

BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th May 2011 at 7.30pm
in Grafty Green Village Hall

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

Cllr Jenny Gibson
Cllr Jenny Whittle (arrived at 8pm, after attending another meeting)

PCSO Siobhan de Burca

8 Members of the Public

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Robert Turner welcomed all those present to both Meetings, said how pleased he was to see that Parishioners had attended. He then adjourned the meeting for refreshments.

2. REFRESHMENTS

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3.1 Chairman

Cllr Turner was nominated by Cllr Galton and seconded by Cllr Wickens. There being no other nominations and all Members being in agreement, Cllr Turner was duly elected Chairman for the forthcoming year and complete the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form

3.2 Vice-Chairman

Cllr Galton was nominated by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Hitchins. There being no other nominations and all Members being in agreement, Cllr Galton was duly elected as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

4. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Close and Cllr Richard Thick (via Ron Galton).

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REGISTER OF INTEREST CHANGES

There was one declaration of Interest from Robert Turner re the Village Hall and one from Ron Galton regarding the Boughton Malherbe History Society, no Register of Interest changes.

6. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd March 2011 having previously been distributed were unanimously **Agreed**, the official copy was signed as a true record by the Chairman.

7. LOCAL POLICING

7.1 Police Report

The Council were pleased to see that Police were represented at the meeting by PCSO Siobhan de Burca. She reported that her crimes list was for the year and that she would let the Clerk have the crimes since the last meeting but was pleased to say that although there were quite a few crimes in Headcorn, Grafty Green was fairly quiet. Police had met with local Farmers which had been a great success and thought it would be a good idea to have combined meetings with Ulcombe and East Sutton Parish Councils. She also said that she would like to attend any Clubs that are held in the Village Hall as it would be good to talk to people and it would help to give them confidence to contact the Police with any information that might be useful. It was suggested that she should attend the next Coffee morning and the Gardening Club meeting. The Clerk said she would let her know when these were likely to be held.

ACTION PA

Crime Figures:

March	1	Section 4 Words/Behaviour – Fear unlawful violence – Sandway
April	1	Theft Miscellaneous including Theft by find – Sandway
May	0	to date

The next Police Surgery is due to be held in Grafty Green Village Shop on 13th June.

7.2 Speedwatch

Chris Wheal reported that speed Checks were once again up and running and that Keith Anderson was an enormous help in sharing the Co-ordinator's job by organising the volunteers and arranging days when checks would be carried out. Two more volunteers had been trained up yesterday which helps a lot. Roughly 50% of vehicles travelling through the village were over the 30mph speed limit, 25% of those are over 40mph, which throws more weight to the argument that an interactive sign is becoming increasingly necessary, this was confirmed by the clerk who reported that she had spoken to Warren Jarvis recently who had mentioned that the results of speed checks justified the need more and more for an interactive sign and he would be very willing to back any scheme that might be put forward. He did point out that foliage around the 30mpg signs needs to be constantly trimmed; if they are covered motorists can challenge the speeding evidence. Traffic volumes are definitely increasing.

RT asked Chris whether action is taken on vehicles driving above the speed limit, he was advised that when a driver is above the limit twice, then a warning letter is sent, if a 3rd time they receive a target letter, but if the driver is driving at 45 miles and above a target letter is sent straight away.

Jenny Gibson mentioned that there is a mobile Speed Indicator Device unit that can be loaned

8. HIGHWAY & FOOTWAY MATTERS

8.1 Potholes

Most potholes had now been repaired; outstanding potholes such as Woodsden Hall, Wrens Nest and Liverton Hill Farm had all been inspected and would be repaired. It was reported that the road was slipping away at Woodsden Hall. Chris Wheal has been paying a lot of attention to this along with other items as per discussions later in the meeting.

ACTION PA

8.2 Liverton Hill – Improvement to Warning Signs

The promised time for installation had now just passed; PA said she would chase Michael Heath again.

ACTION PA

8.3 Bus Stop in front of the Homestead

John Collins has advised that this would be discussed at the next No 59 Bus meeting which is due to be held in July

ACTION PA

8.4 Gully & Carriageway-below Stream Farm

The clerk reported that she had met with the new drainage engineer Jamie Finch, Mike Davidson with his wealth of knowledge had very kindly joined them. On the day they met there had been no rain for several weeks which meant that there was very little water anywhere on the hill, although there were small amounts and Jamie was able to see where the problems were likely to occur. It was agreed that the hill would be monitored throughout the summer especially when it rained, obviously the problem with leaks etc would never go away but Jamie was happy to try and do his best to do something about the problems. This would mean closing the hill and it would be best to close the hill and carry out all remedial work including leaks the problems with the gully and carriageway in one go rather than having more than one closure.

ACTION PA

8.5 Water Leak – Liverton Hill

See above

ACTION PA

8.6 Surface Water in front of Maple

Now resolved.

