



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th November 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs B Adams; N Eastwood; R Galton (Chairman); G Kennaird; R Turner
Clerk Mrs Vickie Ford
Cllr Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

Anybody filming or recording this meeting kindly requested to declare it – none

M01/11/22 Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Prendergast (Kent County Council) and Cllr Round (Maidstone Borough Council) were received and accepted.

M02/11/22 Declarations:

Any lobbying – none declared

Any interest in items on the Agenda – none declared

Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests - none declared

M03/11/22 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M04/11/22 Public Session – three members of public present: no public session

M05/11/22 Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Report

Cllr Trzebinski reported that MBC's project to acquire 1,000 houses specifically for Maidstone residents was well on its way. MBC had run cost-of-living help sessions giving advice on saving money and claiming benefits and would be running a session in Headcorn after Christmas; details would be sent to the Parish Clerk for advertising as widely as possible. The Meadows planning enquiry had been adjourned.

M06/11/22 Planning Outcomes since 5th September 2022

Noted that:

22/503594/FULL Demolition of existing stables and erection of a single storey building to form annex accommodation for elderly family members at Pig And Whistle, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AS:

APPROVED

22/503588/ NMAMD Non-material amendment application in relation to planning permission

21/502575/FULL: Removal of three rooflights which were part of the consented proposal. Installation of a new window to the existing bathroom, the window glazing will be obscured. Change from a Larch boarded finish to the extension to smooth render due to unavailability of timber cladding to match the existing.

Installation of a new rooflight to the extension flat roof at Misty Meadow, Lenham Road, Headcorn, TN27 9LJ: **APPROVED**

22/503858/FULL Erection of a wrap around side and rear extension to detached garage; New external brick wall with piers and new front entrance gate; New brick paved external hard standing at Willington Lodge, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AT: **APPROVED**

22/503480/FULL Demolition of existing outbuilding, erection of 1no. outbuilding including repositioned site access and associated landscaping at Barnside, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AP: **REFUSED**

22/504184/LAWPRO Lawful Development Certificate for proposed single storey side extension at Kitsilano, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AN: **APPROVED**

22/503658/FULL Demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings, erection of replacement single storey dwelling and carport/storage structure, and relocation of driveway entrance with new five-bar gate at Hillside, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AP: **APPROVED**

M07/11/22 Local Policing/Community

Police/Crime Report: It was noted that the latest information was for September and 1 crime had been reported.

M08/11/22 Speedwatch: Cllr Kennaird reported that he was trying to encourage support for digital training. One volunteer was waiting for confirmation that non-digital training could be carried forward. The Chairman volunteered to undertake training if it would help to move the project forward.

M09/11/22 Water Leaks

The Chairman reported that South East Water appeared to have finally fixed the long-standing leak at the junction of Woodcock Lane and Church Road.

M10/11/22 59 Bus

The Chairman stated that members of Kent County Council had voted on 20th October to support the proposed cuts to the bus subsidy on a number of routes which included the 59 service. He invited Mr John Collins, the Parish Council's representative on the East of Maidstone Transport Group, to comment. Mr Collins reported that he had discussed the service with the operator, Nu-Venture. One option going forward would be for the Parishes along the route to work together to apply for grants and fund the service on a couple of days per week. It was noted that Nu-Venture provided a very reliable service; and that passenger numbers had increased since the temporary service, introduced due to the closure of Ulcombe Hill, had run into Maidstone town centre. Cllr Trzebinski offered to move forward with the other Parishes and liaise with Cllr Prendergast.

The Chairman thanked Mr Collins for all his work on behalf of the community with the East of Maidstone Transport Group.

M11/11/22 Highways Improvement Plan

There were no changes to be made.

M12/11/22 Footpaths and Grafty Green Stile Replacement

The Parish Council discussed the replacement of three stiles along public right of way KH427. Kent County Council had offered to supply three gates free of charge but had informed the Parish Council that one stile was not positioned on the actual right of way, which complicated plans for its replacement.

