

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016, 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall.**

3 members of the Public

Mrs Christine King, Clerk

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- or pecuniary interest – none**

- 4. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016.** - having been previously circulated the Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

Cllr Turner expressed thanks to Cllrs for input to Local Plan response and Planning Meeting in the recent absence of himself and Cllr Galton.

- ## 5. Public Session

Minute book closed.

- ## 6. KCC/MBC Reports

**MBC – no report**

KCC: HGV road signs: as soon as you get the go-ahead from the other parishes, please let me know as I will need to submit an application to KCC.

I have responded to the consultation on the MBC Local Plan and will send to you under separate cover.

I wanted to give you early notice too that I will not be standing for re-election at the KCC elections in May 2017. I have really enjoyed working with my parish councils, particularly Boughton Malherbe, who have shown me such kindness and cooperation. In return, I promise that I will get the HGV signage installed before I stand down - just let me know if all parishes are not on board and I will call a meeting.

I'm currently chairing a select committee on grammar schools and social mobility which will receive a lot of attention over the coming months. It has taken up a lot of my time but hopefully will help more children from poorer backgrounds to attend grammar schools.

***Cllr Jenny Whittle KCC***

- ## 7.1 Police Report

Grafty Green Crime Figures 01 March 2016 – 22 March 2016 . There was one crime to report for this period: 13 March - Burglary on Church Rd

Including the above there were 4 calls to the police involving a loose dog and a house alarm going off, this was investigated but nothing suspect found.

***PCSO John Boyd***

## **7.2 Community Warden Report**

I will be unable to make it over to the meeting on Wednesday as I am again on early shifts to cover my Supervisor's absence whilst she is on training.

As you may or may not have been aware, it has been a very busy couple of months for me as I have had to 'step up' for a majority of this whilst my supervisor was off with illness and had to manage my twelve colleagues who cover Maidstone and Tonbridge. It has not been ideal for Headcorn or Grafty Green during this period and I apologise that I don't have much to report during this time frame. One positive is that I will be meeting with Chris Wheal later in the week to discuss NHS Health Walk's that may benefit Headcorn and Grafty residents in a social and healthy way. Both Chris and I will be down as walk leaders – although Chris may well be doing this on a more regular basis than me due to my scheduled operational needs.

I am hoping that my 'dual role' will soon simplify itself a bit and can get back into a normal Warden role now that my supervisor is back!

If there is anything you need in the interim then please do not hesitate to get in contact with me – I am around and about and have been linking up with PCSO Boyd quite a bit on a few matters.

***Stuart Ellesmere.***

## **7.3 KFRS**

Chris Wheal – There are 29 new fire engines, although not really affecting Boughton Malherbe. Lenham Fire engine has been upgraded to 'Rescue Appliance' due to its siting in Lenham, conveniently close to M20. Good news: the Maidstone appliance is still at Lenham. 'Smokey Paws' are oxygen masks for pets kept on fire engines. 75 kits are needed to cover the whole of Kent, and there are 29 to date with more in the pipeline. All have/are being acquired by sponsorship.

**7.4 Speedwatch** – now days are getting longer the crew will be operating again shortly.

## **8. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended**

CLlr Galton – 2 meetings related to planning issues, run by Rob Jarman about problems with the NPPF

CLlr Pearce – 2 meetings about the Local Plan – one of which was held in Maidstone Studios and hosted by our two MPs Helen Grant and Helen Whately. Almost every person there was against the Draft Local Plan. The consensus was that it should go to the Inspector who would, hopefully, state how a Local Plan should be compiled.

## **9. Highway and Footway Matters**

**9.1** Liverton Hill – the usual pot hole issues - tarmac appears to have been just thrown in hole at the bottom of the Hill, although worn around and below it. The repaired gully is now below road surface with water in it.

**9.2** Ditches, gullies, pot holes- gully blocked outside 'Maples' and the garden became flooded in a recent torrential squall. The drain cover on the Garden Centre lifts up when it rains heavily. There is a pot hole by Park House which now has a white line around it.

Footpaths: Dogs are being allowed off lead in fields of sheep; dog owners cutting wire fences to get their dogs through.

### 9.3 59 Bus

There was a meeting of the East of Maidstone Bus Group on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March and it was attended by representatives of KCC, Arriva, and NuVenture. Basically it all seemed to be pretty good news!

KCC started its public consultation on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March on their proposals to reduce financial support to services as a consequence of a reduction in the 2016/17 transport budget, but there are NO proposals to reduce the financial support for the 59 Saturday service, or for the last bus from Maidstone on Mondays to Fridays, and the first bus to Maidstone on Mondays to Fridays in school holidays.

The Arriva reps also confirmed that there is nothing in the pipeline currently that will affect the commercial part of Service 59 on Mondays to Fridays, although all services are kept under constant review.

*John Collins*

**9.4** Resolve whether signage, as requested by Ulcombe PC at the junction of Eastwood/Headcorn Road (2 signs), should be sited there.

Cllr Hitchins proposed that 2 signs can be sited if they are paid for by Ulcombe PC; Cllr Galton seconded; unanimous agreement.

## 10. Finance

**10.1** To note the Balance at the Bank 23,918.88 Nat West  
500.00 Santander

**10.2** Income since the last meeting £509.46

**10.3** Bank Reconciliation – seen and signed by Cllr Hitchins

**10.4** Authorisation of any payments since 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
R. Tew Christmas Tree – authorised  
C. King Computer Repair £90 – authorised

**10.5** Any cheques to sign  
Resolve GGVH payments for 2015/16– rental and contribution 310.00  
St Nicolas' Churchyard Maintenance £500.00  
CPRE subscription £36.00  
Clerk Salary £1,334

**10.6** Approval of PSS end of year certificate 2015/16:

Cllr Hitchins proposed Approve the PSS End of Year Certificate; Cllr Pearce seconded; unanimous agreement.

Cllr Hitchins gave an update on the 2015/16 Budget as at year-end.

## 11. Honeywood and Douglas Charity

Decide and vote on whether David Chantler and Mike Davidson, who have both come to the end of their term of office with the Charity and are willing to continue for a further four years should continue, or would BMPC wish to nominate someone else. Clerk to forward decision to Pat Sutton by May 2016.

Cllr King proposed David Chantler and Mike Davidson continue in office; Cllr Galton seconded, unanimous agreement.

**12. Litter Pick**

- It was decided that the 'Litter pick for the Queen' would be Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April - meeting at 9.30am on the Green, 'equipment and bags supplied, bring your own gloves and a high viz jacket if you have one'.

**13. Further Information**

Queen's Birthday Celebrations: does the PC wish to organise anything?  
Cllr Turner to investigate the possibilities.

**Action Cllr Turner**

Garden Centre Application: - is likely to be before the Planning Committee in April.  
Cllr Galton read out some notes he had compiled for a 3 minute presentation and asked Councillors that their comments/thoughts be e-mailed to him when he had circulated his notes.

**Action Cllr Galton**

Cllr Turner expressed his thanks to the Clerk and to individual Cllrs for the last 4 years' work and commitment, this being the last meeting of the Council in its present format - Cllr Pearce will not be standing for re-election, it is not known who will stand and there have been several enquiries.

Cllr Pearce expressed her farewells.

- 14. Date of next Meeting:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016, Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting. It was agreed that a booklet be compiled before the APM of all the reports in order that they need not be read out at the meeting.

**Meeting Closed 9pm.**