8.7 Carriageway Roundels

PA was under the impression that because of cuts there was no funding for the 30mph roundels to be repainted. Councillor Whittle said that the cost had been included with the cost of Liverton Hill signage replacement which was all being funded from her Member's Highway Fund

8.8 Blocked Pipe Ash Tree Farm

Councillor Wickens reported that this had still not been resolved.

ACTION PA

8.9 Liverton Hill HGV's

The findings are to be published in September.

ACTION PA

8.10 Footpath sign opposite Liberton House

The Footpath Officer had been contacted and advised that the sign for footpath KH427 was missing

ACTION PA

8.11 Parking at Village Hall

After checking the records, it was confirmed that the land in front of the hall is indeed owned by the Village Hall, it was agreed that MH should contact the owner of the vehicle which is continually parked in front of the hall to advise him that he should no longer park there. He is also going to erect a sign that parking is for village hall use only. RG gave MH a sign he had that said NO PARKING which he thought might be useful. **ACTION MH**

8.12 Bowley Lane Signs

The repair and replacement of the signs is now in hand. **ACTION PA**

9 RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

9.1 No. 59 Bus

The next meeting is due to be held in July, nothing new to report; the new timetable has been implemented. Councillor Wickens reported that one afternoon a single decker bus had been put on instead of a double and his daughters were unable to get on, they finally arrived home at 6.45, and although a promise was made that it wouldn't happen again, within 3 days it did. **ACTION PA**

9.2 Emergency Plan

A meeting is still to be arranged. **ACTION MH**

9.3 Grafty Green Village Hall Sign

MH reported that he was looking into a sign for the front of the Village Hall **ACTION MH**

10 PUBLIC SESSION

Rob Eastwood said that the Police Surgery shouldn't be held in the shop between 1 & 2pm during the shop closure, he suggested it would be better idea to have it between 9 & 10am when more people were in the shop.

It was reported that the Portaloo had been pushed over on two occasions recently, the padlock was missing, since then it had been tipped over again but after some local residents had carried out a watch on the Loo and came face to face with one of the culprits it has not been vandalised again. An article had been put in the Kent Messenger as well as the Malherbe Monthly.

A suggestion was made that when Police take young people to Lenham Youth Centre they could pick up those who might want to go in Grafty Green.

EDF have been notifying relevant residents that they are trimming trees, mainly on Liverton Hill to keep them away from cables. Councillor Whittle commented that they need a permit from KCC.

Chris Wheal explained that he has walked from here to Headcorn with his camera as there are some significant safety issues where the road is slipping, all very dangerous and serious. The point was made that a lot of money had been spent on re-surfacing Lenham Road and within a few weeks the road began to break up again. This along with concerns about potholes being repaired to a standard which just isn't good enough, in no time at all they appear again, and other issues were to be discussed at a meeting with Jenny Whittle and the Director of Kent Highways – John Burr.

It was reported that between the last bungalow in Church Road and the back of the Ash Tree Farm entrance the road is dipping as it also is in Eastwood Road.

11 PLANNING

11.1 Planning Applications Received

The following applications were considered and recommendations made:

11.1.1 Land at Ivy Farm, Headcorn Road, Liverton Hill-MA/10/2029 Update Ron Galton

We had contacted the Footpaths Officer regarding the removal of a stile on the edge of the farmland, he informed us that to re-instate the stile would necessitate the removal of a Willow Tree, the Parish Council had emailed on 5th May confirming that there were no objections to this being carried out.

This application is will be going to Committee which could be on June 9th, if not the next one would be 3 weeks after that. Planning Committee members would be emailed with a summary of the relevant points of objection by the Parish Council. Jenny Gibson suggest that the clerk should ring Janet Barnes to make sure she is aware that we would like to speak at the Committee hearing.

ACTION RG

11.1.2 Thornden Farmhouse, Lenham Road, Headcorn TN27 9LH-MA/11/0219

Application for loft conversion with insertion of rear dormer window & erection of a detached garage.
Recommendation: No objection

11.2 Planning Decisions Received

The following Decisions received from MBC were **Noted**:

11.2.1 The Bell House, Sandway, Boughton Malherbe ME17 2BD – MA/11/0261

Erection of one and a half storey side/rear extension and replacement front porch (re-submission of MA/10/0882). MBC: Granted

11.2.2 Broadstone Cottage, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AT – MA/11/0315

Application to demolish barn and build new one bedroom single storey house on footprint. Dig up old concrete yard & landscape to create parking & garden. MBC: Refused

