

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 16th January 2007

A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON Tuesday 16th January 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 Gibson
Cllr R Thick

Mr P Palmer

APOLOGIES: None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on items on the Agenda

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman asked for Nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year 2006/2007. Mr Robert Turner was the only nomination proposed by Mike Hitchins and seconded by Mrs Sylvia Close. Mr Robert Turner indicated that he would be happy to accept.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting of 7th September 2006 were circulated approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING from 22/08/06 Meeting

Liverton Hill

PA reported that repairs on Liverton Hill had been carried out during November by Kent County Council and were now complete. At long last water was no longer running down Liverton Hill, although it was pointed out that there are now a few places at the bottom of the hill.

Debris Elmstone Hole

This had now been dealt with and cleared away.

40-30 Mile Speed Limit Sign Changes

After months of chasing and promises that the speed limit change proposals were being dealt with and Orders prepared for advertising, the latest correspondence PA had received dated 11th January, was that there had been a slight delay in the advertising,

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And this would now happen within the next 2 weeks. Hopefully, this will be done, but even after that the process could still take some time, as Kent Highways have to wait for any objections that may be received. PA promised that she would continue to hassle Peter Rosevear at Kent Highways.

ACTION PA

HGV's Weight Restrictions

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

ACTION PA

No. 59 Bus

The next meeting is due to take place in February; in the meantime there was nothing to report except that Nu-Venture were quite happy with the current situation.

ACTION PA

Elmstone Hole Lane

The drains and gullies have been cleared, but because of budget restrictions it was not likely that Kent Highways would do anything about digging the ditches.

Potholes Woodcock Lane & Church Road

Some Potholes had been filled as a temporary measure, the majority were all part of a main patching programme but no date had been given as yet.

ACTION PA

Map of Parish

PA had spoken to Bryan Hillman since the last meeting and he said that he would deal with this.

Potholes Coach Road

These have now been repaired.

Proposed Closure of Platts Heath School

KA reported that no firm decision had as yet been made; discussions were still underway with the LEA.

ACTION KA

Blocked Drain Duct Woodcock Lane

Since the last meeting this has been dealt with.

Travellers Sites

Richard Thick said that following a Government Report, Travellers had been asked where they would like to be sited, and many have said Maidstone because this is where their families already are, as a result of this there could be up to 32 sites around the Maidstone area.

ACTION RT

Litter

Richard Thick asked if there was any problem with litter in our area, he was advised there were no major problems.

Church Porch

There are currently no problems.

LOCAL POLICING

Bryan Hillman had now been replaced with a policewoman – Georgina Messenger. PA advised that she had not been notified of this and Jenny Gibson said she would forward details of the new appointment to her. **ACTION JG**

Although Bryan Hillman had advised at the last meeting that there had been no crimes, KA had since met with Peter the previous Community Police Officer who had said that there had been approximately 9 crimes, PA said she would email the new Policewoman to find out. **ACTION PA**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Thornden Farmhouse, Lenham Road, Headcorn TN27 9LH Ref MA/06/1305

Erection of a 2-storey front and single storey south side extension. Demolition of garage, shed, greenhouse and erection of double carport and garden store.
Permission granted 30th August 2006

The Homestead, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AP Ref MA/06/1412

Erection of an oak framed detached double garage – amended details

Hazel Wood, Sandway, Maidstone ME17 2BH MA/05/1857/C01

Erection of a detached garage.
Permission granted 9th September 2006

Woodsden Hall, Lenham Road, Headcorn TN27 9LJ Ref MA/06/1732

Application for listed Building Consent for insertion of oak leaded light windows to replace existing softwood leaded light windows

The Homestead, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AP Ref MA/06/1412

Erection of an oak framed detached double garage.
Permission granted 29th September 2006

North & South Barns, Boughton Place, Sandway, Boughton Malherbe Ref MA/02/1365

Application for listed building consent for the erection of a wall built taller than that approved under MA/02/1365

Little Southernden, Southernden Road, Headcorn Road, TN27 9LL Ref MA/06/2042

Application for listed building consent for the extension and replacement of rain-water goods from PVCU to cast iron/aluminium, replacement of clay stub chimney pots, installation of flue liners to both chimney stacks numbers one and two.

