

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
2nd AUGUST 2007

**An Extraordinary Meeting of BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL
was held on Thursday 2nd August at 8.00pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

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

Cllr J Gibson
Cllr R Thick

Several Parishioners

APOLOGIES: Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th June 2007, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Petsfield, Eastwood Road, Grafty Green ME17 2DQ

KA told those present that the Planning Application at the above address was for change of use from grazing to residential for Gypsy family and stationing of two mobile homes, one touring caravan and installation of cesspool, he asked if anyone was for the application, there was no reply. KA then invited any member of the Parish Council to comment on the application.

One of the Parish Councillors pointed out that the Parish Council should send a letter and be very critical as the application would be in contravention of Policy EN34 adopted in 2000, which states " In the North Downs, Greensand Ridge, Low Weald and High Weald Special Landscapes areas, as defined on the proposals map, particular attention will be given to the protection and conservation of the scenic quality and distinctive character of the area and priority will be given to the landscape over other planning considerations".

Also the application would be in contravention of Policy H36 adopted in 2000, which states, "Planning permission will not be given to gypsy sites unless

- 1) The resident has a Nomadic way of life, and travels for the purpose of making a livelihood and
- 2) The site should be satisfactorily screened by natural features, and
- 3) The development of the site will not result in an undue concentration of such developments, which would adversely affect the character or amenity of the countryside or an area.

Taking these Policies into consideration, the application should be refused.

A Borough Councillor pointed out that if we refer to Mr Prescott's Circular 12006 where it states that even when there are special areas this can be overruled. He suggested that we should write to the Council and say that the area should be restricted, Maidstone Borough Council need to decide whether they make sites temporary. In effect 'Special Landscape Areas' mean nothing because of Circular 12006. Maidstone Borough Council has decided that they need 31 sites and KCC is tasked with finding more sites by the Government, travellers want to be in Maidstone.

Another Parish Councillor requested that the application be refused because it is an intrusion into the countryside. The land is grazing land and the cesspool could cause a great deal of pollution. The field in question was grazing land, if this application is allowed; further development is bound to take place.

The objection was proposed then seconded, and was carried unanimously. The clerk was asked to draft an apt response.

Everyone was reminded that gates should be put across entrances and locked securely.

Gardeners Cottage, Chilston Park, Lenham – Ref MA07/1493

Listed Building Consent for the erection of a ground & 1st floor Extension

It was agreed that no objections would be made.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21st August 2007

Signed Dated