

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> February 2009**

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 6.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Mr R Turner (Chairman)  
Mrs S Close  
Mr R Galton (Vice Chairman)  
Mr M Hitchins  
Mr S Wickens  
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

Cllr J Gibson

PCSO Tom Smith

Joan Davidson  
Mike Davidson  
Ian Shaw

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr R Thick  
PC P Kemsley

**TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The clerk advised that apologies had been received from Councillor Richard Thick and PC Paul Kemsley whose reasons for absence had been accepted.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on the Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2008 having been circulated were approved and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman.

**LOCAL POLICING**

Tom Smith advised that 4 crimes had been committed between 5/11/08 and 20/02/09:-

04/01/09 Theft of 4 gas bottles - Headcorn Road

06/01/09 Attempted theft of a sofa – Who'd A Thought It, Headcorn Road

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10/02/09 Theft of 4 Chickens – Headcorn Road

11/02/09 Burglary other than Dwelling. Trials bike, go cart & 2 pedal cycles taken – Headcorn Road

No reports of any motor vehicle accidents in the area for this period.

Tom continued to report that at the moment things are fairly quiet with very few crimes which are insignificant. 55 Sheep had been killed by dogs before Xmas but that had now stopped.

Discussion took place about the speeding through our village and Tom promised he would contact Warren Jarvis and see what could be done, he also suggested that we should telephone Headcorn about the use of their handheld Speed Gun and he would mention to Paul Kemsley about carrying out some further speed checks during the busy periods.

He informed us that he will be leaving on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to start his career as a regular Police Officer, his replacement will be starting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, and he will give Nicola Morris (his supervisor) the clerk's contact details so that she can let her know who Tom's replacement will be.

Robert Turner thanked Tom for all that he had done and on behalf of everyone in the Parish, and wished him well for the future.

## **MATTERS ARISING from Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

### **40-30 Mile Speed Limit Changes**

See above re discussions with Tom Smith regarding speeding. PA said that she would contact Michael Heath again about the possibility of an interactive sign, Tom Smith's opinion was that the sign showing the speed a motorist was travelling at was probably better than an interactive Slow Down sign.

**ACTION PA**

### **30 Mile Speed limit Signs**

The re-siting of the 30mph signs had been carried out but put in the wrong place and could not be moved again until the application for another work permit had been given. Michael Heath had informed the clerk today that he was waiting for a reply from the Signing Agent.

**ACTION PA**

### **HGV's Weight Restrictions**

This issue will be put on the back burner for the time being.

**ACTION PA**

### **No. 59 Bus**

John Collins had advised PA that the next meeting wasn't until April, at the moment everything is running smoothly.

**ACTION PA**

### **Potholes**

PA reported that because of the extent of the many potholes in Woodcock Lane it has been decided by Kent Highways that the whole lane will be re-surfaced, but they were waiting for funding. At the Extraordinary Meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2008 potholes just before Woodsden Villa and Chain Gate near St. Nicholas Church had been reported and had since been repaired. PA had been told about a very large dangerous pothole by

## **420**

Park Cottages which she had reported to Kent Highways. Robert also advised that there was now a very bad pothole at the beginning of Eastwood Road and Sylvia Close said that there were 2 very bad potholes outside her house which also needed reporting sooner rather than later.

**ACTION PA**

### **Petsfield**

Ron Galton had recently attended an Enforcement Meeting specifically to discuss Petsfield, he had been advised that the request for an ecological survey to be carried out was at the wrong time, it would need to be done during the Spring/Summer of 2009. PA reported that she had received the quarterly Planning Enforcement Case Report for Boughton Malherbe which stated that a Planning Application had been invited for Petsfield. Robert asked PA to contact Richard Thick and ask if there is anything he can do, she was also asked to write to Richard Lusty.

**ACTION PA**

### **Public Footpath-Church Road**

This has now been resolved.

### **Various Requests from Rosemary Smith for the Village Green**

Robert advised that nothing would be done until the spring.

