



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

Minutes of a Meeting of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Monday 7th November 2016, 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall.

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

Cllr Shellina Prendergast MBC
1 Member of the Public

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it** - No Declarations
2. **Apologies – to receive and accept apologies for absence**
Jenny Whittle KCC; PCSO John Boyd; Community Warden Stuart Ellesmere; Martin Round MBC;
Chris Wheal KFRS; Jenny Whittle KCC;
3. **Declarations:**
Any lobbying – Cllr Turner: re road name registration (Coach Road)
Any interest in items on the Agenda – None
Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests - none
4. **Approval of Minutes** – to approve the Minutes of 5th September and 16th September 2016: having been previously circulated, both sets of Minutes were approved and signed (Minutes of 16th September J. Collins added as present.)
5. **Matters Arising**
 - UK Power Networks road repair – Clerk: work completed
 - Asset Acquisition – Clerk: information forwarded to Councillors
 - Apple Orchard hedge cutting – Cllr Turner: owner approached
 - Responses to NW notice in MM– Clerk/Cllr Allum: – no responses. Cllr Allum will attend the next Police/NW Forum Meeting 1st February, 7pm. It is hoped to encourage others to become involved.
6. **Public Session**
 - taken at 10.1
7. **Planning Outcomes since 5th September:**
 - **16/505923 The Old Chapel Headcorn Road Grafty Green ME17 2AP. GRANTED**
Construction of a single storey conservatory at the rear of the property
8. **KCC/MBC Reports**
Shellina Prendergast:
MBC – The Local Plan Hearing resumes tomorrow with Rural Service Centres. G and T allocations will be on 15th November at 2pm in the Town Hall, Maidstone. She has spoken to some residents who are interested in going, could it be advertised? Any sustainable site is considered suitable for Gypsies in Headcorn Ward. There is no cap on numbers. Permitted development rights – she is on the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee and this will be on the agenda for next year. Article 4 can be invoked to restrict the scope of PDRs.

KCC from Jenny Whittle re HGV signage:

On signage, I chased Michael Heath last week (this is an excerpt from a number of queries I put to him:

JENNY "When will a conclusion be reached to the request from a number of parishes in my Division to the installation of no HGV signs in specified locations, which they will fund (except the Member admin fee which I will cover)?

MH: "The site visits have been undertaken, these will be ordered in the next few days".

I (JENNY) will chase in the next week or two for an installation date.

She will be asking Michael Heath to provide a breakdown of costs – hopefully no surprises!

9. Local Policing/Community

9.1 Police Report from PCSO John Boyd

Grafty Green Crime Figures 04 September – 04 November 2016

There were no crimes for this period and there was 1RTC on church road

9.2 Community Warden Report – Stuart Ellesmere

Sadly I will be unable to attend the meeting this month. I will be in the area next week as I have a couple of visits to carry out regarding the scam list that we are working through with Trading Standards that have identified vulnerable residents.

I have only received two calls in the last month, one regarding property that had been found and another regarding home security advice.

I have regularly kept in contact with PCSO Boyd regarding any local matters and am willing to assist any residents if they have any problems or issues. I will arrange a time soon with PCSO Boyd to have a good visual walk around the village in the near future.

9.3 KFRS – no report

9.4 Speedwatch – one session was held 2 weeks ago. There were 14 offenders, all of whom have gone on the Police Register. Of the 14, 2 were 3rd offenders and 2 were second timers so all will have received letters. If they do it again a call from a PCSO will be the next step.

10. Highway and Footway Matters

10.1 Liverton Hill, Ditches, gullies, potholes

-A vehicle going up Liverton Hill had crashed into Ivy House Farmhouse on Saturday last partly demolishing the porch and garden wall. The road was closed for some time. This is in the hands of the Police.

-A letter had been circulated from Sue Laporte re issues reported on her visit. RT will follow up the drains. Liverton Hill – work will be done to stop the springs at the bottom. However, no gullies had been emptied, that's the jurisdiction of the drainage and not roads people. (All part of the Sherway).

When the Drainage Engineer comes out, it was agreed to arrange for Mike Davidson to be in attendance. The outfall of the pipework that goes into Week's field was raised, it should go into a stream.

10.2 HGV signage – covered in Cllr Whittles report.

10.3 59 Bus - There was a meeting on 25th Sept. The KCC representative didn't turn up and a letter of complaint about this was sent to the Cabinet Member. There are no changes, the biggest problem is traffic congestion in Maidstone and this will only get worse. Will advise in advance if any changes. The next meeting is on 6th March unless anything comes up in the meantime.

11. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended

Cllr Turner – KALC Meeting on 26th September in Yalding. 41 parishes from Maidstone Borough are now represented by KALC. Mark Green is new finance man in Maidstone. PSS raised - there is concern because it has now run for 3 years, (its initial 'term'), there is no further news and a revision is due. Next year LCTS under review and to be withdrawn. To be considered when we discuss the budget. Parish Charter is not being updated.

North Kent consortium – Boughton Malherbe and the rural parishes have nothing in common with those areas. Fran Wilson has no mandate – a cabinet system now operates. RT write to Alison Broom, cc Shellina Prendergast.

Action Cllr Turner

26th October - Police Forum Meeting – warning issued about the MS15 Gang -youngsters terrorising Staplehurst and other areas. NW – scams in the villages targeting the elderly. 100new PCSOs to be enrolled, giving an eventual total of 300 in the County.

