

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 22nd JANUARY 2008

A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON Tuesday 22nd January 2008 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)

Mrs J Davidson
Mrs J Drury
Mr J Boakes

PC Paul Kemsley
PCSO Tom Smith

APOLOGIES: Cllr J Gibson
Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on items on the Agenda

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting of 7th January 2008 were circulated, approved and signed as a true and correct record.

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

The Meeting was addressed by one the Parishioners about the problems in Grafty Green caused by the volume of HGV traffic thundering through the village and apart from the obvious, properties shake when they speed past, they are also damaging the grass verges. He would like us to submit an application to the appropriate authority for the introduction of a permanent restriction on HGV's either by width or weight except for access. He had counted one HGV company who had used the road 14 times in an hour, but pointed out that the increase could be due to the Leeds road closures.

ACTION PA

LOCAL POLICING

PC Paul Kemsley introduced himself to the Parish Council and advised everyone to be very careful with any item which isn't 'nailed down' because of the recent spate of crimes in the village, such as a house sign being damaged, gates were removed and found somewhere else. He reported that he is in the process of setting up a speed check but had no definite date for when this would be carried out. With regard to the HGV problem he asked if he could be given the names of the companies who are using Headcorn Road the most, once he had this information he would have a word with the companies involved.

379

Tom Smith had been unable to obtain the crime figures for Boughton Malherbe but would email the clerk as soon as he had them. This had since been done and the Crime figures were as follows: -

December 1 Theft of motor vehicle 24/12/07
January 2 Criminal damage to property/vehicles 2nd & 3rd Jan 2008
1 Attempted burglary 24/01/08

PC Kemsley reminded everyone that if there are any crimes committed would the public please ensure that they are reported – always.

MATTERS ARISING from Minutes of 7th November 2007

40-30 Mile Speed Limit Changes

The clerk reported that she had written to the Director of Kent Highways pointing out that the change of speed limit had made very little or no difference at all to the speed at which vehicles drive through the village, and although the 85th percentile speed showed 10.7 miles over the speed limit it would mean that the majority actually drive through Grafty Green in excess of 60mph, especially as Grafty Green is being used as a 'Rat Run' first thing in the morning and then in the evening. She had asked whether the Director could suggest anything or any measure that could be put into place to encourage drivers to slow down. A reply had been received saying that traffic calming measures would be unlikely because there had been no crashes involving personal injury in the last 3 years and perhaps an alternative would be the installation of an interactive sign, but by the sound of the letter it would take some years before this might, if ever, happen, the best suggestion would be to bring the matter of speeding to the attention of the Police so that they could take any enforcement action.

ACTION PA

30-Mile Speed Limit Signs

PA had contacted Louise Rowlands at Kent Highways about installing the missing 30mph sign, leaving the signs where they were and having the vegetation cut, she suggested that a meeting should be set up in the New Year. On 3rd January Louise Rowlands met with Kenneth Alexander, Robert Turner and the clerk to discuss the sign location at the northern end of the village. It was agreed that when the missing 30mph sign is installed it would (along with the existing sign) be moved to approximately 14meters north of the property Kimburn one each side of the road. Louise Rowlands was asked about the provision of red road surfacing with 30mph roundels and she had since provided an estimate of approximately £2000. This proposal would also include 'slow' markings on the road along Liverton Hill, where there are existing Slow signs. PA was asked to find out if the £2k estimate was for red tar at both ends of the village.

ACTION PA

HGV's Weight Restrictions

Now that the speed limit change within the village had been resolved, it was suggested that following the public representation above PA was to write to the appropriate

380

authority and find out what could be done about a permanent restriction on HGV's driving through the village. **ACTION PA**

No. 59 Bus

Nothing much to report. As a replacement to the Post Bus Nu-Venture are running a bus on a Thursday only. Lenham PC and KCC are still working on a scheme for a Community Bus. **ACTION PA**

Potholes Woodcock Lane & Church Road

Potholes are now appearing everywhere, as well as above there are potholes along Liverton Hill and up by what was the Pig and Whistle. PA is to continue hounding Kent Highways to try to get them filled in. **ACTION PA**

Proposed Closure of Platts Heath School

KA reported that discussions are still on going and a meeting is to be held on 23rd January. **ACTION KA**

Travellers Sites/Petsfield

The clerk reported that MBC were still waiting for information from the agent and once this had been received they would then re-consult. PA was asked to find out why it takes more than 6 months to make a decision; if it were on a 3 bedroomed house it would have been dealt with long ago.