12. CORRESPONDENCE – The following correspondence was Noted:

MBC – Minutes of Maidstone Rural North & East Neighbourhood Forum 20/1/11

KALC – Parish News

MBC – Civic Parade & Service 22/5/11

Heritage Landscape – Advice Note on Proposals for Work to Protected Trees

KCC – Kent Habitat Survey

Various correspondence on Concurrent Functions

KCC – Definitive Map Mod. Charing Heath

KCC – Grass Cutting

Speedwatch report and data

Hugh Robertson – Copy letter re The Meadows

Eric Pickles – Reply to above

13. MATTERS OF REPORT – To receive reports from**13.1 County & Borough Councillors****Jenny Whittle**

In all I represent 15 Parishes and where possible I have tried to attend most of the Parish Council meetings, where this was not possible I sent in a written report. I regularly undertake onsite visits with Parish Councillors and residents usually with KCC officers in attendance to try and resolve issues relating highways (including potholes, drainage, fly tipping, gritting and salt bins) as well as other community issues. The improvement of signage on Liverton Hill has been a major issue within the Parish, but I am pleased to say that the new signs have been ordered and should be installed within a month. Another issue which is still ongoing is being a speed limit put on the road between the top of Liverton Hill and Grafty Green.

I undertake regular tours of roads in my constituencies along with Richard Emmett KCC community Delivery Leader for Highways so I can inspect firsthand the maintenance being carried to our roads Pot holes signage etc to ensure repairs are carried out as speedily as possible.

I decided to stand for election in 2009 against the Kent International Gateway, happily enough the scheme has been rejected, one of my top priorities is to extend the Kent Downs area of outstanding natural beauty north of Bearsted. I am working with KCC and MBC members plus Hugh Robertson MP to

Submit an application to extend the AONB boundary which will be ongoing for some time.

I have also contributed £500 from my member highway fund to support Boughton Malherbe and Lenham Parishes to help with their Speedwatch schemes as speeding is a problem in both Parishes. I will do all I can to help with progressing the installation of an interactive sign as results from the Speedwatch show that there is a real necessity for something like this to be installed to encourage motorists to slow down through Grafty Green.

Jenny reported that she had been appointed to Cabinet in January to help transform Children's Services after a poor Ofsted report. Ian Shaw volunteered to help Jenny should she require it on issues of Foster Care because of his many years of experience in Fostering.

I undertook a Head Teacher Performance Management training course which was hugely beneficial as I sit on performance management panels for the head teachers at Harrietsham and Swadlands school.

In March this year I enrolled on a media training course and have since been involved in a series of TV, radio and press interviews relating to my Cabinet portfolio.

Jenny Gibson

Jenny reported that there was a lot of uncertainty with all the cuts with regard to jobs, front line services have been protected big projects e.g. High Street and Museum come out of Capital and not Revenue. When the recession ends Maidstone Borough Council will be in a good strong position.

She advised that the Citizens Advice Bureau are in the Headcorn Library on the third Friday of every month between 10am and 12pm to help and advise local residents, she suggested it would be good to publicise this in our magazine.

Richard Thick was not present

13.2 Chairman

See Annual Parish Minutes.

14 FINANCE

14.1 Approval of Annual Return of Accounts

The Cash Book together with the completed Annual Return of Accounts was passed to each Councillor for perusal. It was unanimously **Agreed** that they should be **Approved**.

14.2 To note Income received since last Meeting

The Clerk advised that £1900 had been received from MBC for the Precept.

14.3 To authorise any payments made since the last Meeting

There had been no payments made since the last Meeting

14.4 To resolve that any cheques presented can be signed

It was proposed by Cllr Hitchins and seconded by Cllr Wickens "that the Council approve the following payments". This was **Agreed** and the following cheques were signed:-

		£
300352	KALC Annual Subscription	203.27
300353	AON- Insurance	391.85
300354	PA re Morrisons-Wine& Nibbles	44.00

14.5 To note balance at Bank

The Accounts Book was circulated to the Members and it was **Noted** that the balance was £2115.76

14.6 PAYE Scheme

The Clerk reported that she had been informed by the Inland Revenue that it was necessary for Boughton Malherbe PC to run a PAYE Scheme even though she was the only employee being paid once a year. She was advised to contact them next February when they would help her to set this up.

15 BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY – Update

Ron Galton reported that there are now only 100 books left out of a total of 500, he thinks they will all be sold, there were 200 issued to residents which means 200 have been sold. Everyone agrees that the book is absolutely marvellous.

16 ANY OTHER INFORMATION/ITEMS ARISING

- 16.1 The Chairman reported that he had been notified by Rosemary that the south facing side of the Village Sign has worn badly and needs re-varnishing. **ACTION RT/PA**

- 16.2 Since the last meeting it had been reported to Kent Highways that the metal fence posts by the stream in Coldbridge Lane had been knocked over, they had re-erected them and new ones are on order. **ACTION PA**

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16.3 Robert suggested that because next year is the Golden Jubilee a Committee should be set up to organise a celebration **ACTION RT**

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

16th August
15th November

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed. Dated