



# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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## Minutes of a Meeting of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall

Present: Cllrs R. Turner (Chair); A. Allum; R. Galton; J. Collins; T. King.  
Clerk Mrs C King

Jenny Whittle KCC  
Shellina Prendergast MBC  
5 members of the public

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it.** There were no declarations
2. **Apologies – to receive and accept apologies for absence** from Chris Wheal KFRS; PCSO John Boyd.
3. **Declarations:**
  - Any lobbying - none**
  - Any interest in items on the Agenda - none**
  - Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests - none**
4. **Approval of Minutes** – having been previously circulated, the Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016, were approved, and signed.
5. **Matters Arising**
  - Hazel Hill/Street Name – in progress
  - UK Power Networks have completed their work to clear the electricity wires, Clerk to contact Britchers. **Action Clerk**
6. **Public Session**

Issues of excessive traffic speed and possible deterrents were raised and discussed.
7. **KCC/MBC Reports**

**KCC – Jenny Whittle:**

  - Assured that all HGV signage will all be done before she steps down.
  - Planning Inspector response to the Local Plan: he believes a bus lane at Wheatsheaf will sort traffic problems. KCC disagree with this and will look more closely at the Leeds/Langley Relief road possibility. Traffic volumes have increased by 40 percent in past 10 years! Thameslink will be coming out of Maidstone East next year (2018) which will lead to people using the Headcorn/Lenham road to get to Headcorn Station as it will be the nearest one.
  - 2 Foster Carers were recognised in the New Year Honours list.
  - Kent schools are higher than the national average at Good and Excellent.
  - 'Clean Kent' and a pothole blitz will be happening in the next couple of months
  - Freight transport strategy – will be sent out soon, do complete it.
  - Drainage – the work outside the Homestead still hasn't been done and was promised yesterday. Jenny will chase.
  - There is a Budget Meeting next week. It will be a difficult year – flat cash so same amount of cash for 2019/20 as for 2015/16, but taking inflation into account is a lot less. There is pressure on health and social care.

**MBC – Shellina Prendergast:**

  - no of homes recommended is 17660 homes – the Inspector recommended a lower amount. Re 5 year land supply, Rob Jarman has confirmed that the Borough is now at 6.2 years, so great news. Review will be in 2022. It was recommended that development in Lenham be reduced from 1500 to 1000. It is estimated that the Local Plan will be adopted in May 2017.
  - Proposed cuts and Planning and Enforcement is of great concern.
  - Regarding speeding traffic, a 'red carpet' (as is often seen outside primary schools) might help.

*Cllrs Prendergast and Whittle left the Meeting*

8. **Voluntary Warden Service** – Resolve whether to join the scheme – it was considered a good idea if we joined forces with other parishes. Clerk to Check with Ulcombe and East Sutton. **Action Clerk**
9. Resolve choice of nominee for Community Award Scheme – There was an idea from a member of the public. Cllrs to e-mail ideas.
10. **Local Policing/Community**
  - 10.1 Police Report – Clerk to circulate
  - 10.2 Community Warden Report – no report
  - 10.3 KFRS – no report
  - 10.4 Speedwatch- there has been no Speedwatch lately.
11. **Highway and Footway Matters**
  - 11.1 Liverton Hill, ditches, gullies, potholes
    - Roads in the Parish seem good compared to other parishes re lack of potholes.
    - Drain cover issue on Liverton Hill, between (above) Cllr Allum's and entrance to the orchard.
    - Sue Laporte would like to come out with Martin Taylor Smith, new Steward, by way of introduction. Clerk to e-mail her for prospective dates. **Action Clerk**
  - 11.2 HGV signage – taken at item 7.
  - 11.3 59 Bus - Cllr Collins

The next meeting of the East of Kent Rural Transport Group is on 6th March 2017, and he has not heard of any proposed changes. Buses have been unreliable – either breaking down or held up in traffic in Maidstone. On 9<sup>th</sup> January, the 25 to 1 bus hadn't arrived by 2.15pm.
12. **Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended**

Cllr Turner attended the KALC Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November – at which the Parish Services Scheme was discussed, as was the Precept and the fact that rural parishes pay double taxation; also air quality in the vicinity of the Wheatsheaf in Maidstone which is 'outside European limits,' and that the Parish Charter will be updated.
13. **Finance**

The Clerk had circulated the accounts to date.

  - 13.1 To note the Balance at the Bank:

Nat West	£ 28474.31
Santander	£500.00
  - 13.2 Income since the last Meeting      VAT £185.33
  - 13.3 Bank Reconciliation (attached) – seen and signed by Cllr Collins
  - 13.4 Any cheques to sign- Rosemary Smith, for Care of the Green
  - 13.5 Authorisation of any payments since the last meeting – payment to R. Smith was approved.
  - 13.6 Approve Precept – Cllr Collins had calculated 3 Precept Options, the first of which was chosen: option 1 – To maintain the current Band D charge of £24 (this was the charge in 2015/2016 and was maintained in setting the precept for 2016/2017). Current Band D charge of £24 x 219.5 (Tax Base) would generate a precept of £5,268. With no LCTS, there would be a decreased in funding of £154 but there would be no change in the parish element of Council Tax.  
Cllr Collins proposed a precept of £5,268 , Cllr Galton seconded, unanimous agreement.
  - 13.7 Approve the Budget agreed by Finance Committee, with any amendment incorporating decrease in PSS allowance added later.  
Cllr Collins proposed approve the Budget for 2017/2018; Cllr Galton seconded; Unanimous approval.
14. **History Society – Finance Update**

Every household had received a free copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the book. No further contribution to the Parish Council is imminent.
15. Consider, and resolve if agreed, any spending for Christmas lights, wooden finger post for the Green, and further community spending.

This was discussed and Cllr Allum is going to produce a plan.  
Cllr Allum proposed allocating funds to the Christmas project; Cllr King seconded; unanimous approval.

The Clerk will contact the recommended (by Sue LaPorte) Finger Post suppliers for a quote.

**Action Clerk**

**16. Correspondence –**

Clerk and Councils Direct  
PSS Notification  
Connected – Kent and Medway NHS  
CPRE Kent Voice  
Countryside Voice  
Barge Play Equipment  
Glasdon Bins

**17. Further Information**

- Cllr Turner noted that, at Petts Wood, there appear to be an increased number of G and Ts and asked that all keep an eye out.

8 Date of next meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
Date of Annual Meetings – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm

BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT			
Bank Balances at 31st March 2016			£p
(as per Bank Statements)			
	Nat West Current Account		23,868.88
	Nat West Business Reserve Account		
	Santander Current Account		500.00
			24,368.88
	Less Unpresented Cheques:-		2,392.72
			21,976.16
			£p
Balance brought forward 1st April 2016			21,976.16
	Receipts		8,100.68
			30,076.84
Less Payments in the Year			1,344.92
			28,731.92
Balances at Bank	Statement 5th Jan 2017	NatWest	28,474.31
		Santander	500.00
			28,974.31
	Less Unpresented Cheques:- no 000043		242.39
			28,731.92