**ACTION RT**

### **Liverton Hill**

All the work has now been carried out. PA had contacted Kent Highways about improving the warning signs for the single track section and to find out whether the Safety Audit had been carried out which would also look into the alignment of the hill and the bad visibility for motorists. She had been advised that the Safety Officer did not have any further recommendations for any further work and was quite happy that the scheme is now complete. As well as nagging Highways about a more visible sign PA has also started to ask whether the 30 mile speed limit could continue from Grafty right the way up through Liverton Hill, she advised that she has now been told to contact Transportation.

**ACTION PA**

### **2 Manholes Dipping**

PA said she was not sure whether the repairs to the manholes at Lavender Cottage and the old Garage had been done, but would find out for the next meeting.

**ACTION PA**

### **Hedge Cutting – Who d'A Thought It**

This has now been carried out.

### **Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme**

Pat reported that although she had not applied for the information to become a Quality Parish Council, as soon as she had time she would contact the necessary body.

**ACTION PA**

### **Village Telephone Box**

PA is still to contact British Telecom to ask them to come and clean the telephone box. In the meantime she had found out from Pat & Bernard Dodson the history of the red telephone box. When Pat & Bernard owned the shop BT wanted replace the red box with a modern telephone box, to which they said no as it would not be in keeping with our village. BT then decided that they would put it on the village green, but were persuaded that it would mean people crossing the road from the shop side where there were always parked cars and as there had been a couple of bad accidents it was deemed to be too dangerous because of speeding traffic. BT agreed to leave the existing box where it was as long as Pat & Bernard agreed for it to stay on their land, as is still the case now that Rob & Hazel own the shop.

**ACTION PA**

**Footway in front of Lynwood House**

The clerk reported that she had contacted Kent Highways and although an order had been raised to repair the footway by Lynwood House, this still had not been carried out.

**ACTION PA**

**Gully Jetting Schedule**

PA had been in touch with Kent Highways to find out whether there is a schedule for jetting the gullies and had been advised that they are in the process of setting up a schedule for the whole Borough which of course could take some time, but in the meantime they are quite happy to come out as and when necessary.

**Gully & Carriageway just below Stream Farm**

PA reported that even though she had informed Kent Highways about the gully being higher than the carriageway and that the carriageway is dipping badly, nothing had yet been done, so she will continue to hassle them.

**ACTION PA**

**Letter to Andy Moreton**

The clerk said that she had written to Andy Moreton on behalf of the Parish Council to thank him for all that had been done on Liverton Hill.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

A request was made by Joan Davidson for Notices of Meetings to be placed in the church porch, this was something that used to be done but for some reason no longer happened.

**ACTION PA**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Elmstone Farm, Elmstone Hole Road, ME17 2AJ - MA/08/1737**

Installation of endless pool within ground floor storage space, existing door in west elevation to be replaced with BI-Folding door and enlargement of windows to new pool room. Application has been withdrawn.

**Broadstone House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AT – MA/08/2078**

Erection of a single storey rear extension – Planning Permission granted.

**Woodsden Villa, Lenham Road TN27 9LJ – MA/09/0197**

Application for full planning permission for the erection of a replacement dwelling. There were no objections from the Parish Council

**CORRESPONDENCE**

KCC – Registers of Common Land & Town or Village Greens

MBC – Recycling

SEERA – Update on the South East Plan

KCC – South East Plan

MBC – Residential Extensions Supplementary Planning Document

MBC – Asset Management Plan

KALC – Minutes of Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September

MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/12/08-31/03/09

Kent Highways – KCC Permit Scheme further Consultation

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MBC – Draft notes from Regeneration & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
InterRoute – Essential Works to Dead, Dying & Hazardous Trees on M20  
MBC – Draft Sustainable Community Strategy for MBC 2010-2020  
MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/01/08-30/04/09  
Kent Police Newsletter  
River Basin Planning Environment Agency – Consultation period to run to 22 June '09  
English Rural Housing Association – The Bulletin  
Environment Agency – River Basin Bulletin  
KALC – Planes, Trains & Automobiles  
Citizens Advice Bureau  
MBC – St George's Day Parade  
Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Kent Village of the Year 2009  
“ “ “ “ Subscription application  
MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/02/08-31/05/09  
MBC – Notice of Alteration to Register of Electors 2009  
Kent Messenger Group – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plant a tree  
MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/03/08-30/06/09  
Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Competition for Community Retailer of '09  
KALC – Training Legal and Finance Update  
South East Water – Planning Future Water Supplies  
KHS – Parish Portal-Update to Joint Transportation Boards  
Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Climate Change Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March  
MBC – Parish Council Liaison Day 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
MBC – Adoption of Loose & London Rd Character Assessment Supp.Planning

