

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 7th July 2021 in Boughton Monchelsea primary school hall pursuant to notice, commencing at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllrs S. Munford (Chairman)
 D. Smith
 D. Redfearn
 A. Humphries
 I. Ellis
 H. Stevens
 R. Martin
 C. Jessel
 B. Brown
 R. Roome

Parish Clerk

3 applicants

1. **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from the following members. Reasons for absence were agreed and are recorded below.

Cllrs Skinner (personal event), Wilde (childcare), Date (funeral), Edmans (bereavement) and Jessel (work).

2. **Filming of meetings : Request for notification of whether any person intends to film, photograph or record any item**

No person expressed any intention of filming, photographing or recording any item.

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

No late items.

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

It was agreed that item 6.1 should be an exempt item.

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

All members except Cllr Munford declared an interest in any item relating to BMAT.

Cllr Munford welcomed the three applicants to the meeting and expressed his delight that there had been so much interest from residents in joining the Parish Council. He explained the hierarchy of public authority, with KCC responsible for highways, education, health etc, MBC for planning, housing, waste etc and the Parish Council responsible for community areas and facilities and much more. He added that a lot of the Parish Council's work involves making representations to other authorities on behalf of the community.

Previous projects the Parish Council has been involved with include a footpath to The Quarries, flood mitigation works and introduction of speed limit reductions. Forthcoming projects and considerations include provision of an additional village sign, replacement bus shelters, construction work to the reservoir, provision of EV charging points, a new allotment site at Langley Park and installation of speed indicator devices.

Other work includes representation on committees and sub-groups, including the village hall committee and KALC. The Parish Council also run the Haste Hill Road allotment site, speed watch and community events such as Carols on the Green as well as organising litter picks and sending out newsletters to residents.

Funding comes from Maidstone Borough Council in the form of precept, which is a proportion of Council tax. The Parish Council meets bi-monthly with much work done by sub-groups and committees in between meetings.

Parish Councillors in the main are also trustees of BMAT. BMAT's aims and objectives are to acquire land and facilities for the benefit of residents of Boughton Monchelsea and surrounding parishes, helping to maintain the rural character of the area. The trust already owns a considerable amount of land, some of which is leased out to farmers, some retained as public open space. The main thrust of its current work is to give public access to as much land as possible whilst addressing the biodiversity and climate change emergencies. Recent projects include tree planting at Salts Wood, Walk Meadow and Firmins Field and wild flower seeding at the Furfield Park open space.

6. Decision items :

- 6.1** Consider applications received for the north ward Parish Councillor vacancy. The three candidates were interviewed in turn. All left the meeting after their individual interviews.

Once the applicants had left, lengthy discussion between members followed. Details of this discussion are exempt from these minutes however members were extremely impressed with the enthusiasm and skill set of all three applicants and agreed that all three would be very worthy of the role of Parish Councillor. All were encouraged to apply again in the future if they were not successful this time round.

6.2 Agree co-option of new member

Following voting, it was agreed that Mr Roy Garland be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Clerk to inform Mr Garland and the two other applicants of the decision.

CLERK

7. Any other Business :

None

8. Date of Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 7.00 pm in Boughton Monchelsea primary school hall.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.