



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council on Monday 20th October 2020, 7.30pm held by teleconference

Present: Cllrs R Galton (Chair); R Turner; B Adams; N.Eastwood
Clerk Mr Chris Hume

Cllr Galton opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it.** - none
2. **Apologies** – no apologies for absence received
3. **Declarations:**
 - Any lobbying** – none declared
 - Any interest in items on the Agenda** – none declared
 - Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests** - none declared
4. **Public Session** - Chris Wheal was in attendance but did not speak to the meeting
Mike Hitchins, who was unable to attend, had submitted two questions in advance which were read out and answers were provided as follows:
 1. *Has the Parish Council ever received any **assurance or otherwise** from Kent County Council that the proposed Traffic Calming Scheme for Grafty Green will be effective in slowing down the traffic.*
The answer agreed was No.
However, Councillor Eastwood reminded the Council that KCC had said that. “I also wanted to reiterate that all 3 options being over-runnable will not be very effective in slowing vehicle speeds”. The Clerk pointed out that this statement was intended to indicate that our scheme does not provide any physical structures which raise the road level which, in turn, guarantee that traffic slows down to navigate them.
 2. *Does the Parish Council believe that this scheme is **value for money** in the light that the Parish Council does not know the exact cost of the scheme or of the ongoing maintenance and does it think it is **prudent** to approve a scheme where the true costs are unknown.*
Answer - It is not possible to measure Value for Money, for example using Cost Benefit Analysis, when the benefits are not quantifiable. There is no numerical evidence available of the benefits of such schemes according to KCC.
5. **Traffic Calming** – it was agreed that:
 - (i) The Independent Internal Auditor will be commissioned to review the decision to commence the traffic calming scheme based on the KCC estimate and advise whether the decision is financially prudent and consistent with sound risk management
 - (ii) It was agreed that the Council will create a “Repairs Fund” to finance future maintenance of the traffic calming features and this will be funded by an annual budget contribution and potentially a contribution from the Quinn donation. The Independent Internal Auditor will be asked to advise how the Repairs Fund should best be financed.
 - (iii) A draft response to the Malherbe Monthly editorial, previously circulated, was agreed subject to the following amendments and clarifications:
 - Remove the second paragraph
 - Add reference to granite sets in the answer to point 3.

- Remove the reference to the Doddington scheme in the answer to point 4
- Seek clarification from KCC regarding (a) the final payment and whether this is, in effect, a fixed price (b) whether any costs have been incurred above the payment of £3,815 already made up to the point of the final payment

6. Further information – none

The meeting closed at 8.46pm

DRAFT