

BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th January 2011 at 7.30pm
in Grafty Green Village Hall**

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

Cllr Richard Thick

PCSO Nicola Morris & Siobhan De Burca

7 Members of the Public

1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jenny Gibson, Cllr Jenny Whittle and PC Paul Kemsley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REGISTER OF INTEREST CHANGES

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

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 21st December 2010 having previously been distributed were unanimously **Agreed**, the official copy was signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. LOCAL POLICING

4.1 Police Report

The Council were extremely pleased to see the Police represented once again. Siobhan reminded the Members that there is a Policing meeting due to be held at Yalding on 25th January and that it would be useful if a Member of the Parish Council could attend. She also reported that they are looking to work with Farmers to ensure that everyone is communicating with each other; the intention is to hold a meeting at Ulcombe Village Hall on 10th February. Robert Turner mentioned that several residents had complained that they never see a Police presence in Grafty Green, Siobhan explained that a lot of resources were being used in Headcorn because of the increased crime there, however Police often pay attention to Grafty after daylight hours. An increased presence was requested by the Chairman.

Crime Figures: No further crimes to the end of November

December: 1 Theft – 500 litres Oil & Watchman

1 Attempted Arson – Car

1 Assault by Beating

January: 2 Criminal Damage value below £5k

4.2 Speedwatch

Chris Wheal reported that no speed checks had been carried out since the last meeting because of heavy snow, Xmas/New Year and the shorter daylight hours as well as the major issue being lack of volunteers. He asked Members to consider whether checks should be done during these months, it was **Agreed** that we should. Even though articles have been put in the magazine, residents were unwilling to volunteer, having said that, one more volunteer has been trained up and he is willing to help with the paperwork. CH was disappointed that even though he always advised the PCSO when a Speedwatch session was going to take place nobody had attended. The clerk reported that the £500 from Jenny Whittle's Members Highway Fund had just been received.

The PCSO Supervisor – Nicola Morris promised that this would change, now that more PCSO's had been trained up they would be asked to attend and help out, there would also be the possibility of PCSO's coming out with the equipment at the weekend.

5. DEVOLUTION OF POWERS

Members agreed that things were fine as they are and that a lot of the powers did not apply to us.

6. HIGHWAY & FOOTWAY MATTERS**6.1 Potholes**

There are new potholes near Woodsden Hall and the bottom of Liverton Hill. RT asked the clerk to contact the Ulcombe Parish Clerk to report potholes in Eastwood Road

ACTION PA

6.2 Liverton Hill – Improvement to Warning Signs

Still waiting to hear when these will be installed.

ACTION PA

6.3 Footpath KH427

This is no longer an issue for the Parish Council as the farmer is paying for the new gate and one gate is being replaced with another.

6.4 Bus Stop in front of the Homestead

Michael Heath had contacted the clerk after coming out to investigate and agreed the verge was not very wide where the bus stops. He suggests that perhaps the children should wait at the green opposite the Post Office. Members agreed that the clerk should contact the Bus Company and arrange a meeting to discuss this.

ACTION PA

7 RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**7.1 No. 59 Bus**

Nothing to report. Next meeting is scheduled for 14th February, when no doubt the impact of the Govt. cuts will become clear.

ACTION PA

7.2 Emergency Plan

A meeting is still to be arranged.

ACTION PA

8 PUBLIC SESSION**Gully & Carriageway – below Stream Farm**

Lots of water again which is caused by the drains being above the road surface.

ACTION PA

Water Leak – Liverton Hill

French drain leaking just below Ivy House Farm near the salt bin. Salt Bin has now been filled up

ACTION PA

9 PLANNING**9.1 Land at Elmstone Farm, Elmstone Hole Road ME17 2AJ- MA/10/1387**

Application for amendments to previously approved application for erection of dwelling house MA/07/1053. **Approved/Granted with Conditions** Notification 22/12/10

9.2 Gardners Cottage, Chilston Park, Boughton Road, Sandway ME17 2BE - MA/10/1961

Application for listed building consent for the erection of a two storey side extension. **Approved/Granted with Conditions** Notification 22/12/10

9.3 Gardners Cottage, Chilston Park, Boughton Road, Sandway ME17 2BE - MA/10/1961

Application for erection of a two storey side extension. **Approved/Granted with Conditions** Notification 22/12/10

9.4 Masons Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME172AP - MA/10/1072

Application for erection of a single storey side extension plan number M2009. 10/01, site location plan and application form received 26th Oct 2010 and block plan received 10th Nov 2010. **Approved/Granted with Conditions** Notification 22/12/10

9.5 The Dower House, Chilston Park, Boughton Road, Sandway ME17 2BE – MA/10/1962

Erection of two dormer windows to the front elevation, gable including balcony to the rear elevation and single storey side extension.

