

BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th August 2010 at 7.30pm
in Grafty Green Village Hall**

PRESENT- Councillors: Mr R Turner (Chairman)
Mrs S Close
Mr R Galton
Mr M Hitchins
Mr S Wickens
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

Cllr Jenny Whittle

Stephen Eighteen (Downs Mail)

3 Members of the Public

1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jenny Gibson, Cllr Richard Thick, PC Paul Kemsley and PCSO Siobhan de Burca.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REGISTER OF INTEREST CHANGES

There were no declarations of Interest and no Register of Interest changes.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18th May 2010 having previously been distributed were unanimously **Agreed** after the date had been amended and initialled; the official copy was signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. LOCAL POLICING

4.1 Police Report

Police were not represented; crime figures had not been received but would be inserted after the meeting. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to the Police expressing our disappointment that there was no representative at this Meeting. PCSO Siobhan de Burca subsequently reported that there had been 1 crime since the last meeting being an incident of theft.

4.2 Speedwatch

This is going very well; a lot of motorists are driving above the 30 mph speed limit, some at 47 mph. Chris Wheal (Co-ordinator) was asked to report and informed those present that the cost of hiring the equipment at £30 per session could mount up, he said that to purchase our own equipment could cost around £1600. PA also reported that she had contacted Warren Jarvis to ask him if the results continued would we be a suitable candidate for an interactive sign, he replied saying that although it was early days it could be likely. It was **Agreed** that because extra funding was to be obtained from Councillor Whittle's Highway fund, for the time being we would continue hiring the equipment.

ACTION PA

The clerk reported that PC Kemsley had emailed, he had also carried out a couple of speed checks, only a couple of drivers were driving at speeds above the limit, this of course was from 9.30 onwards, unfortunately the lack of resources did not allow them to come out earlier

5. DEVOLUTION OF POWERS

This was not discussed; the Clerk said she would circulate the information.

HIGHWAY & FOOTWAY MATTERS

5.1 Potholes

Potholes had now all be satisfactorily repaired with the exception of those in Elmstone Hole Lane which is to be reported to Kent Highways by the clerk.

ACTION PA

5.2 Liverton Hill – Improvement to Warning Signs

The clerk reported that she had met with Michael Heath, Jenny Whittle and Robert Stuttle after their meeting about the 30mph Liverton Hill Campaign, which the Parish Council were happy to support as stated in the email of 22nd June, Michael Heath agreed that he would now look into ordering larger yellow backed warning signs plus refreshing the warning signs on the road and the 30mph roundels.
ACTION PA

5.3 Gully & Carriageway – below Stream Farm

As with item 5.5 below PA reported that she had met with Jamie Cunningham, who had been seconded from Sevenoaks to Kent Highways, he confirmed that he would be closing the hill, during which he would insert a perforated pipe (French drain) in the carriageway tapping in to the existing gully, which would hopefully resolve the problems. **ACTION PA**

5.4 Water Leak – Liverton Hill

Hopefully this will be dealt with at the same time as item 5.3 & 5.5 **ACTION PA**

5.5 Blocked Gully, Pothole/Subsidence opposite Ivy House Farm

As with item 5.3 & 4 above reported that she had met with Jamie Cunningham and Mike Davidson. Jamie was aware that the gully had been recently cleaned out, and that during the hill closure he would carry out investigative work in order to find out what was causing the blockage. **ACTION PA**

5.6 Footpath KH427

A 5 bar kissing gate had been ordered and delivery was awaited. In the meantime the oil tank which had been placed in front of the access had been stolen. **ACTION PA**

6. RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

6.1 No. 59 Bus

John Collins had informed the clerk that at the last meeting held on 19th July it was reported that the service was running well, within bench mark subsidy, no changes proposed. KCC taking control of concessionary passes from April next year. Next meeting is due to be held on 15th November. **ACTION PA**

6.2 Emergency Plan

A document had been received to help our community produce a plan in the event of a major emergency together with a template; this had been circulated to the Councillors prior to the Meeting. Members **Agreed** that a separate Committee should be set up and a meeting arranged, MH was happy to take this on with Robert and Ron.

7. PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public referred back to the speeds motorists travel at on Liverton Hill and suggested that perhaps the sign with the black line through it indicating that the 30mph has ended, should be removed as it almost gives the green light to travel at 60mph. He quoted Michael Heath's comments that the hill could never have a speed limit of 30 mph because the maximum speed anyone could drive at on the hill is 15-20mph.

Stephen Eighteen mentioned that in Somerset there is a 20mph advisory speed limit board.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Petsfield

PA confessed that although she had received a draft letter from Robert to write to MBC, she just hadn't got around to completing it – she promised she would do it as soon as time allowed. **ACTION PA**

8.2 Land at Elmstone Farm, Elmstone Hole Road ME17 2AJ- MA/10/0307

Discharge of conditions 15 being ground source heat pump system and 16 being scheme for the disposal of foul and surface waters of MA/07/1053 (erection of one Dwelling) – **Approved**

8.3 Walleth Court, Southernden Road, TN27 9LN - MA/10/0523

Application for listed building consent for repairs to external and internal walls – **Approved**

8.4 The Bell House, Boughton Malherbe ME17 2BD – MA10/0882

Erection of one and a half storey side/rear extension conservatory and replacement front porch. Councillors had agreed to this, subject to the old oak tree situated on the outside of the garden being preserved – **Withdrawn**

