

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 25th March 2009

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON
Wednesday 25th February 2009 at 7.30pm 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

PC Paul Kemsley

Joan Davidson
Mike Davidson
John Collins

Peter Tweddell (Silva Energy)

TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The clerk advised that she had not received apologies for absence from Councillor Richard Thick and would contact him.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ron Galton declared an interest in item 10a – Grafty Green History Society and Shaun Wickens declared his interest in the Planning Application for Blenberry Farm.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 20th February having been circulated were approved and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman, subject to the closing balance as at 20th February being amended to £4990.63, due to an error by the Clerk, and the Quality Town & Council Scheme being shown as an item on the Agenda.

LOCAL POLICING

PC Paul Kemsley reported that 3 crimes had been committed between 21/02/09 and 25/03/09:-

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09/3/09 Burglary Broadstone Farm Cottage
24/3/09 Land Rover stolen from Marchant Farm
09/3/09 Attempted burglary Grafty Green Garden Centre

Paul reported that Tom Smith's replacement, a WPC had started and would be out with another Police Officer for a further 4-6 weeks familiarising her with the area and further training. She will be introduced to us sometime in the future.

Paul asked if there were any Farmers at the meeting as police have purchased trackers for large items such as tractors or quad bikes. They have 3 trackers out at the moment and have already made 6 arrests. There are a few spare and the police are offering them to farmers. PA was asked to let Mr Hammerton know about this and if any other farmers are interested they are to contact the clerk who can give them Paul's telephone number.

The subject of vehicles speeding through the village was discussed again and Paul said that as soon as resources were available he would carry out speed checks. He was asked to make sure this was done between the hours of 6.30am and 9.30am and if possible in the evening between 5pm and 7pm.

The Chairman thanked Paul for attending the meeting and he then left.

MATTERS ARISING from Minutes of 20th February 2009

40-30 Mile Speed Limit Changes

Since the last meeting PA had been in touch with Michael Heath at Kent Highways Transportation Dept. regarding the possibility of an Interactive sign being installed. He had replied saying that because the crash locations are outside the 30mph limit, Grafty Green does not score high enough compared to other locations. She had also asked him if it would be possible for the Parish to purchase an interactive sign themselves, and was told that this would not be possible either. He said that he would consider putting up a Blue sign which showed that this was a Police Speed Check Area, but would like the police to carry out speed checks twice a month so that drivers could see that this was happening. This was discussed by the Councillors but decided against. PA is to continue to find out what can be done to slow drivers down.

ACTION PA

30 Mile Speed limit Signs

The re-siting of the 30mph signs had now been carried out to everyone's satisfaction.

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 advised PA that the next meeting would be end April/May.

ACTION

PA

Potholes

PA reported that the very large dangerous potholes had been repaired. Obviously there were still many many small potholes; she had been in touch with her contact at Kent Highways who had said that only large holes were being repaired as there were so

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many through the Borough and even though it would make sense to repair the small ones before they become larger there just was not the time to be spent doing this.

ACTION PA

Petsfield

PA reported that she had written a letter to Richard Lusty which Ron Galton had drafted but had not heard from him. She was requested by the Chairman to ring him and check that he had received the letter. Councillor Jenny Gibson said that she would see what she could find out about the latest situation on Petsfield.

ACTION PA/JG

Various Requests from Rosemary Smith for the Village Green

This work had now been completed.

Liverton Hill

PA had contacted Transportation about extending the 30 mph limit through Liverton Hill, but had been advised that because of the character of the road and the sporadic levels of development it would not meet the requirements. She had also asked for more visible signs to be installed on the hill, at the moment the road narrowing signs were doing no good at all, vehicles need to stop at the brow or the bottom of the hill and make sure that they can see that the road is clear before they continue, only 2 very small vehicles can pass each other. There have been several accidents on the hill, but these are never reported to the Police because they are damage only. One of the Parishioners had contacted the Parish Council regarding the bank erosion opposite the kerbing installation. Since the kerbing has been put in, the road has become narrower and many vehicles tend to drive more towards the middle of the road, consequently when another vehicle comes the other way, because, in most cases there is not enough room for 2 vehicles to pass each other one vehicle will drive onto the verge which is being severely eroded, as well as that the black and white posts are being damaged and knocked over. The Chairman asked PA to write to Kent Highways.

ACTION PA

2 Manholes Dipping

PA reported that repairs to the manholes at Lavender Cottage and the old Garage had been carried out.

ACTION PA

Village Telephone Box

PA had contacted British Telecom to come and clean the telephone box, they had promised to do this within a few days, this hadn't been done and she would telephone them again.

ACTION PA

Footway in front of Lynwood House

The clerk reported that this repair had still not been carried out; she would continue to chase Kent Highways.

ACTION PA

Gully & Carriageway just below Stream Farm

PA reported that a large pothole had been repaired and that because of a misunderstanding the item had been removed from Kent Highways spreadsheet by mistake, it has now been re-activated as an outstanding item.

ACTION PA

Water leak on Liverton Hill

PA has notified the Contact Centre at Kent Highways that we have another leak on Liverton Hill opposite the grid, which has now been added to the outstanding items on their spreadsheet.

ACTION PA

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Parish East Forum Meeting

PA sent our apologies saying that we would not be able to attend this meeting.

Parish Verge Maintenance

The clerk said she had advised Kent Highways that they are responsible for the cutting of grass on the triangles and at the pumping station at Liverton Hill.

