



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs B Adams; N Eastwood; R Turner
Clerk Mrs Vickie Ford

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

M01/03/23 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

M02/03/23 Apologies

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

M03/03/23 Declarations:

Any lobbying – none declared

Any interest in items on the Agenda – Cllr Turner declared an interest in agenda item 16. (M11/03/23 refers) due to being the Treasurer of Grafty Green Village Hall Committee. Cllr Turner had requested a dispensation, which the Clerk had approved in order to allow the business to be transacted.

Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests - none declared

M04/03/23 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

Cllr Eastwood asked the Clerk to note that he objected to the second recorded resolution under minute reference M24/01/23.

M05/03/23 Public Session: no public session (five members of public present)

M06/03/23 Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Report

Cllr Trzebinski had reported that Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) had approved its budget. Cllr Round had drawn the Parish Council's attention to agenda item 18. (M25/03/23)

M07/03/23 Planning Outcomes since 23rd January 2023

Noted that:

22/504534/FULL Erection of a single storey front porch extension at Pope's Hall Dairy, Sandway, Maidstone, ME17 2BH: **APPROVED**

22/505604/LBC Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations including replacement of 2no. triple casement windows with French doors, removal of oil fired boiler, modern studwork partition and door and installation of air source heat pump at Offens Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AP: **APPROVED**

22/505664/LBC Listed Building Consent for internal alterations for the installation of through floor lift with associated works at Cherry Tree Cottage, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AN: **REFUSED**

M08/03/23 Local Policing/Community

Police/Crime Report: It was noted no crimes had been reported in the Parish since 23rd January 2023.

M09/03/23 King's Head Public House Licence Review

Cllr Adams described the published Police report as very sketchy. He did not recall there being any trouble at the pub.

RESOLVED: to submit a comment to MBC as follows:

"So far as the Parish Council could see, the establishment was meeting the licensing objectives: keeping people safe, not a source of crime, not a place in which people feel unsafe, has a good relationship with neighbouring properties."

M10/03/23 Speedwatch:

RESOLVED: to defer discussion of an article on traffic calming for publication in the Malherbe Monthly until Cllr Galton was present.

M11/03/23 Coronation Event

Mr Jon Thompson, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, summarised plans for a Coronation event in the Parish. The Village Hall Committee had agreed with representatives of the Parish Church to host a cream tea at the Church. There would be a Coronation service from 11 am to 12 pm, followed by Sunday lunch starting at 12:30 – 1 pm. There would also be a children's entertainer and a treasure hunt. All the community would be invited. If the weather was inclement, the event would be moved into the Church building. The event would be managed through the Village Hall Committee. The costs (approximately £900) had been set out before Parish Council members. The Committee would be talking to Platts Heath School; also would be looking at a memento for Village children, possibly a craft activity. There would be no lighting of beacons.

RESOLVED: to authorise a grant of £1,000 to fund the event

RESOLVED: to allow wool-balming of the Village Green fence (crowns), subject to approval by the King's Head.

M12/03/23 Potholes and Road Closures

The Clerk reported that she would be attending a meeting with Kent County Council (KCC) Highways Department, which had been organised by Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council, on Friday 10th March to discuss potholes, road closures and related issues.

M13/03/23 59 Bus

The Clerk reported that a bid for a Community Transport grant had been submitted to KCC and she was cautiously optimistic.

M14/03/23 Highways Improvement Plan

There were no changes to be made.

M15/03/23 Footpaths

Cllr Turner reported that he and the Clerk had walked KH427 with a Parishioner to locate the positions of the stiles for replacement. It was established that one of the three stiles earmarked for replacement did not lie along the line of the definitive map, which resulted in complications.

RESOLVED: to ask KCC Public Rights of Way to carry out a site visit.

FINANCE

M16/03/23 Balances at the Bank: Balances as at 28th February 2023 were noted:

NatWest current	Nil
NatWest business saver	Nil
Lloyds current	£5,713.15
Lloyds business instant access	£40,034.20
Nationwide	£14,230.15
Cambridge and Counties	£23,685.05

The Clerk reported that she had applied for a Lloyds Bank 32-day notice account but there was a delay due to high demand, for which Lloyds had apologised. Interest would be back-dated to the time of the application.

M17/03/23 Receipts since last meeting: £20.39 Lloyds Bank interest

M18/03/23 Bank Reconciliation

The statement prepared by the Clerk was accepted. The Clerk reported that she had resent the claim for refund of VAT paid in 2021/22 and was awaiting payment from HMRC.

M19/03/23 Cheques to sign: Clerk's expenses £69.35; Amesis Ltd £42

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) had requested a membership fee of £60 for 2023/24 but had given the option to pay the previous fee of £36.

RESOLVED: to pay £36 for 2023/24 and to consider payment of £60 in 2024/25.

M20/03/23 Authorisation of payments since the last meeting: : Amesis Ltd £42; Mrs R Smith £129.50

M21/03/23 Lengthsman

Members had before them a draft revised contract prepared by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: not to have a contract; the lengthsman to invoice on a monthly basis, as previously agreed.

M22/03/23 Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

RESOLVED: to hold both meetings on 15th May 2023.

M23/03/23 Casual Vacancy

As an election had not been called, the casual vacancy could be filled by co-option.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to advertise the vacancy in the Malherbe Monthly, asking anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to write to her in the first instance.

M24/03/23 Grafty Green Village Green Fence

RESOLVED: to proceed with repairs in accordance with the quotation from R James

M25/03/23 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document Consultation

RESOLVED: the Clerk to submit a response suggesting that MBC should purchase land for sites

Cllr Turner closed the meeting at 8.50 pm