

**UNNAPPROVED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007**

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007 at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

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

Cllr J Thick

PCSO Tom Smith

Mrs J Davidson  
Ms J Drury

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr J Gibson  
Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on items on the Agenda

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007 were circulated approved and signed as a true and correct record.

**LOCAL POLICING**

PCSO Tom Smith introduced himself as our new community policeman; he covers Headcorn, Boughton Malherbe, East Sutton and Ulcombe. He reported that he has been generally checking the areas he covers, unlike Police Constables he has limited powers i.e. he cannot actually arrest or detain anyone, he can deal with such things as fly-tipping, and although he has no traffic powers he can deal with untaxed vehicles. At the moment he is based at Maidstone Police Station until he can find somewhere to use as an office; Headcorn are looking into this for him. He has no police car but uses his own vehicle and is looking for somewhere to park in our village and again somewhere he could use as an office. It was suggested that he could use the Grafty Green Village Hall and a key will be cut for him.

At the moment we are unable to contact him directly, but as soon as he has a contact number he will advise PA.

There was only one crime reported for the last months, which was on 15<sup>th</sup> May when the rear screen of a vehicle in Headcorn Road was removed and propped up against the wall – nothing was stolen.

PCSO Tom Smith then left the meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING from Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> May & 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**40-30 Mile Speed Limit Sign Changes**

PA reported that at long last the Speed limit change from 40 mph to 30 mph had been implemented and the new 30 mph signs had been installed. She reported that the changes have made very little or no difference to the speed at which vehicles are driven through the village, RT concurred with this. PA said that she had been in touch with David Bond, Peter Rosevears' boss telling him about the problems and he proposed that when the schools go back in September, he would see to it that another survey was carried out. Unfortunately, he did not hold out much hope as to what could be done traffic calming would be costly and obtrusive as well as expensive and because there had been no known recorded injury crash record it would not be likely that we would gain any priority. All we can do is wait to see what the survey shows and take it from there.

**ACTION PA**

**HGV's Weight Restrictions**

As previously stated nothing further would be done about Weight Restrictions until the change of speed limit has been implemented.

**ACTION PA**

**No. 59 Bus**

No changes and nothing further to report. At the moment. There is to be another meeting in September.

**ACTION PA**

**Potholes Woodcock Lane & Church Road**

Most of the potholes had been filled in, but this will be an ongoing situation as only those marked out had been filled, in the meantime more holes have developed. PA had contacted Adrian Holland re the repairs which are due to be carried out in Coldbridge Lane at a cost of £41k asking if the repairs could be split between Woodcock and Coldbridge Lane, but was told that even though one could not see how bad the road was from the surface, the underneath was in a sorry state of repair and needed sorting out, but probably not until next year.

**ACTION PA**

**Proposed Closure of Platts Heath School**

KA reported that the school would continue to stay open and negotiations were at a delicate stage. Discussions were still going on.

**ACTION KA**

**Travellers Sites**

Nothing further to report, but there had been some developments regarding one particular site (Pets Field) and an Extraordinary Meeting had been held about the Planning Application for this site on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007.

**ACTION PA/ RTHICK**

**Willow Tree Cottage-Fire Hydrant**

PA had been in touch with Earl Bournier, who thought that the repair had been carried out, it has been marked out ready for repair for some weeks; he said he would ensure that the repair is done.

**ACTION PA**

## **367**

### **Liverton Hill Farm**

PA reported that she had been in touch with Earl Bourner again about this issue and he was unsure about it and would speak to a Andy Mitchell to see if it is on the schedule of programmed works.

**ACTION PA**

### **Public Footpath-Church Road**

PA had been in touch with Ian Hayes, but he had been so busy that he hadn't had time to re-inspect the route yet. MH said that a new fence panel had been put up, but there still wasn't that much room to walk along the path.

**ACTION PA**

### **Dormer Windows**

PA had contacted the Enforcement Department who were to carry out an inspection, someone had phoned her and left a message, but she had not had the opportunity to call them back.

**ACTION PA**

### **Pothole – Ivy House Farm**

A temporary repair had been done, but this was now sinking, PA had emailed Earl Bourner who had replied saying that he would ask Dennis Gower to inspect and arrange the necessary works. She also reported that opposite Ivy Cottage water was still cascading down the hill, Earl Bourner had said that all the gullies had been cleaned out and the lines had been jetted. Mrs Davidson told those present that this had not been done opposite the house.

**ACTION PA**

### **Skateboard Park**

SC reported that the boys who play on the skateboards in Woodcock Lane had asked most of the farmers if they might be willing to donate a small piece of land for them to Skateboard on, with no success. It had been agreed that this would be advertised in the Boughton Malherbe magazine, as it hadn't made the July issue it would go into the next edition. SC said that apart from the dangers of skate boarding in the road, the boys were not too much of a nuisance.

### **Hole just past Elmstone Hole Lane**

This has now been repaired.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **Yew Tree Farm, Eastwood Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2DQ- Ref MA/06/0109**

Conversion of barn to form one residential dwelling.

Planning Permission granted.

### **2 Fermor Cottage, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AN- Ref MA/07/0627**

Change of use from a self-catering holiday cottage to a family dwelling.

Planning Permission granted.