Woodsden Hall, Lenham Road, Headcorn TN27 9LJ Ref MA/06/1732

Application for listed Building Consent for insertion of oak leaded light windows to replace existing softwood leaded light windows
Permission granted 12th November 2006

CORRESPONDENCE

No 59 Bus – Various emails
 Liverton Hill – Various emails
 Planning Session Notes for Parish Councillors
 MBC – Forward Plan Key Decisions 1/10/06-31/01/07
 KAPC – Notice of 59th AGM
 MBC – Rural liaison meetings and Annual Rural Conference
 KCC – Promoting Kentcarshare in your parish
 Freightier Locations and times
 MBC – Invitation to Annual Rural Conference
 MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/12/06-31/03/07
 MBC – Planning Service
 MBC – Allowances for Parish Councils
 KCC – Kent Minerals Development Framework
 Office of HM Lord Lieutenant of Kent – Invitation to Civic Service 20/03/07
 MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/1/07-30/04/07
 MBC – Electoral Registration Amendment
 MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/2/07/31/5/07
 MBC – Agenda Meeting 17/1/07 – Speed Limit Grafty Green Pg 23
 Kent & Medway Adopted Structure Plan 2006
 A Clear Vision for the South East
 MBC – Minutes of meeting 25/10/06 Local Development Document Advisory Group
 KCC – Towards 2010
 Summary of a Water Resource Strategy for Kent
 KAPC – Annual Report 2005/2006
 Kent Police – Invitation to Kent Police College 12/9/06
 Kent Police Authority – Policing Kent 2007/8 Survey
 Policing Kent- News and Information from Maidstone

FINANCE

Balance in Hand on 22 nd Aug '06	£ 2302.17
Receipt 2 nd half Concurrent Function	<u>2179.23</u>

The following cheques had been issued: - £

300270	R. Smith	72.00
271	Len Valley Police Car	150.00
272	John Collins	40.00
273	Audit Commission	<u>141.00</u>
		(403.00)

Balance in Hand as at 16/01/07	£ <u>4078.40</u>
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Bills had not yet been received for the Xmas Tree, lights and cable, PA was asked to chase Richard Tew who had kindly volunteered to erect the tree etc following a notice in the Malherbe news asking for volunteers to replace Bernard Dodson and Les Hulme who felt it was time to step down from this duty. When the cheque is paid a letter should be written thanking Richard Tew.

ACTION PA

Discussions took place with regard to the financial requirements for this year. Mike Hitchins explained that the electrics in the Village Hall needed to be upgraded and he was currently awaiting a quote. Richard Thick said there was grant money available for such improvements and left a form for completion by MH once he knew what the costs were likely to be.

The following expenditure was agreed: -	£
Approximate costs for the Xmas Tree etc	200
Hedge Cutting	500
Gardening Club	500
Village Hall (MH & RT declared an interest)	1000
St Nicholas Church (KA & SC declared an interest)	500

Precept

It was agreed that the Precept claim for the forthcoming year would be the same as last year of £1200.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hedge Cutting

PA reported that a neighbour had asked her who was responsible for hedge cutting up through Liverton Hill. The hedges are so overgrown, long branches are sticking out and when you have to pull over because of a car coming the other way it scratches your car. This was discussed and although Farmers are responsible for their own hedges, it was unlikely that it would be done in this particular location. KA said that he would find out what the cost would be for a Contractor to sort this out. A budget of £500 was included in expenditure for this year, as shown above.

ACTION KA

Parking Church Road

Peter Palmer expressed concern about the problems he is encountering with vehicles parking opposite his house in Church Road. What used to be a grass verge opposite where vehicles could park on has now been made into a higher bank, which has the effect of vehicles parking further out into the road. It makes it more difficult for larger vehicles such as tankers or even a Combine Harvester to get through, without destroying his verge. He is very concerned about what would happen if an emergency occurred and it was necessary for a Fire Engine or an Ambulance to get through. MH has agreed to investigate.

ACTION MH

County Lengthsman

PA informed everyone that she has been advised by Kent Highways that the County Lengthsman scheme has now been stopped. It has become unnecessary since the introduction of the Spreadsheet which is emailed to KCC with the various problems in the Parish, updated by them and returned via email to her.

Willow Tree Cottage-Fire Hydrant

It had been reported to PA that the road outside Willow Tree Cottage where a Fire Hydrant had been put had sunk and when it rains heavily it fills up with water and anyone standing on the doorstep is soaked. The Water Board were informed and came out on 27th November, but because it is more than 2 years old it is now the responsibility of KCC. Earl Bournier is to investigate and decide what remedial works need to be carried out.

ACTION PA

Liverton Hill Farm

PA had received emails and telephone calls from Mr & Mrs Pearce asking for help regarding the state of the verge in front of their house, which is being eroded by cars and lorries pulling right over to avoid oncoming vehicles. The have constantly been in touch with KCC who have promised to put double kerbing in but to date nothing has been done. PA has been advised by the Highways Department, that at the moment there are no funds for this work and it will be reviewed in the next financial year.

ACTION PA

Date of Next Meetings

20th March 2007 since the Meeting this has been changed to 27th March 2007

8th May 2007 - Annual Parish Meeting (formerly Annual General Meeting)
- Annual Parish Council Meeting (formerly Annual Parish Meeting)

21st August 2007

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Signed. Dated