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**Minutes of a Meeting of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council
Tuesday 12th November 2013,
7.30pm in Crafty Green Village Hall**

Present: Robert Turner, Chairman
Ron Galton
Tony King
Barbara Pearce

Members of the Public: 6

1. Apologies

Mike Hitchins, - Absence approved and noted

Keith Anderson; PCSO Alan Beech; John Collins; Joan Davidson.

Cllrs Jenny Gibson. Richard Thick, Jenny Whittle

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 27th August, having been previously circulated, were approved, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. Any Declarations of Interests in items on the agenda - none

4. Matters Arising

- Chris Wheal gave an explanation on the benefits of having a defibrillator and, following discussion, Cllr Galton proposed the Parish Council buy one, Cllr Seconded, all in favour.

- Community Wardens were discussed, one will be attending the next Parish Council Meeting to explain their role and how it might benefit Boughton Malherbe.

5. Public Session

-It was reported that the fingerpost at the Eastwood Road/Headcorn Road junction is still fingerless.

Action CK

-It was reported that, when the ditch at Crumps corner floods, it floods adjoining farm land also and work needs to be done to rectify this.

Action CK

-It was reported that the Police were seen Speedwatching in Grafty Green on Friday 8th November 2013 at around 10am.

-Some dangerous stiles were reported on the footpaths from Lenham Road to Woodcock Lane, and another at 3 chimneys

Action CK

6. Local Policing

6.1 Police Report - from Alan Beech

CRIME FIGURES: For the period 10/09/2013 - 10/11/2013 there has been only 1 reported / recorded crime and it was as follows.

SECTION 39 - ASSAULT BY BEATING (BATTERY) This was within a family no issue around the community.

For the same period in 2012 there 3 reported / recorded crimes. So a reduction and the 3 crimes were Criminal damage and Theft.

There really is not anything else to report. However, if anything is raised at the meeting for my attention would you please pass it on so I can deal with it.

The only thing of any note is the Surgeries that I was doing. There is now a Mobile Police station Known as the PCP and this attends Headcorn and Ulcombe every 2 weeks on a Friday and the next one will be in 2 weeks' time. All of the details are on the Kent Police website and people are urged to attend these Surgeries should they need advice etc. Other than that they should call 101 the non-emergency Police number and ask that I contact them.

6.2 Speedwatch Report - Keith Anderson

Grafty Green Speed Watch has become very successful. We try to complete a session at least once a week. Most sessions are recording 15 to 20 speeding vehicles (+35)

We are receiving excellent feedback from Guy Rollinson, head of the Police Speed Watch Team.

During the last 4 weeks, we have recorded 2 vehicles travelling at over 45 mph both of these vehicle owners will receive a strongly worded letter and a visit from the Roads Policing unit.

So, despite what was written in the Downs Mail that Speed Watch is a waste of time I would argue to the contrary.

Whatever the argument, we believe Speed Watch in Grafty Green is an excellent way to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through our village, making it a safer place for us all.

7. Highway and Footway Matters

7.1 KCC Highways Site Meeting

There were two meetings: on 15th October Jenny Whittle and Andy Paghham came out to discuss HGV use of Liverton Hill and what can be done. It was concluded that more information is needed on vehicle quantity coming through before any signs are erected. KCC Highways Department are due to put down strip that will record size, speed and weight of vehicles and will cost £500 to do, (ie to put down, pick up and analyze.) Jenny Whittle

volunteered to pay half and the Parish Council pay the other half, and then decide a way forward.

There has been a site meeting with Gemma Catt and John Reynolds. Engineer John Reynolds has a simple system to curing the water on Liverton Hill: some tarmac was laid which is now pushing water into a gully. Elmstone lane has been done and the water diverted into gullies.

7.2 Ditches and Gullies - some have been done.

7.3 Liverton Hill - ongoing.

7.4 Pot holes - there are some in Woodcock Lane

7.5 Grit Bin in Church Road - has been ordered - left hand side of sign.

7.6 HGV Weight Restrictions - discussed.

7.7 Speed Indicator Sign re-siting - due to be done.

8. Resources and Environment Matters

8.1 Emergency Plan - it was decided to amend the plan and this has been done. The plan is 3 pages long, advice will be sought from KCC and/or KALC and the aim is to get it finished by end of January.

8.2 Neighbourhood Plan - no further progress has been made.

8.3 Bus Service 59 report from John Collins

The East of Maidstone Rural Transport Group met on 21st October.

No changes to the service are planned but tender documents for the KCC funded Saturday service and non commercial journeys on Monday to Friday (0721 ex Grafty Green on non schooldays and 1745 from Maidstone) are due to be issued to operators about now. Awards should be announced in mid January to start from April and contracts will be for four years.

Issues discussed with Arriva were unreliability problems with the schooldays 07.03 service to Maidstone and behaviour problems on the 16.10 schooldays service from Maidstone. Arriva promised to pay special attention to these and parish reps were also asked to help monitor the situation.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 10th Feb.

8.4 Queen Elizabeth Yew Tree

Cllr Galton to arrange a meeting with Jamie Clark.

Action RG

9. Matters of Report

9.1 County and Borough Councillors' Reports - NONE

9.2 The Chairman's Report

Cllr Turner had attended 8 outside meetings since the last Parish Council meeting.

10. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended

Cllr Turner and Cllr Pearce gave brief reports on meetings they had attended.

11. Correspondence

Kent Voice
Parish and Community News
Countryside Voice

12. Finance

12.1 Income since the last meeting - None

12.2 Authorisation of any payments: None

12.3 Resolve that any cheques be signed: None

12.4 To note the balance at the bank **£22,388.11**

12.5 Report from Finance Committee

A Budget Meeting needs to be arranged

Action CK.

12.6 The amended PSS agreement was approved and signed.

13. Further Information

Letter from Paul Carter inviting PC comments by 15th November

Ann Barnes - saving visible community policing conference. Fri 6th Dec.

14. Dates of next meetings

28th January 2014, 25th March 2014

Meeting closed 9.05pm