### **Popes Hall Barn, Sandway, Maidstone MR17 2BH- Ref MA/07/0472**

Erection of aisle extension to converted barn. Development Control Manager's Recommendation: Refuse

Notification of meeting of Planning Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Gardners Cottage, Chilston Park, Lenham- Ref MA/07/1082**

Erection of ground and 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension.

Planning Permission granted.

**Ledger Cottage, Church Road, Grafty Green ME17 2BA-Ref MA/07/1596**

Erection of Garage.

The Parish Council has no objections

**The Dower House, Chilston Park, Lenham ME17 2PH-Ref MA/07/1532**

Loft conversion with two additional dormers &amp; gable with balcony &amp; single storey side extension.

The Parish Council has no objections.

**The Dower House, Chilston Park, Lenham ME17 2PH-Ref MA/07/1532**

Listed Building Consent for loft conversion etc.

The Parish Council has no objections.

**Land at Elmstone Hole Farm, Elmstone Hole Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AJ Ref MA/07/1053**

Erection of one dwelling – amended plan/additional details/landscaping.

**Popes Hall Barn, Sandway, Maidstone MR17 2BH- Ref MA/07/0472**

Notification of appeal against refusal of Full Planning Permission being granted.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

MBC-Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/6/07-30/9/07

MBC-Notification of Gypsy &amp; Traveller Accommodation Assessment 20/07/07

Freighter Locations and times

MBC-Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/7/07-31/10/07

MBC-Report on Honywood &amp; Douglas Charity Housing Development

MBC-Planning Committee 28/06/07-Gypsy Need Survey

ERHA – Bulletin

MBC-Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places &amp; Polling Stations

MBC-Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/8/07-30/11/07

MBC-Joint Transportation Board-29/08/07

KPAC-Minutes of meeting 12/02/07 &amp; Area Committee Meeting 23/07/07

MBC-Record of Decision – Recycling Strategy

MBC-Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/9/07-31/12/07

Air Ambulance Information

KCC-KCC Annual Plan 2007/08

**FINANCE****Balance in Hand on 9<sup>th</sup> May '07** **£ 1640.50**

The following cheques had been issued: - £

300284 Allianz Cornhill	294.14	
285 KAPC	177.43	
286 Chilvers Reprographic	771.98	
287 R Smith	192.00	
		(1435.55)
Concurrent Functions Receipt		<u>2194.83</u>

**Balance in Hand as at 21/08/07** **£ 2399.78**

PA reported that the Audit of the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 had been carried out and approved by the Audit Commission.

**Concurrent Functions**

A letter had been received from MBC regarding the Concurrent Functions grant, explaining that they are carrying out a Best Value Review, the purpose of which is to test value for money including the method by which the funds are allocated.

**Revised Code of Conduct**

The new Code of Conduct for members had come into force from 3<sup>rd</sup> May '07 and is to be adopted by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007. Copies had been given to all the Councillors prior to the meeting, advising them that they should pay particular attention to Paragraph 12(2), which would allow those with prejudicial interests to address meetings of the Council before withdrawing. Without adopting this it would mean that anyone with relevant information to an item on the Agenda would have to leave the room without saying anything.

It was resolved that the Council accept the new Code of Conduct including paragraph 12(2), proposed by Robert Turner and seconded by Sylvia Close and agreed by the Committee.

The Clerk reported that she had made enquiries about publishing a notice in the Downs Mail; sharing the cost with several other Parish Councils the cost was reduced to £35. She would telephone the newspaper the next day, as this was the closing date. The Standards Committee would also be informed and the completed Register of Interest Forms together with a letter stating that the New Code of Conduct had been adopted would be returned to Paul Fisher, Head of Corporate Law at Maidstone Borough Council.

**ACTION PA**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Various Requests from Rosemary Smith**

1. A tarmac footpath across the village green, linking the two entrances/exits.
2. The old seat is beginning to rot, so either new wood or a new seat to match the other one.
3. The ground is sinking quite badly in places, so some soil to level this would be helpful.

The various requests were discussed and it was agreed that: -

1. It would not be a good idea to put a path across the green, as it is a green not a path.
2. Mike Hitchins and Robert Turner will look at the old seat and assess whether it can be repaired as it is a fixed seat, if not it would be replaced.
3. MH & RT would see how much soil was required to correct the sinking.

**Water opposite the Garden Centre**

Richard Thick pointed out that on his way to the meeting he had noticed that water was pumping out of one of the drains opposite Grafty Green Garden Centre. The clerk said that she would notify KCC.

**ACTION PA**

**Grants**

Richard Thick asked if there were any requirements in the Parish for further grant monies, if there was then he should be contacted.

**370**

**30 Mile Speed Limit Signs**

Robert Turner had informed the Clerk, prior to the meeting, that when you enter Grafty Green from Liverton Hill, there is only one 30mph sign, when there should be two. PA reported that she had been in touch with David Bond from KCC and he had confirmed that it was not at all acceptable. He had also said that the location of the one sign was not suitable anyway because of visibility and normal vegetation growth would be an ongoing problem, and that sorting this out was in hand.

**ACTION PA**

**Date of Next Meetings**

23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2007

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2008

18<sup>th</sup> Mar 2008

13th May 2008 Annual Parish Council Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> Aug 2008

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Signed..... Dated .....