:** Balances as at 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were noted:

Lloyds current	£3,350.61
Lloyds business instant access	£10,104.96
Lloyds 32-day notice	£40,124.98
Nationwide	£14,465.77
Cambridge and Counties	£23,685.05

**M17/07/23 Receipts since last meeting:** Lloyds Bank interest £67.17; Parish Services Scheme £131.00

**M18/07/23 Bank Reconciliation**

The statement prepared by the Clerk was accepted and signed.

**M19/07/23 Statement of receipts and payments against budget:** noted.

**M20/07/23 Cheques to sign:** Amesis Ltd £109.67; Clerk's salary £1,117.48

**M21/07/23 Request for Grant from KSS Air Ambulance Charity**

RESOLVED: to award a grant of £300

**M22/07/23 Society of Local Council Clerks:**

RESOLVED: to pay the Clerk's professional fee of £112

**M23/07/23 Notice board**

RESOLVED: to retain the existing notice board

**M24/07/23 Grafty Green Village Green**

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had been requested to replace **both** sections of the fence between the King's Head public house and the Village Green, excluding the gate. Some discussion of exactly which additional sections of fence around the Village Green required replacing followed.

RESOLVED: to delegate authority to the Clerk and all Councillors present to make a final decision after inspection of the fence immediately following the end of the meeting.

**M25/07/23 Parish Christmas Party**

RESOLVED: to authorise organisation of a Christmas party on the Village Green in partnership with the Village Hall Committee, budget £500.

**M26/07/23 KCC Emerging Local Transport Plan Public Consultation**

The Clerk suggested that, since the closing date of the consultation was 18<sup>th</sup> September, comments could be agreed at the next full Council meeting.

RESOLVED: to prepare draft comments for consideration at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Cllr Turner closed the meeting at 8.45 pm