

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 27th March 2007

A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON Tuesday 27th March 2007 at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall

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

Cllr J Gibson

Mrs J Davidson
Mr M Davidson

APOLOGIES: Mr R Turner
Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on items on the Agenda

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 16th January 2007 were circulated approved and signed as a true and correct record.

MATTERS ARISING from 16th January Meeting

40-30 Mile Speed Limit Sign Changes

PA reported that the Order proposing the change of speed limit from 40 to 30 miles per hour had been advertised in the Kent Messenger on 9th February and was open to public representation until 6th March. Now that this period had ended PA had been advised by Louise Rowlands of Kent Highway Services that they were in the process of ordering the signs which should be in place in the not too distant future, no doubt when the new Financial Year starts.

ACTION PA

HGV's Weight Restrictions

As previously stated nothing further would be done about Weight Restrictions until the change of speed limit has been implemented.

ACTION PA

No. 59 Bus

As John Collins was away on holiday Mike Hitchins had kindly attended the recent meeting in his place, to discuss how things were with the No. 59 bus. MH informed us that the numbers of people using the bus had increased, Nu Venture were still happy with Saturdays and the service should be advertised as much as possible to encourage continued use.

ACTION PA

Potholes Woodcock Lane & Church Road

PA reported that she had emailed her contact at Kent Highways with the Spreadsheet showing all the problems in the village only to discover some weeks later that she had left and someone else had taken over without PA being notified. The Spreadsheet had been emailed to the new contact a few days before the meeting, but no update had been received as yet.

ACTION PA

Proposed Closure of Platts Heath School

KA reported that the school would continue to stay open and negotiations were at a delicate stage. Discussions were still going on.

ACTION KA

Travellers Sites

Nothing further to report on this issue as Richard Thick did not attend the meeting. PA said she would contact Richard before the next meeting for an update.

ACTION PA/R.THICK

Hedge Cutting

KA reported that he had obtained 2 verbal quotes, the best of which was from Andrew Hopkins whose charges would be £18 per hour; the work would take no more than a day. Mr Weeks had been contacted and had agreed to the work being carried out. KA said that the hedges would be cut before 31st March.

ACTION KA

Parking Church Road

MH had investigated the situation with the parking problems in Church Road; he had spoken to the owners who were aware of the difficulties with the parking and as soon as practicable would be building a garage, but this would be done as and when funds were available.

Willow Tree Cottage-Fire Hydrant

It looks as though something will be done in the not too distant future, as the dip in the road surrounding the Fire Hydrant had now been marked out. PA could not report further on this issue because no update had been given on the Spreadsheet

ACTION PA

Liverton Hill Farm

Nothing new to report on this, hopefully with the new Financial Year about to start, maybe funds will be available to put double kerbing in, as promised.

ACTION PA

LOCAL POLICING

As promised Jenny Gibson had given the details of the policewoman who had replaced Bryan Hillman to PA. PA reported that since the last meeting she had tried to contact the new policewoman – Georgina Messenger, without success and then discovered that she had left. After further investigation she had discovered that someone else would be providing the crime figures, a Stuart Thomas PC 10788, she had asked him to let her have the figures from 7th September '06, as per the last minutes, Bryan Hillman had reported that there had been no crimes and yet KA had spoken with Peter the previous Community Police officer who had said there were approximately 9, and this needed to be clarified. In the meantime, she had emailed PC Thomas and received emails confirming that he would be providing all the crime figures she needed in time for this meeting. On 26th March she had emailed him again to remind him and received a reply

It was agreed that PA should write a letter explaining these issues to Sir Michael Fuller and await some explanation.

ACTION PLAN

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Yew Tree Farm, Eastwood Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2DQ Ref MA/06/0109

Conversion of barn to form one residential dwelling.

PC has no objections.

Popes Hall Barn, Sandway, ME17 2BHY. Ref MA/07/0472

Erection of an aisle extension to converted barn.

It was agreed that no objections would be made.

CORRESPONDENCE

KAPC – Agenda Meeting 12th February '07

MBC – Maidstone Local Development Framework-Core Strategy Document

MBC- New Releases

MBC – Record of Decision

MBC – Reports for Decision

Mid Kent Water – Hosepipe Restriction lifted

MBC – Mayor Correspondence

Action with Communities in Rural Kent

MBC – Report for Decision

South East England Review

KAPC – Parish News

Freighter Times

MBC – Forward Plan Key Decisions 1/3/07-30/06/07

MBC – Forward Plan Key Decisions 1/4/07-31/6/07

MBC - Reports for Decision

MBC – News Release

MBC – Record of Decision

Email – Barbara Pearce – Liverton Hill

Audit Commission – Notification of appointment of Alun Williams Auditor

FINANCE

Balance in Hand on 22nd Aug '06

£ 4078.40

The following cheques had been issued: - £

300274	L. Hulme(Cable Xmas Lights)	39.31
275	R. Tew (Xmas Tree, Lights etc)	169.95
276	Gardening Club	500.00
277	G.Green Village Hall	1000.00
278	St. Nicholas Church	500.00
279	P. Anderson	569.42

(2778.68)

Balance in Hand as at 27/03/07

£ 1299.72

349

The following expenditure for this financial year was agreed: -	£
Hedge Cutting	150
Village Hall (MH declared an interest)	750

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dog Fouling

Complaints had been received that there were some dog walkers who were ignoring the Notices asking them to take their dog waste home with them. It was agreed that further Notices would be put on the Notice Boards and in the Parish magazine. **ACTION PA**

Public Footpath

MH reported that the footpath in Church Road is very narrow and has become almost impassable because of fencing which has fallen down and the owner has done nothing about it. It was suggested that the owner should be notified via Ian Hayes, the Public Rights of Way Officer. **ACTION PA**

Dormer Windows

Queries had been received concerning Planning Permission for the dormer window erected at the Kings Behind bungalow in Church road. PA reported that she had telephoned the Planning Department who had informed her that as long as the Dormer was at the back of the building and not above a certain size Planning Permission was not required. Someone had asked why, when they applied for the same thing, they were refused and there was even an application in the latest Kent Messenger. The situation regarding building regulations for the dormers has yet to be clarified. PA will ask the relevant council department to provide written confirmation either way and report back at the next meeting. **ACTION PA**

Pothole – Ivy Cottage

Joan & Mike Davidson reported that a very large pothole in front of their house on Liverton Hill, was becoming increasingly worse due to the heavy traffic on the hill, and asked that this should be reported as soon as possible to Kent Highways. **ACTION PA**

Mayors' Visit

Mike Fitzgerald, the Mayor of Maidstone was due to visit Grafty Green on the following Friday 30th March, which was all part of his intention to visit all the Parishes in his Borough. KA & PA reported that the plan was for him to arrive at 11am when he would firstly visit the Grafty Green Garden Centre, then the Brewery at Telpits Farm, followed by lunch of Fish & Chips at the Kings Head, where he would also get to meet several members of the Community. **ACTION KA/PA**

Date of Next Meetings

- 9th May 2007 - Annual Parish Meeting (formerly Annual General Meeting)
- Annual Parish Council Meeting (formerly Annual Parish Meeting)

21st August 2007

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Signed..... Dated