ACTION PA/ RTHICK

Willow Tree Cottage-Fire Hydrant

This is on the list for repair when the hill is shut. The road closure had been applied for and granted but no definitive date had been decided on yet.

ACTION PA

Liverton Hill Farm

Double kerbing to be re-instated when the hill is shut.

ACTION PA

Public Footpath-Church Road

PA had tried to contact Ian Hayes without success, she would keep trying. **ACTION PA**

Pothole – Ivy House Farm

This repair would be carried out along with the other items, when the hill is shut.

ACTION PA

Various Requests from Rosemary Smith for the Village Green

Rosemary is to let us know the cost of the seat repair. Nothing will be done about the sinking ground and sourcing the soil until the Spring **ACTION MH & RT**

Revised Code of Conduct

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Downs Mail who had sent her a copy of the advertisement, which she showed to the Councillors.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Stream Farm, Liverton Hill, Grafty Green ME17 2AL – Ref MA/07/2226 & 2220

Application for Listed Building Consent and Full Planning Permission for erection of first and ground floor extensions additional details.

The PC advised that they have no objections.

Mike Hitchins declared an interest because of his friendship with Gary Town

Planning Permission & Listed Building Consent were granted on 7th December 2007

PA was asked by Mike Hitchins to write to Maidstone Borough Council to point out that there appear to be planning applications going to Lenham Parish Council when they should be send to Boughton Malherbe, one recent example was an application to prune trees at Elmstone Hole Farm, which we have never received.

ACTION PA

CORRESPONDENCE

MBC-Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/12/07-31/03/08
MBC-Joint Transportation Board Remaining Meetings
Lord Lieutenant – Invite to Civic Service at Canterbury Cathedral
MBC-Report of Assistant Director of Customer Services
MBC-Record of Decision on Refuse & Recycling Collections
MBC– Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/1/08-30/4/08
MBC-Parish Independent Remuneration Panel
KAPC-Minutes of meeting 17th Sept 2007
Robert Gough – Post Office Closures
Kent-Maidstone Local Board-Notes of Special Local Board 30/11/07
Capital Works Programme
Freighter Locations and times
MBC-Amended Notice 3rd Annual Urban Conference 1/3/08
KALC-email re planning information day 15/03/08
Kent Agreement 2 – Bulletin 8
MBC-Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/2/08-31/05/08

FINANCE

Balance in Hand on 7th November'07 **£ 4511.63**

The following cheques had been issued: - £

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|------------------|
| 300290 | G.Green Village Hall | 1500.00 |
| 291 | “ Gardening Club | 500.00 |
| 292 | St. Nicholas Church | 500.00 |
| 293 | Audit Commission | 141.00 |
| | | <u>(2641.00)</u> |

Balance in Hand as at 22/01/08 **£ 1870.63**

It was agreed that the Precept requirement for the forthcoming year 2008/2009 would remain the same at £1200.

382

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Drains Woodcock Lane

Sylvia Close reported that the drains/gullies were very likely blocked on the corner of Woodcock Lane. This had been discovered during the heavy rains we had had the previous Tuesday when the water had not gone via the drains but instead under the 3 bungalows including her own. Some years ago the installation of kerbing had been promised but had never been done.

ACTION PA

Parish Council Elections

It was queried whether there were elections due for Parish Councillors this year, it was agreed that there were. Mike Hitchins suggested that he should put something in the magazine so that local people could think about becoming a Parish Councillor. More information would be made available shortly.

Date of Next Meetings

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