

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2005

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON
Wednesday 23rd June in Grafty Green Village Hall at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Mr K Alexander
Mrs S Close
Mr M Hitchins
Mr R Turner
Mr S Wickens
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

Mr M Davidson
PC B Hillman
PC Harding (Special)

APOLOGIES: Mrs J Gibson
Mr R Thick
Mrs J Weight
Mr R Weight

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

REGISTER OF INTEREST

Over the past few months there has been various correspondence received from both Mr Fisher, Solicitor- Head of Corporate Law at Maidstone Borough Council and The Standards Board. Mrs Sylvia Close explained that letters had been written by Mr Fisher asking for her to complete a Registration of Interest form and as far as she was aware it had all been dealt with. The previous Parish Clerk had telephoned them to say that Mrs Close' circumstances had not changed since she last completed a form and was given to understand that that was the end of the matter. Unfortunately it wasn't, Mr Fisher had not received replies to his correspondence and the case was passed to the Standards Board for non-compliance. Subsequently various letters were written together with a new completed Register of Interest form to Mr Fisher and it was finally agreed by the Standards Board that they would take no further action.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

The sign on Woodcock Lane which had been knocked down by a bus, although standing temporarily, still needed to be cemented in place.

The wastewater drain cover at the bottom of Woodcock Lane has still not been dealt with.

Since the last meeting the seat for the village green has been purchased and installed.

Mike Hitchins has now completed the form for application to Councillor Thick for grant/funds towards replacing the windows at the back of the village hall, the door (mainly for Security), the gully at the front and refurbishment of the gent's toilets. The total for this expenditure comes to £1800, £500 has been received from the Parish Council and a request has been made for £900 from the Borough Council. Robert Turner suggested that Mike asks for a grant to upgrade the toilets to cope with anyone who might be disabled.

The Parish Clerk had written to the Kent Highway Services requesting permission for a planter to be placed on the verge close to the speed limit sign, permission was given. At the same time of writing the question was asked when the 40 mile speed limit sign would be changed to 30 miles, as agreed. A reply was received stating that as soon as funding was available they would be changed; we would be advised of this. A subsequent telephone call was made to the Highways and the same answer was given

LOCAL POLICING

The Chairman welcomed our new community Police Officer – PC Bryan Hillman, who was accompanied by SPC Peter Harding

PC Hillman reported the following crimes: -

- 1 Theft from motor vehicle
- 2 Cases of Criminal Damage
- 2 Cases of Theft

The police car was now up and running following the delivery in early April.

Now that the area change has been made and PC Hillman is responsible for 4 areas (Boughton Malherbe, Ulcombe, East Sutton and Headcorn) instead of what were previously 6, he proposes to have a meeting with all 4 Chairman together at some point in the future.

Shaun mentioned the recent accidents on Liverton Hill, which had been caused by water running down the hill and drivers going too fast. Mike Davidson informed the meeting that the cause of the water is the spring, which had been originally contained in a culvert, and had subsequently been damaged by a lorry and forced the water to run out at other points. A call is to be made to Dennis Gower, the Highways Inspector.

ACTION KA

Shaun also pointed out that ours was the only village locally where there was no restriction on HGV's. This leads to a lot more heavy traffic thundering along the road between Headcorn and Lenham via Grafty Green.

A call would also be made to Steve Gillet

ACTION PC Hillman

PC Hillman and SPC Harding were thanked for attending the meeting and advised of the date of the next meeting which is 20th September 2005.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Hazel Hill Cottage, Sandway, ME17 2BH Ref MA/05/0251 Erection of two-storey extension to the north elevation plus alterations to layout of window and doors. Permission granted.

Hazel Hill Cottage, Sandway, ME17 2BH Ref MA/05/0249 Application for listed building consent for 2-storey extension as above. Permission granted

Planning Officers have now been given more authority to approve more work. They have received further training which Parish Councillors haven't and concern was made that in future Planning would be able to override any decisions made by the Parish. It would appear that if we, as a Parish were to object to any Planning application made, we would need to attend the Planning Committee. Richard Thick would be asked to explain all this in detail.