8.5 South Barn, Boughton Farm, Sandway ME17 2BD – MA10/1076

Planning Application for alterations to fenestration. Council recommendation: Approve

8.6 South Barn, Boughton Farm, Sandway ME17 2BD – MA10/1077

Listed Building consent for alterations to fenestration. Council recommendation: Approve

9. CORRESPONDENCE – The following correspondence was Noted:

Parish News June & August
KCC – Change of Community Engagement Manager
KCC – Changes to Definitive Map Mount Pleasant/Bull Hill
KALC – Minutes of Meeting 6th April
KCC – Community Safety Unit
KCC – Minerals and Waste Development Framework-Call for Sites
MBC – Minutes of Meeting Maidstone Rural North & East Neighbourhood Forum 24th June 2010
KALC – Notification Finance Conference 25th September 2010-09-08
MBC – New Saturday Freighter Service & Schedule
MBC – Rural North & East Neighbourhood Forum 28th October 2010
KALC – Minutes of Meeting 29th June 2010
South East Water Resources Update
30mph Campaign Liverton Hill – Various Emails and Support email
Jenny Whittle – Action re roads that need deep cleansing
NALC – Community Right to Build
KALC – Email re Issuing of Cheques-alternative

10. MATTERS OF REPORT – To receive reports from

10.1 County & Borough Councillors

Councillor Whittle reported that progress on pothole filling had been good especially with the new method of repair. The Chairman commented that there were some horrendous potholes in Elmstone Hole Lane. The clerk would report this to KCC. **ACTION PA**

Jenny advised that she would like to extend the Kent Down AONB statues to include land in Thurnham and Hollingbourne. KCC had to identify £340m of savings from a £1.3bn budget over a 4 year period. MBC were currently identifying site(s) to accommodate gypsy and traveller (G&T) demand and would strengthen the position of the Borough Council against the growth of illegal G & T developments.

10.2 Chairman

11. FINANCE

11.1 Income received since last Meeting

The clerk advised that £72.85 had been received from HM Customs & Excise for the VAT repayment plus £2225.50 for Concurrent Functions from MBC.

11.2 Authorisation of payments made since the last Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Close and seconded by Cllr Wickens “that the Council approve the following payments made since the last Meeting”. This was **Agreed**.

300336 Munitech - Litter Pickers	£51.47
300337 Sainsburys - Wine & Nibbles APC Meeting	£24.92
300338 AON - Insurance	£360.85
300339 John Collins – Internal Audit	£50.00
300340 Audit Commission – Annual Audit	£141.00
300341 R. Smith – Village Green Maintenance	£110.00

11.3 Cheques presented for signature

There were not cheques presented for signature.

11.4 Balance at Bank

The Accounts Book was circulated to the Members and it was **Noted** that the balance was £2776.25

11.5 Concurrent Functions Grant

PA reported that the recently announced cuts were likely to have an impact on the Concurrent Functions Grant which is now at risk of being reduced or removed completely. It looks likely that MBC will consult, much more would need to be paid through the Precept which would in turn increase the Council Tax.

11.6 Annual Return of Accounts and Audit

Members **Noted** that the Audit Commission had completed the Audit of the Annual Return making the following comments: ‘The Council’s balances are low. The council must take action to ensure it maintains an adequate level of balances for working capital purposes’. ‘Please do not use correction fluid. Amendments should be struck out and rewritten alongside, initialled by the Clerk and the Chairman’. The statutory notice saying the Audit has been completed is currently displayed on the Parish Notice Boards. PA reported that it was necessary for items older than 10 years to still appear

on the Fixed Assets Register because of keeping a record of what actually belonged to the Parish Council.

11.7 Election Cost Recharge

MBC Parish Council Election proposed recharges from 2011 and letters from Linton PC & Harrietsham PC were noted. The clerk had sent an email objecting to these charges, as with other., Parishes no reply had been forthcoming from the Head of Democratic Services. There has been a distinct lack of consultation as well as no details of the costs. Parishes could be expected to pay 50% of costs, 100% for nomination and ballot papers and where costs are not equally shared they would be apportioned on the basis of the number of people eligible to vote.

12. STANDING ORDERS

The standing orders had been circulated prior to the meeting, but not enough time had been allowed for the Councillors to peruse them, it was **Agreed** that they would be looked at between now and the next meeting when they would be discussed and possibly Adopted.

13. BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY – Report on Progress

Ron Galton declared his interest before he started his report. He reported that thanks to a donation from the Malherbe Monthly of £3000 there were now sufficient funds to publish the book in black and white, but, in order to produce the book including the many photos, in colour in time for the October deadline, an additional £2500 would be required. The intention is to launch the book in the Village Hall in December so that free copies can be handed out to householders' further sales of the book would be generated in time for Xmas. Councillor Hitchins proposed that a grant of £2500 should be given to the History Society, this was seconded by Councillor Close, it was **Agreed** that once all financial obligations were settled, any surplus funds generated would be repaid to the Parish Council for the benefit of the Parish.

14. ANY OTHER INFORMATION/ITEMS ARISING

The clerk informed the Members that Allianz Insurance had now been transferred to AON (still part of Allianz) who deal specifically with Local Councils.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

23rd November 2010
18th January 2011
22nd March 2011

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed. Dated