Attendance at annual KCC /Parishes Conference by Robert Turner and Ron Galton on 27th October 2016.
The following notes are about the topics discussed of possible interest to us at BMPC. By Ron Galton and previously circulated

The maximum time between inspections of every road is one year.

Soft landscaping maintenance is normally annual, covering grass verges, hedges and weed growth, excluding land not property of Highways. Litter picking on our roads is not included. Rural hedges may be cut up to 3 times a year if necessary.

Parishes will be encouraged to take on soft landscaping maintenance for which KCC will make finance available up to the level of cost it currently incurs. This means that grants will be inadequate because they will be based upon the low rates paid to cover huge contract areas. KCC can advise the sum allocated to each Parish for this work.

If the KCC attendance is considered inadequate by a Parish, it can ask for extra work to be added to a KCC contract at preferable rates, paid for by the Parish.

It was suggested that Parishes could link up to obtain competitive rates or cover the difference with increased funding from the Parish Services Scheme, or by increasing the Precept. The Parish Services Scheme may have an uncertain future, and Precepts could be capped, so this suggestion was thought to be a potential non starter by the delegates.

Community payback (using prisoners) was also suggested as a means for Parishes to get work done economically.

Attempts are being made to see if principal authorities can be merged into one. For us this means we could be incorporated into a merged authority comprising Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone, Medway and Swale. KALC has a Devolution Advisory Committee that could help us if we need advice on this matter in the future.

Parishes can ask for roadwork improvements, subject to approval of all departments concerned, and representative costs to Parishes were quoted as follows:

Kerbs, white lines, bollards etc under £5000:

A pair of Drop Kerbs -----£1800

A single Bollard-----£360

A Sign Post----- £360

More expensive works:

Road Humps and Traffic Islands-----£4500 - £8000 each.

New weight limit restrictions-----£4200 - £10,000 each

If we need more salt, it is freely available, just ask the District Manager.

The thrust of the conference was that KCC has saved half a billion pounds since 2010, and is looking at how the parishes might help to achieve the extra eighty million pounds of savings still needed to be found by 2018. Council Tax will go up by 2% next year. Perhaps we should consider all this when setting our precept for next year.

12. Finance

12.1 To note the Balance at the Bank:	Nat West	£26,2922.48
	Santander	£500.00

12.2 Income since the last meeting (Not on Bank Stmt):

Parish Services Scheme 2 nd half	£496.50
From Boughton Malherbe History Society from sale of books	£1,500.00

(Item 15, Minutes 11th November 2014, relates)

12.3 Bank Reconciliation – seen and signed by Cllr Collins

12.4 Any cheques to sign - none

12.5 Authorisation of any payments since the last meeting – none

A Finance Meeting is needed. It was decided that Cllr Allum be co-opted to the Committee at the meeting in Cllr Galton's absence. Date to be decided next month.

13. Correspondence

- Police Survey – it was decided that Cllr King would complete and submit the survey
- Clerk and Councils Direct
- Kent Voice
- Wickstead Playgrounds

14. Parishioner request for Street name registration

After discussion, Councillors concluded that they are happy for Mrs Savage to pursue the registration of Coach Road. The Clerk to write to Mrs Savage and cc Susan Francis MBC **Action Clerk**

Cllr Galton proposed no objection to registration of Coach Road from Egerton Parish Boundary into Boughton Malherbe Parish, Cllr Collins seconded, unanimous approval.

15. Authorise purchase of new litter bin at the Church

The Clerk out pictures of bin examples. It was resolved to purchase the Circular Slatted Litter Bin – 56 litre capacity at a cost of £144.99 (excluding VAT and delivery) from the Bin Shop.

Proposed purchase Cllr Collins; seconded Cllr Allum, unanimous approval.

Action Clerk

16. Parish Clerk Vacancy – It was decided to advertise the vacancy in January and February's Malherbe Monthly with an Applications due date of 28th February. The Clerk to compose advert and circulate to Cllrs.

Action Clerk

17. Community Assets – deferred to a future meeting.

18. Further Information

- Road closures:

(i) – Boughton Road, Sandway 14th November, 3 days. Diversion along 'Chain Gate Road' – the Clerk has written to Sue LaPorte and asked for diversion route (which is via 'Chain Gate Road') to be amended.

(ii) Coldbridge Lane, Grafty Green – from 25 November 2016 for up to 4 days

Lenham Road to Coldbridge Farm. 07:00 to 19:00hrs for up to 4 days

Alternative route via Coldbridge Lane, Barhams Mill Road, Southernden Road, Southernden Road (Headcorn) and Lenham Road

Both closures are to enable carriageway works to be carried out by KCC Highways.

- Cllr Collins informed Council that the Gully outside the Homestead is being cleared this month.

- Clerk handed out the new Parish Council Website Tracker information for the past month.

- Planning Training for MBC Members and Parish Councils: Landscape, open space, ecology and heritage 22 November 2016, 6 p.m. The Council Chamber, Maidstone Town Hall – No Councillors wish to attend.

- The Kent Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England Annual General Meeting and Lunch Friday 18th November 2016 Lunch 12.30pm, AGM 2.00pm at Lenham Community Centre, - No Councillors wish to attend.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 9th January 2017, 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.05pm