



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 9th May, 7pm in Grafty Green Village Hall

Present: Cllrs R. Turner (Chair); A. Allum; R. Galton; T. King.

Clerk: Mrs Christine King

Cllrs Shellina Prendergast, MBC and Jenny Whittle, KCC

5 Members of the Public

Cllr Turner opened meeting and welcomed new Councillor Annie Allum to BMPC. He also congratulated and welcomed Cllr Shellina Prendergast, newly elected to MBC.

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it** – there were no declarations

Cllr Turner stood down as Chairman.
2. (i) To elect a Chairman to Boughton Malherbe Parish Council for the next year.
Cllr Galton proposed Cllr Turner, Cllr King seconded, unanimous approval
(ii) For the elected Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
Cllr Turner signed the DOA
3. (i) To elect a Vice Chairman to Boughton Malherbe Parish Council for the next year.
Cllr King nominated Cllr Galton; Cllr Allum seconded, unanimous approval.
(ii) For the elected Vice Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
Cllr Galton signed the DOA
4. (i) For all members to accept and to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk: this was done by Cllrs Allum; Galton; King and Turner.
(ii) To receive Register of Interest/Pecuniary interest forms which are to be completed and returned to the Clerk by the end of May 2016.
(iii) For members to confirm that they agree to receive ALL agendas electronically during the period of office – it was resolved that Agendas be sent electronically.
6. **Apologies – to receive and accept apologies for absence**
Community Warden Stuart Ellesmere; Cllr Martin Round MBC.
7. **Declarations :**
Any lobbying - none
Any interest in items on the Agenda - none
Any changes to the register of pecuniary interest - none
8. **Approval of Minutes** – to approve the Minutes of 23rd March 2016 – having been previously circulated were approved by those who had attended, and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman invited PCSO John Boyd to present his report here:

The low level of crime appears to be sustaining the reduced level of crime probably because of the Community and the Parish Council Burglaries are followed up by support and Prevention of Crime leaflets. Speed patrols continue and scrap metal thefts are followed up with police and county wide involvement. Police Surgery takes place monthly in Headcorn Library monthly. He is keeping on top of issues. Please report any non-urgent incidents to 101.

The police were called on 4 occasions, 2 of which were-

1- Fly tipping on the Elmstone Rd – council were called

2 – Traffic hazard on the Headcorn Rd - a patrol went but no trace.

Siobhan sends her best wishes to the Parish Council and residents, she has been on maternity leave and will be extending this. Thank you for support.

9. Co-option of Councillor

There was only one applicant for the vacant councillor position. The Clerk explained that as the Applicant is so well known it was not necessary to 'interview' but requested the name not be revealed until after voting and then only if Cllrs voted to co-opt.

Cllr King proposed to co-opt the Applicant; Cllr Galton seconded; unanimous approval.

Cllr Turner welcomed John Collins to the Council in his absence.

10. Annual Reviews

- i. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, employees and other local authorities.

Planning – all Councillors including Cllr Collins, – Cllr Turner ex officio

Finance – 4 Councillors (excluding Cllr King); it is hoped that Cllr Collins will Chair the Finance Committee.

Joint Parishes Group: Cllr Allum

KALC: Cllrs Galton and Turner

- ii. Review of the terms of references for committees.

This was carried out before and approved at this meeting. Planning Applications and outcomes will appear on the Website.

- iii. Receipt of nominations to existing committees. – Done.

- iv. Appointment of any new committees, confirmation of the terms of reference, the number of members (including, if appropriate, substitute councillors) and receipt of nominations to them. Not at this stage

- v. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations – reviewed and approved

- vi. Review of arrangements, including any charters, with other local authorities and review of contributions made to expenditure incurred by other local authorities. Done -MBC Charter.

- vii. Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back.

JPG Cllr Allum; KALC Cllrs Galton and Turner.

- viii. Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office – Done
- ix. Review and confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks. Done
- x. Review of the Council's and/or employees' memberships of other bodies.
KALC. CPRE, JPG, SLCC.
- xi. Establishing or reviewing the Council's complaints – reviewed.
- xii. Establishing or reviewing the Council's procedures for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 – reviewed
- xiii. Establishing or reviewing the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media. (as in Standing Orders) – done.
- xiv. Establishing or reviewing the Council's Communications policy - done
- xv. Setting the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the full Council for year:
Monday 5th September; 7th November; 9th January, 6th March.

The Chairman invited Jenny Whittle to present her report here:

The only certainty at the moment is that funding regimes for local authorities are getting ever more difficult. One example is that the cost of the Freedom Pass for 11 - 16 year olds is going up again and, although it is greatly subsidized, is still a lot of money to find for families in rural areas.

Council Tax has been increased by just over 4%, more than half of which is for adult social care - the increasing population of 85 plus age group needs additional care and support.

The Local plan - infrastructure is a great concern. People are greatly divided over the Leeds Langley bypass although it's recognized that something needs to be done as the traffic situation is already at breaking point. It's great to have Shellina on board – she thinks 'rurally' and is of strong character. There is great, and increasing, pressure on primary schools, the infrastructure needs school places to reduce the pressure – Harrietsham catchment is 1/3 of a mile so Platts Heath is taking Harrietsham children. Leham primary is currently full and is the only school that can be enlarged by building. This will effect secondary schools in a few years. A new school for Maths and Engineering is due to open next year on the Invicta site in Maidstone.

She is currently funding a project to get more children from poor backgrounds into Grammar Schools. Also trying to recruit more foster carers, for which the website is www.kentfostering.co.uk should you, or anybody you know, wish to find out about fostering.

This is Jenny's last Annual Meeting as she will be resigning next year. She thanked Boughton Malherbe Parish Council for working so well with her over the past 7 years – however, she will be attending regular Parish Council meetings until she leaves.

11. Highway and Footway Matters

11.1 Liverton Hill – has many potholes

11.2 Ditches, gullies, pot holes - The Clerk will contact the new Steward for an update

11.3 Speedwatch – has been resurrected.

12. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended

Cllr Galton reported on a meeting he had attended about Emergency Plans and which has resulted in the need for him to go through and amend the BMPC plan, the review of which had been put back until after the meeting anyway.

13. Finance

13.1 Income since the last meeting - None

13.2 Authorisation of any payments since 23rd March 2016 - None

13.3 To sign any cheques:

000035	KALC subs	£212.69
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Came Insurance £295.60

13.4 To note the Balance at the Bank - £23,868.88 Nat West
£500.00 Santander

13.5 Bank Reconciliation - was presented to Council and signed by Cllr Turner

13.6 Approve and sign the Annual Report – this was presented to Council and signed by Cllr Turner and the Clerk

14. Public Session

Dog mess is an increasing nuisance resulting in the verge can't be cut because of it. Headcorn has a new dog mess/litter bin. Clerk to contact Caroline Carmichael for details and put a notice in Malherbe Monthly. Residents are so fed up that photographs will be taken of transgressors.

15. Correspondence - on the table:

KALC – benefits of Membership
Glasdon – Bins, signs etc for sale
Came and Co – 'Council Matters' publication
CPRE – Kent Voice
CPRE – 'Countryside Voice'
Twig – 'Landscape Maintenance'
Barge – Landscape Management

16. Further Information - None

17. Dates of meetings for the year – already decided.

The Meeting closed at 20.55