ACTION RT

CORRESPONDENCE

Various letters from Mr Fisher MBC and The Standards Board re Mrs Close
 Various KAPC newsletters were handed out
 Kent Police Newsletter
 Launch of New Maidstone and Malling Neighbourhood Policing Unit from Kent Police
 Len Valley Police Car
 Email from Elizabeth Short re the new Planning Committee changes
 Dept. for Transport – Traffic Information & Roadworks for South East
 MBC – Maidstone Planning Viewpoint
 Details of Trafalgar Weekend – 21st-23rd October 2005
 Maidstone Weald NHS Trust – Newsletters
 Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual Report
 EYDCP – News magazine
 KCC – Minerals & Waste Discussion Pack
 Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Filling in Forms for Licensing
 KAPC – Councillors' Information Day
 MBC – Termination of Kent Highways Partnership
 MBC – Maidstone 20/20
 MBC – Rural/Parish Liaison Meetings
 MBC – The Big Debate
 KENT HIGHWAY SERVICES – Letter about Planter and Speed Reduction
 MBC – Electoral Registration, Notice of Alteration at the Glen and Great Humphreys Farmhouse
 MBC – Records of Decision – Cabinet Member for Regeneration
 Mr A King, Cabinet Member for Regeneration – Strategic Rail Authority's Stakeholder briefing document
 MBC – Draft Climate Change Plan and Action Plan
 MBC – Local Development Scheme 2005
 Kent Highway Services – County Lengthsmen

FINANCE

The balance in hand as per the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2005 was

£397.94

Since year-end £1000 has been received for Precept, and the following cheques have been issued: -

£

KAPC (Clerk's Day)	52.88
Allianz Cornhill (Insurance)	282.58
KAPC (Annual Subscription)	152.63

Audit Commission (re 2003)	58.75
Wealden Wheels (Mini Bus for Platts Heath School)	<u>43.00</u>

Balance in Hand as at 22/06/05 **£ 808.10**

The Accounts had been completed and agreed by John Collins, subject to signing by the Chairman and agreement by the Parish Council. The Accounts book was circulated, approved by the Parish Councillors, and signed by the Chairman and the Parish Clerk.

The Annual Return had been completed, audited by John Collins and would be signed by him once he had seen the Schedule of Fixed Assets, which would explain what the total bought forward each year of £2639, was made up of. This would be done as soon as possible following which the Return would be sent off. Pat Anderson queried whether any of the Fixed Assets were ever written off, by depreciation or some other method. The Chairman thought that depreciation wasn't applied to Council's Fixed Assets; Pat Anderson said she would ring the Audit Commission for clarification.

ACTION PA

The Chairman explained that because of the change of Parish Clerk, forms for the bank had to be completed which included a new signatory form, there were only 5 signatories allowed and it was necessary to include the new Parish Clerk on this list because of making telephone calls etc. Mike Hitchins had kindly agreed that he would not be a signatory on cheques. All this has now been completed and registered with the Alliance and Leicester.

The Chairman informed the meeting that because of the change of Parish Clerk and the new Salary Scales the hourly rate of pay for Pat Anderson would now be £8.00 per hour, this was agreed by the Councillors. This was proposed by Sylvia Close and seconded by Robert Turner.

It was agreed that in future Annual General Meetings would be held in May as required by law. Therefore next years' meeting would be held on 16th May 2006.

The Parish Clerk had received an email from Sandy Bruce Lockhart's Secretary asking when next years AGM would be held, as he would like to attend and wanted to diarise it as soon as possible. The Parish Clerk was asked to notify her of the new date and to enclose part of the Chairman's Annual report, which mentioned the state of the roads in our area.

ACTION PA

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Website

Mike Hitchins was asked by the Chairman to contact Tony King about our website. Tony King is extremely busy and could really do with some help to get the site up and running. Mike agreed to telephone him.

ACTION MH

Dog Litter

Shaun asked whether anyone had seen the signs that had been put up in Lenham and Headcorn, about dog litter. A copy was produced which requests that people pick up their dog mess and either put it in the bins provided or take it home with them, everyone

agreed that this would be a good idea for Grafty Green. Pat Anderson was asked to ring the Council and see what was required for us to have these notices. **ACTION PA**

Parish Magazine

Since Chris King can no longer produce the magazine, Sylvia Close has taken the task on. The magazine is now produced by Sue Burch but will only be able to do this for a couple of months. Sylvia expressed her concern about this and it was agreed by Mike Hitchins that he would help out and in the meantime contact Chris King for more information. **ACTION MH**

Roads/Roadside Maintenance

Robert mentioned the very large hole on Liverton Hill, Shaun also mentioned the state of the hedges particularly at Elmstone Hole Lane. Mike Davidson reported that he had received a letter about dangerous trees from Liverton Hill to Platts Heath. There are a number of trees that need to be trimmed or felled, as they are dangerous. Concern was expressed as to whether the person who was to carry out this work was adequately trained; the Chairman is going to write to the Council about this. **ACTION KA**

County Lengthsmen

A letter had been received from Kent Highway Services asking for a Co-ordinator to be nominated who would liase with the Highway Services in setting up a programme of work to be carried out within the Parish. This included such things as cleaning & fixing signs, tidying verges, digging out gullies, cutting back hedgerows etc. Robert Turner volunteered to be the Co-ordinator and would complete and send off the form. **ACTION RT**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20th September 2005

Signed. Dated