Approved/Granted with Conditions Notification 22/12/10

9.6 Land at Ivy Farm, Headcorn Road, Liverton Hill – MA/10/2029 - UPDATE

Application for the erection of a PPS7 house with ancillary energy centre building housing anaerobic digester including access, ecological enhancements and landscaping including new pond. Since the Extraordinary Meeting held in December the Case Officer Chris Hawkins had granted 2

extensions of time for the submission of objections/representations, the date was now 27th January. Ron Galton has been busy researching information and acquiring expert advice which would help with the preparation of the letter objecting to the application. RG also reported that a lot of residents had asked for help with writing their objection letters. Articles were going into the local press as well as a broadcast on the radio and television. **ACTION RG/RT/PA**

PA reported that she had received a copy of a letter from Protect Kent which had been sent to MBC objecting to the application.

She had also received a reply from Hugh Robertson to her letter which she had sent expressing our concerns regarding the proposed development, and although he cannot get involved he will be writing to the Director of Planning.

9.7 **Petsfield**

Although again this had been omitted from the Agenda it was still an outstanding item from the last meeting. PA reported that she had sent a letter to Rob Jarmen asking why he had not replied to the letter sent in August, but had still not received a reply. Richard Thick asked her to email him copies of the letters as there had been a breach of the planning permission, he would find out what was going on. **ACTION PA**

10 **CORRESPONDENCE – The following correspondence was Noted:**

KALC – Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting 29th November 2010

KCC – Community Safety Unit

Policing Kent

Kent Police Country Eye

11 **MATTERS OF REPORT – To receive reports from**

11.1 **County & Borough Councillors**

Jenny Whittle

Robert Turner read out the report from Jenny Whittle which had been emailed to the Clerk:-

Budget cuts at KCC

KCC is required to find £95m savings in 2011-12 (10% of a total net revenue budget of £950m annually which excludes the schools funding – this goes direct to schools anyway apart from the 8.7% we top slice for providing core services for schools) and £67m for 2012-12. There will be further significant savings in the 2012-14 financial year but we can only project for the next 2 financial years, as the Coalition Government has provided local authorities with 4 year financial settlements. We will also be removing 1500 posts over the next 4 years. Good news though-the Highways Maintenance budget will be protected and a £5m fund to provide 'seed funding' for social enterprises will be established to support the local economy.

Planning (the Highways angle)

Planning Application MA10/2029 – Erection of a PPS7 house with ancillary energy centre building on land at Ivy Farm, Headcorn Road, Liverton Hill – although Planning is not in my remit, I have received 2 letters from local residents on this matter. I have asked Kent Highways Services to advise me if they have looked into the traffic assessment that will have been provided by the applicants, but the Officer involved – Louise Rowlands – is currently off sick. I am told that she will be back shortly when I will ask again for this information.

Lorries

I don't know if anybody listened to BBC Radio Kent on Monday morning, but I appeared alongside the former Chairman of Harrietsham Parish Council, Dennis Clifton, as lorries have been breaching weight limits on Fairbourne Lane and in two recent instances have got stuck. In a nutshell I have asked the KCC Cabinet Members for Highways and Communities, Nick Chard and Mike Hill respectively to consider establishing a 'Community Lorry Watch' on the lines of a similar model in Nottinghamshire, whereby residents jot down the registration numbers of lorries believed to have breached weight limits and other road regulations and this information is passed on to KCC Trading Standards to take enforcement proceedings (I am told that fines of up to £1000 can be levied). I will nominate a couple of Parish Councils in my Division to sign up as pilot Councils. I am also investigating further the ability of Kent Trading Standards, the Police and the Vehicle and Service Operators Agency (VOSA) to fully recoup the costs of policing operations to remove stuck vehicles and repair the highway as well as pursue haulage companies based overseas whose drivers flout UK road regulations.