## **FINANCE**

**Balance in Hand** on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov '08 **£2815.63**

No cheques have been issued or monies received

**Closing Balance 20<sup>th</sup> February '09** **£4990.63**

PA had received correspondence from John Owen the Accountant at MBC asking if we had any requirements for 'One off Bids', she had written back saying that we had none.

A Precept form had been received and it was agreed that the amount should be increased from £1200 to £1400 for the year; costs are likely to increase for the Quality Parish Council application.

## **ANY OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS/ARISING**

### **Water leak on Liverton Hill**

PA reported that she had been in touch with Earl Bournier who normally deals with any water problems on Liverton Hill about a new leak, he told her that he is no longer responsible for this and that it should be reported in the usual manner through the Contact Centre.

**ACTION PA**

**Parish East Forum Meeting**

PA had received an Agenda for the forthcoming meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Unfortunately, we are not able to attend; PA is to send our apologies. **ACTION PA**

**Parish Verge Maintenance**

The clerk said that she had received an email from Kent Highway Services saying that they were updating their records and asked that we let them know of any Highway verges that are maintained by the Parish. PA is to advise that verges are maintained by the owners, but the triangles of grass and the pumping station on Liverton Hill need to be maintained by KHS. **ACTION PA**

**Stiles/Kissing Gates**

Back in December Ron Galton contacted the Rights of Way Officer about the possibility of changing the stiles to kissing gates to make it easier for the disabled and people with dogs. Ron has all the relevant information and is compiling a list of stile locations with the help of Chris Wheal before the matter can be taken further. **ACTION RG**

**Pheasantry Elmstone Farm**

PA reported that information had been received regarding the pheasant pens that had been put up at Elmstone Farm. A Farmer has leased the field and installed the pens for the pheasants to lay eggs which will be until around May/June and the same will happen next year.

**Notice Board**

Ron Galton said that several parishioners had approached him about having the Notice Board on the Village Green, moved nearer to the fence to make it easier to read any notices without having to become muddy when the ground is wet and soggy. We are going to contact Michael Smith and ask him if it can be done. **ACTION PA**

**Drains Woodcock Lane**

Ron Galton reported that he had telephoned Kent Highways to inform them that the drains were blocked outside his property and were flooding into his drive, there appeared to be a blockage between the Village Green and his house. He also reported that in front of the property known as Telstar is a telephone joint box, the verge has worn away and the box has been smashed, if the repairs are not carried out the water is likely to get into the junction box and could cause an interruption to our telephone lines. He had progressed the complaint and nobody seemed to know anything about it. PA was asked to speak to her contact at KHS to find out what was going on. **ACTION PA**

**Freighter Collections**

It had been rumoured that the weekend freighter service might be withdrawn. PA had received an email from MBC saying that there are no plans to withdraw the service although they do want to make it more efficient by reducing travelling time between sites and targeting areas where it is needed most – so we'll wait and see what happens. PA was asked to write to MBC and tell them what a good service is provided in our area and how we could not do without it. **ACTION PA**

**NHS Rurality of Area**

A letter and a map had been received from the NHS asking our opinion about the rurality of the area as they have received an application to open a pharmacy in the Ashford area. The map covered such areas as Egerton, Platts Heath, Sutton Valence, Little

Chart etc plus a corner in Ashford which is not really rural. PA is to reply that apart from the small corner in Ashford, we consider the whole area to be very rural **ACTION PA**

**Date of the Next Meetings**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Annual Parish & Annual Parish Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

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

Signed..... Dated .....