

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20th July 2010
In the parish office of Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall pursuant to notice,
commencing at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs S. Munford (Chairman)
 S. Evans
 I. Ellis
 C. Bracking
 P. Herrin
 M. Bray
 W. Clarke
 L. Date

Mrs L. Windless (Parish Clerk)
4 residents

1. **Apologies:**

Cllr Powell, Cllr Smith, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Williams, Cllr Witherington

2. **Notification of late items for inclusion on the agenda**

It was agreed that item 6.2 should be included as a late agenda item.

3. **Standing Order 61: To decide whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for any item.**

No excluded items

4. **Open Quarter:**

Several residents spoke regarding the letter that had been sent out recently from Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust to residents in Boughton Court regarding the landscaping strip adjacent to Pested Bars Road. The residents asked why the letter had been sent from the Amenity Trust if they do not yet own the strip of land. Cllr Ellis advised that the section 106 agreement states that when the land transfers over to the Borough Council it will then transfer to the ownership of the Amenity Trust on a 999 year lease along with a commuted payment. Cllr Ellis explained that the Amenity Trust hope to acquire additional land in the vicinity and that if they do then it will be possible to move the landscaping strip further south away from residential properties. A resident complained that the poplar trees at the rear of the landscaping strip are extremely tall and are blocking light to gardens. Councillors agreed that poplar trees are an unsuitable species of tree to plant close to residential properties.

Residents also complained that the height of the trees closer to their back gardens is also excessive. Cllr Munford explained that the trees need to be tall enough to screen the Boughton Court development from the open land beyond but that the Parish Council will ask the current landowner (Taylor Wimpey) to reduce the height of the trees and to prune the dense vegetation growing between. It was agreed that

a letter should also be sent to the Borough Council recommending that the poplar trees are completely removed by Taylor Wimpey before the land is transferred.

CLERK

5. Declarations of Interests:

Cllr Munford declared an interest on behalf of all Parish Councillors, as trustees of Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Audit Commission – Letter regarding 2010 Annual Return : The clerk explained that there was nothing wrong with the figures that were submitted to the audit commission, only that unspent grant monies had been recorded in the wrong section, by mistake. She explained that the amendments and meeting minute reference have to be formally recorded on section 1 of the annual return, hence the need for an extraordinary PC meeting before the audit commission deadline of 16/8/10. The amendments to the annual return were agreed by all Councillors and the return was initialled and re-signed by both the clerk and Cllr Munford. **CLERK**

6.2 Audit Commission – Letter regarding correspondence received relating to Robin Fuller's open letter dated 19/5/10 : It was agreed that the draft response prepared by the clerk should be sent to the Audit Commission. Proposed by Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr Bray, agreed by all Councillors. **CLERK**

7. Any other Business:

7.1 An informal discussion took place regarding the possibility of temporary parking spaces opposite the sales office on the 'Woodlands' housing development being retained permanently. It was agreed that a meeting of the Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust would be required after the Parish Council meeting in September to decide whether to progress this further. (The land which the parking spaces are built on is owned by the Trust)

7.2 Cllr Munford stated that a letter should be sent to new MP, Hugh Robertson regarding the positive discrimination shown to gypsies and travellers with regard to planning permission. A similar letter had been sent to Ann Widdecombe during her time as MP **CLERK**