Liverton Street & Liverton Hill signage schemes

I have asked Michael Heath (Kent Highway Services) to move on with the above schemes, but I am trying to reduce the costs of this scheme – I don't believe at present that the quotes received represent value for money and the cost can be reduced.

Maidstone North East Forum

Meeting on Thursday 20th January 7.00pm, St John's Primary School, Grove Green. It would be helpful to have a representative of the Parish Council there as we will be discussing Maidstone's Local Development Framework (the number of homes and jobs proposed for the Borough).

Richard Thick

Richard reported that last week a horse had been tethered, shot and left in Southernden Road. He also reported that as far as the Traveller issue was concerned the rules are the same and nothing has changed which is helping MBC's case against the Irish Travellers at The Meadows in Lenham Road, Headcorn.

The Chairman asked Richard to comment on the Concurrent Function issue – he replied that the cuts are across the Board but the Concurrent Functions cut is still under review.

Richard also agreed to review the objections to the land at Ivy Farm planning application to ensure that valid planning objections were raised rather than emotional ones. He also intended to review the case with the Planning Officer. He would request that Rob Jarman would respond to letters from the Parish Council re Petts Field.

11.2 Chairman

The Chairman reported that budgets needed to be set in order to be able to set an increase in the Precept funding if required – discussed in the Finance Section

12 FINANCE**12.1 Income received since last Meeting**

The clerk advised that no monies had been received since the last meeting apart from the £500 for Speedwatch.

12.2 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**.

300343 Boughton Malherbe History Society	£2500.00
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12.3 Cheques presented for signature

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

300345	Headcorn Parish Council – Speedwatch Equipment	£210.00
300346	R. Smith - Village Green Maintenance	£110.00

12.4 Balance at Bank

The Accounts Book was circulated to the Members and it was **Noted** that the balance was £2471.75

12.5 Concurrent Functions Grant

PA reported the Concurrent Functions Grant is to be cut by 30% for the year 2011/12 which would mean our current grant of £4451 would be reduced to £3116

12.6 Budget 2011/12

The Clerk distributed a report showing the Budget for the rest of the year to March 31st 2011 together with the Budget to March 31st 2012. The current year showed a balance in hand on Precept of £810, part of the Clerk's Salary (£800), which had been increased by 20 hours this year, would be paid out of this. On Concurrent there was a balance left of £1811 once all payments had been made to the Gardening Club, Church, Hall etc., plus the balance of the Clerk's Salary of £300 it would leave £61 - This was **Agreed**. Councillors perused the budget for next year (see attached) and it was **Agreed** that the Precept requirement would be increased by £500 to £1900. Discussion took place with regard to the Parish Council's reserves, the Chairman suggested that any profits from the sale of the books by the History Society should be donated to the Parish Council and could be used to create a Parish Reserve fund as advised by the Audit Commission in the last Audit. **ACTION PA**

13 BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY – Update

Ron Galton reported that most of the books have been distributed. Approximately 160 houses have received copies and a further 40 free copies are still to be distributed. The Sales are going very well

14 ANY OTHER INFORMATION/ITEMS ARISING**Surface Water**

RG reported that there was a lot of surface water in front of his property which must be caused by the gully being blocked again. **ACTION PA**

Carriageway Roundels

PA reported that she had received an email from Michael Heath saying that due to the cuts we would probably have to wait for both the good weather and some more money to become available before

the 30mph roundels could be re-painted.

ACTION PA

Liverton Hill HGV's

During December there had been an incident where 2 continental articulated Lorries became stuck and unable to pass each other, which caused chaos for almost half an hour – PA has the full report which came from a Parishioner. PA advised Chief Superintendent Nix, Michael Heath and Nick Chard and had asked whether width and height restrictions could be put in place otherwise it will not be show on the Sat Nav mapping which will show which routes aren't suitable.

Blocked Pipe Ash Tree Farm

Cllr Wickens reported that a ditch had recently been dug out between the back yard of Ash Tree Farm and the first bungalow in Church Road, but the pipe was still blocked.

ACTION PA

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

22nd March 2011

10th May 2011 Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting

16th August

15th November

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

Signed. Dated