Stiles/Kissing Gates

This will take some time to sort out as Ron Galton is collating the locations of the stiles before anything further can be done.

ACTION RG

Notice Board

It was agreed by the Parish Council that the Notice Board should be moved to the grass side of the inner fence, where the gap is opposite the Post Office. Rosemary & Michael Smith have agreed to re-position it.

ACTION PA

Drains Woodcock Lane

PA had contacted KHS and since the last meeting they had sent their representative Mr Twickin to investigate the problem. Ron Galton had met with him telling him the problems also explaining that the water runs from the road under Sylvia Close' bungalow and out the other side. Mr Twickin is to look into this and as soon as he has more information will come back to RG.

ACTION RG

Freighter Collections

PA had written to MBC telling them what a good service is provided in our area and how we could not do without the freighter.

NHS Rurality of Area

A letter had been sent by PA as requested at the last meeting.

Notice of Meeting to be placed in Church Porch

A request had been made by Joan Davidson for future notices of Meetings to be placed in the Church porch; this was now being carried out.

PUBLIC SESSION

Nothing to report

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Elmstone Farm, Elmstone Hole Road, ME17 2AJ - MA/09/0156

Application for listed building consent for the installation of an endless pool within Oast ground floor storage space. No objections

Woodsden Villa, Lenham Road TN27 9LJ – MA/08/2017

Application for full planning permission for the erection of a replacement dwelling (Resubmission of MA/08/0392) this is an appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Blenberry Farm, Liverton Hill, Boughton Malherbe ME17 2AL – MA/09/0330

Application for full planning permission for the erection of a first floor front extension, two storey rear extension and insertion of 3 dormer windows. No objections

Grafty Green Garden Centre, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Kent ME17 2AY – MA/09/0363

Application of a new building to house and operate a bio-mass electricity plant.

Peter Tweddell from Silva Energy had attended the meeting to explain about the bio-mass installation and answer any questions from the Parish Council. In short the electricity plant will be used to generate electricity and heat, which will be used by the garden centre to heat the greenhouses, any surplus will be exported to the National Grid. Wood chip will be used to fuel it, with around 3 deliveries from a Toyota Hilux, per working day between the hours of 9-5pm Monday to Friday. The size of the plant is approximately two forty foot shipping containers, one on top of the other, the greenhouses are approx. 8 metres tall with the chimney being 11 metres tall, and depending on where you are looking from the building itself cannot be seen above the level of the present greenhouses although the top of the chimney may be seen. The noise levels will be kept to a minimum, the walls are made from straw bales that have high sound attenuation properties, should the noise levels be deemed to be too high there is an option to put a barrier around the building which would cut down the noise. The air intake for the plant will use a louvered sound deadening screen.

There would be no objections from the Parish Council to this application.

CORRESPONDENCE

Freighter Locations & Dates

KCC – Common Land/Village Green Seminar

MBC – Notice of Alteration on the Register of Electors

Hugh Robertson – Letter re SEERA Consultation on Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people

KALC – Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2009

MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/4/09 – 31/07/09

MBC – Report of the Assistant Director of Development First Review of Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan

Grafty Green History Society

Although this section was on the Agenda after Quality Parish Council, it was agreed that it should come before Finance because it would impact on financial requirements.

Mike Davidson represented the Grafty Green History Society and explained that he and Peter Bird were Committee members, Ron Galton was Chairman and John Collins Treasurer, and that they are all involved in research and collating information on the history of our village. To date they have gathered quite a lot of information and are hoping to complete all the information by October 2009 which would lead to the publication of a book in July 2010. The intention is that every household in Boughton Malherbe (approx. 200) will receive a free copy of the history of Boughton Malherbe; some should be sold for profit. The printing costs are estimated to be in the region of £5000 for 250 – 300 copies, and in order to get things rolling for deposits that may be required, Mike asked if the Parish Council would be willing to make a donation. Mike Hitchins proposed that the Parish Council should donate £500, which was seconded by Shaun Wickens.

430

FINANCE

Balance in Hand on 20th Feb '09 **£4990.63**

The following cheques have been issued:-

300306	Richard Tew	137.96	
307	R Smith	<u>105.00</u>	
			242.96

Closing Balance 25th March '09 **£4747.67**

PA reported that she had received the certified Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2008 from the Audit Commission and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit had been displayed on the Notice Boards.

It was agreed that £1000 be donated to the Village Hall for creosoting, repairs to the windows and the roof, this was proposed by Ron Galton and seconded by Sylvia Close. Ron Galton proposed that £500 should be donated to St Nicholas Church and seconded by Mike Hitchins.

It was proposed by Sylvia Close that £750 be given to Grafty Green Gardening Club which would help towards the Annual trip for the village, and seconded by Shaun Wickens.

Mike Hitchins proposed that a further £500 be allocated to St Nicholas Church for the renewal of handrails which are either side of the entrance and also the gate at the bottom of the church yard; this was seconded by Shaun Wickens.

It was estimated that the removal, repair and re-siting of the Notice Board would be around £200.

Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme

PA reported that she had not done anything about us becoming a Quality Parish Council, but would do so as soon as time allowed.

ACTION PA

ANY OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS/ARISING

It was agreed that MH should put a notice in the magazine about the Annual Parish Meeting which is to be held on 12th May.

ACTION MH

Date of the Next Meetings

Annual Parish & Annual Parish Council Meeting 12th May 2009

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

Signed. Dated