

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14th October 2014
In the committee room of Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall pursuant to notice,
commencing at 7.30pm**

Present:

Cllrs S. Munford (Chairman)
P. Herrin
M. Slater
I. Ellis
J. Gershon
S. Evans
B. Brown
A. Whybrow
L. Date

Parish Clerk

Max Tant, Flood Risk Manager, KCC

Tony Harwood, Senior Resilience Officer, KCC

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Smith, Bray and Clarke

2. Notification of late items for inclusion on the agenda

The following late items were agreed :

5.7 Signage to Brishing Lane

5.8 Gypsy & Traveller consultation

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

No excluded items

4. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda / Declaration of Changes to the Register of Interests / Requests for Dispensations :

None

5. Items for Discussion:

5.1 Parkwood Farm reservoir – update following Cllr Munford’s meeting with KCC : Cllr Munford stated that himself and Cllr Herrin had attended a meeting with KCC’s Paul Carter on 9th October. Cllr Munford had stated at this meeting that without support from all the relevant agencies the feeling of the Parish Council this coming winter would probably be to remove the control gate from the reservoir and withdraw from the project, letting nature takes its course. Support was required in the form of :

- Financial support in the region of £10,000 to £30,000 for the repair and maintenance of the reservoir. Cllr Munford noted that without this work the reservoir cannot be used. He added that the design work was complete and quotes had already been obtained. It was noted that the work could start on site within 2 weeks of engaging the contractor and that the work would take approximately 2 weeks to complete. Cllr Munford noted that funding was

urgently required in order to protect The Quarries from flooding this coming winter.

- Support in the role of 'undertaker' of the reservoir.

Cllr Munford introduced Max Tant and Tony Harwood who were in attendance at the meeting on behalf of KCC. Cllr Ellis stated that due to the situation that had occurred last winter the Parish Council did not have the resources to take on the legal and financial obligations of continuing as the reservoir undertaker into the future. He queried who the undertaker of the reservoir would be if the Parish Council stood down from this role. Mr Tant advised that the Environment Agency would not take this over as they only have responsibility for main rivers and would therefore merely decommission the reservoir. Mr Tant also stated that KCC would not take on the reservoir as they did not have the expertise.

Tony Harwood noted that the recent meeting with Paul Carter had helped get the reservoir 'on the radar' and stated that the Environment Agency had committed to look at expediting funding to make the reservoir safe. He noted that once the remedial works had been carried out there would be time to discuss the longer term issues. He also noted that if the Environment Agency were unable to commit to full funding of the remedial works then KCC would step in.

Cllr Munford queried who was responsible for writing on and off site emergency plans for the reservoir. Tony Harwood stated that the on site plan would be the responsibility of the undertaker but that KCC would assist the Parish Council in delivering this. He added that the off site plan was the responsibility of KCC.

Mr Tant stated that KCC would like to look at a catchment wide approach. Members stated that a management plan was required for the whole of the Shaw Stream Valley, including winter levels of both Langley Locks and the reservoir. It was noted that the Parish Council would be prepared to assist with this but could not take overall responsibility.

Cllr Evans queried whether any other Parish Council in Kent was operating a reservoir. Mr Tant advised that no other Parish Councils were in a similar situation.

Cllr Munford thanked Tony Harwood on behalf of the Parish Council and residents for all his help during the 2013/14 floods.

- 5.2 Parkwood Farm reservoir – annual inspection costs / Black & Veatch remedial works advice cost : It was noted that a recent Black & Veatch invoice for £1552.50 had been paid, relating to advice provided on reservoir remedial work. This invoice was included within the £60,000 spending agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 6/9/11. It was also noted that the annual inspection costs for the reservoir would be in the region of £750 per year but no decision was made on this future spending
- 5.3 Parkwood Farm reservoir – damage to farmer's pump : Cllr Munford stated that during the winter floods of 2013/14 the farmer's reserve pump had been flooded and was not repairable. The Parish Council had briefed the farmer on grant funding that may be available to him to purchase a replacement pump but he had decided

not to go ahead with this as he felt it would inhibit his other grant applications. Cllr Munford noted that the farmer had been very accommodating of the reservoir work and had co-operated with the Parish Council throughout the project and beyond. The farmer had requested that the Parish Council cover the cost of purchasing a new pump to the value of £8833 + VAT. It was noted that the Parish Council would be looking for further co-operation from the farmer in the future relating to footpath construction along Brishing Lane.

Cllr Munford proposed that the Parish Council agree to pay £8833 to the farmer for the purchase of a new pump for the farm. Seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed by all members.

5.4 Quotes for refurbishment work to noticeboards, village sign post and parish hut : The clerk advised that quotes had been obtained as follows :

- Refurbishment of 6 no. noticeboards £780 +VAT
- Replacement of post to village sign on the green £510 + VAT
- Rubbing down and repainting of doors to parish hut £330 + VAT

Cllr Ellis proposed that the Parish Council proceed with the work based on the above quotes. Seconded by Cllr Gershon and agreed by all members.

5.5 Play area inspection : The clerk advised that the cost of the independent play area inspection would be £295 + VAT. The payment of this sum would be covered by the grant money already obtained. Cllr Munford thanked the clerk and Cllr Brown for all their hard in work bringing the play area refurbishment work to fruition.

5.6 KCC Community Warden consultation : The clerk advised that KCC were currently consulting on the community warden service with a view to the creation of a centralised service and a reduction in the number of wardens from 79 to 46. It was agreed that a response should be sent by the clerk stating how vital the work of the community wardens was and including the comment that it would be better if wardens were designated larger areas rather than the service being centralised.

CLERK

5.7 Signage to Brishing Lane : Cllr Munford advised that County member, Cllr Eric Hotson had agreed to provide funds of £1000 from his budget towards the relocation of HGV signage at either end of Brishing Lane. It was noted that relocating the signs would make them more visible to approaching HGV's, therefore making them less likely to turn into the lane. Cllr Munford advised that the total cost of this work would be £1400 and proposed that the Parish Council fund the remaining £400. Seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed by all members. Clerk to arrange transfer of funds to KCC.

CLERK

5.8 Gypsy & Traveller consultation : It was agreed that Cllrs Munford and Evans would formulate a response to this consultation on behalf of the Parish Council

CLLR MUNFORD / CLLR EVANS

6. Any Other Business

None

Meeting closed at 9.00pm