RESOLVED: to go ahead with replacement of two stiles positioned on the public right of way; and to defer replacement of the third.

RESOLVED: to try to obtain three quotations for the installation of the two gates.

M13/11/22 Councillor Reports on any External Meetings

Cllr Turner reported that he, the Chairman and the Clerk had visited NatWest Bank in Maidstone to transfer both account balances to the newly-opened Lloyds Bank current account.

Cllr Eastwood had attended a meeting organised by Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council to address the matter of road closures.

Cllr Trzebinski left the meeting.

FINANCE

M14/11/22 Balances at the Bank: Balances as at 31st October 2022 were noted:

NatWest current	Nil
NatWest business saver	Nil
Lloyds current	£48,211.79
Nationwide	£14,230.15
Cambridge and Counties	£23,486.79

M15/11/22 Receipts since last meeting: £8.42 bank interest; £163.50 Parish Services Scheme

M16/11/22 Bank Reconciliation

The statement prepared by the Clerk was accepted and signed.

M17/11/22 Statement of receipts and payments against budget

The statement to 30th September 2022 prepared by the Clerk was accepted.

M18/11/22 Cheques to sign: Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex £50; V J Ford £12.50

M19/11/22 Authorisation of payments since the last meeting: Amesis Ltd £67; KALC £60; V J Ford £1,026.48; Grafty Green Village Hall £500

M20/11/22 Lloyds Bank

RESOLVED: to appoint Cllr Kennaird as an authorised signatory

RESOLVED: to open an instant access savings account to sit alongside the current account

M21/11/22 Photographing, Recording or Broadcasting Meetings

It was noted that the Clerk had reworded the standing agenda item regarding declarations of recording meetings to make absolutely clear that such declaration is not mandatory.

RESOLVED: to adopt the Photographing, Recording or Broadcasting Meetings Policy presented by the Clerk

GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE GREEN

M22/11/22 Tree Maintenance

It was noted that a further inspection of the silver birch had been recommended for the autumn.

RESOLVED: to authorise SJA Trees to carry out an inspection of the trees on 18th November at a cost of £365 plus VAT.

RESOLVED: to go ahead with remedial work recommended consequential to the inspection, subject to Councillors' agreement via email beforehand.

M23/11/22 Fence replacement

Three quotations for replacement of the fencing had been received.

RESOLVED: not to pursue replacement of the fencing at this time.

RESOLVED: to ask R James & Sons for a quotation to repair the existing perimeter fence (possibly 2 new posts and 2 new rails); and for a quotation to install a gate which would allow access for a large mower.

M24/11/22 Maintenance

MBC had informed the Parish Council that its grounds maintenance team could not help with grass cutting. Some discussion on the positioning of the planters and arrangements for watering during summer took place.

RESOLVED: to dispense with the planters.

RESOLVED: to ask the Lengthsman if he would be prepared to mow the grass and also suggest how to deal with the arisings.

M25/11/22 Community Catalysts Project Kent

RESOLVED: to advertise the project on the Parish Council website and notice board

M26/11/22 Maidstone Design and Sustainability Development Plan consultation

RESOLVED: the Clerk to prepare a draft comment relating to the "Movement" section of the Plan and circulate to members prior to submission.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FoI)

M27/11/22 Response to FoI Requests

The Parish Council had previously delegated authority for responding to FoI requests to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: to amend Standing Order 15 (b) (viii) to read: "The Proper Officer shall ... respond to requests made under freedom of information legislation and rights exercisable under data protection legislation, in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures."

M28/11/22 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public under subsection (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 for the items 17.2 and 18 of the agenda items on the grounds that they comprise a complaint against the Parish Council and information relating to an individual respectively.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

CONFIDENTIAL

CM01/11/22 Fol: Consideration of the Chairman's report in response to a complaint regarding requested information being withheld

CM02/11/22 Proposed correspondence relating to Grafty Green Village Green

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.04 pm