

**UNNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Mr K Alexander (Chairman-pre Election)  
Mrs S Close  
Mr R Galton (Vice Chairman-post Election)  
Mr M Hitchins  
Mr R Turner (Chairman-post Election)  
Mr S Wickens  
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

Cllr J Gibson  
Cllr R Thick

Mike Davidson  
Joan Davidson  
Joan Drury

**APOLOGIES:** Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

PC P Kemsley  
PCSO Tom Smith

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Following the MBC Parish Councillors Elections on 1<sup>st</sup> May, Kenneth Alexander had not been re-elected, a new Parish Councillor had been elected, and this was Ron Galton. Mr Alexander asked for nominations for the post of Chairman, Mr Robert Turner was proposed by Mike Hitchins and seconded by Sylvia Close. Robert Turner indicated that he would be happy to accept. Kenneth Alexander congratulated Robert on becoming Chairman. Robert Turner presented Kenneth with a gift from the Parish and thanked Kenneth for his almost 30 years of hard work and dedication to the Parish in fulfilling his duty as a Parish Councillor, after which Kenneth Alexander said good bye to all and left.

**CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Mr Robert Turner confirmed his declaration of acceptance of office, his form which had been completed along with all the other Parish Councillors prior to the meeting, was amended accordingly.

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Now that Robert Turner was Chairman, the post of Vice Chairman was vacant, the Chairman invited nominations for this post. Mr Ron Galton was proposed by Shaun Wickens and seconded by Sylvia Close, as there were no other nominations Mr Galton was welcomed and declared Vice Chairman by Robert Turner.

**TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The clerk advised that apologies had been received from Lord Sandy Bruce Lockhart, PC Paul Kemsley and PCSO Tom Smith who both had other commitments this evening.

Both Richard Thick and Jenny Gibson had advised that because they had already committed to go to the Parish Council Meeting at Ulcombe they would be attending Grafty Green, albeit a little later.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on the Agenda. PA reminded everyone that if their Personal Interests changed she should be advised as soon as possible so that the Monitoring Officer can be notified.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> April having been circulated were approved and signed as a correct record.

**LOCAL POLICING**

PA reported that she had been advised that from now on PCSO Tom Smith would be providing information on crime figures and that he had informed her that there were no crimes in the area since the last meeting and they had actually seen a 9.5% reduction in crime across the ward since the same time last year.

PC Kemsley had informed PA that he was still due to carry out a concentrated speed check, although he had been around the village which, in his opinion, had slowed vehicles down.

The Parish Councillors expressed their disappointment that not one representative from the Police had been able to attend our Annual Parish Council Meeting and hoped that this would not be the case at forthcoming meetings, perhaps they could make every effort for at least one police officer to be present. The Police are to be advised that the speeding issue needs to be made a priority.

**MATTERS ARISING from Minutes of 18<sup>TH</sup> March 2008**

**40-30 Mile Speed Limit Changes**

We are still waiting for the extensive speed check to be carried out as per the report above. RT discussed what measures could be taken to slow vehicles down through the village, it was agreed that the possibility and costs should be looked into for erecting an electronic speed sign which shows drivers the speed at which they are travelling, the general consensus of opinion was that drivers are shocked into realising that they are driving above what in our case would be the 30mph speed limit. Perhaps it could be run by solar energy? Another option might be to erect gates as they have in Frittenden where the road becomes single track, thus slowing vehicles right down. **ACTION PA**

**30 Mile Speed limit Signs**

Kent Highways are still waiting for the Traffic Order to be advertised, once this has been done, the signs can be re-sited; there had been some delay to this because of the re-organisation within Kent Highways. The estimate of £2000 for 'slow' markings in red tar at each end of the village was discussed, but will not be decided upon until the 30mph signs are re-sited. **ACTION PA**

**HGV's Weight Restrictions**

Louise Rowlands had informed the clerk that survey data was now available but had not been received yet. PA would continue to hassle Transportation. **ACTION PA**

**No. 59 Bus**

Nothing new to report, the next meeting is due to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> May. **ACTION PA**

**Potholes**

At long last potholes have been, in the main, filled in, Kent Highways had launched a blitz on potholes across Kent during April which had resulted in the majority of potholes in our area being repaired. We have a few which have appeared since in Woodcock Lane which PA had reported. Ivy House Farm pothole had been repaired, as well as the pothole by St Nicholas Church. **ACTION PA**

**Petsfield**

A letter had been written to MBC objecting to the amended Planning Application, reiterating what had been said before plus some additional points. **ACTION PA/RTH**

**Public Footpath-Church Road**

PA reported that although she had emailed David Nunn to find out if he had received a reply to his letter to the owners of the fence by the footpath, she had not heard from him. **ACTION PA**

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

Rosemary has all this in hand, her husband Michael has the wood and it is weathering. The question was asked by Shaun Wickens if Michael could also replace the rails which have broken on the fencing surrounding the green. **ACTION RT**

**Liverton Hill**

Following the report from Jacobs, the company Kent Highways use for Health and Safety issues, plus the warning from Kent Police, the hill is due to be closed on 19<sup>th</sup> May for approximately 7 days to remove the wooden bollards and replace with plastic ones, install road narrows signs on both approaches to warn drivers of the oncoming hazard and to paint 'Slow' near the 30mph signs plus white lines in front of the posts on both sides. It is hoped that whilst the hill is closed something will be done about the water which is cascading down the hill together with the drainage problem. **ACTION PA**

**2 Manholes Dipping**

These had been reported to Richard Emmett and PA was awaiting his return from honeymoon, to see what was being done. **ACTION PA**

**Honywood & Douglas Charity Lenham**

PA had advised Pat Sutton that we as Parish Council had no objections to David Chantler and Mike Davidson being reappointed.

**Who d'a Thought It**

The hearing regarding the extension of hours was held on 14<sup>th</sup> April. It was determined that the hours of opening would be Sunday – Thursday 11:00-01:00, Friday and Saturday 11:00-01:30, Alcohol & Food can be served between the hours of 11:00-00:30 Sunday – Thursday and 11:00-01:30 Friday and Saturday with the following conditions:-

Notices to be displayed requiring customers to leave quietly  
Doors & windows are to remain closed whilst entertainment is taking place  
Noise is to be inaudible inside the nearest noise sensitive premises after 23:00. If any of the neighbours have noise issues they are to report them to the Environmental Health Dept or the Police.  
The marquee outside can only be used when a special license has been applied for and granted.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Mike Davidson asked whether anything was going to be done about the drain and water problem on Liverton Hill during the closure due to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> May. PA reported that she was doing as much as she could by emailing and contacting the Manager and Director of Kent Highways to ensure that something is done, as it would be ridiculous to have to close the hill again. She was assured that the problem would be looked at when the hill is closed, but we will have to wait and see.

**ACTION PA**

### **Chairman's Report**

This was read out by Robert Turner.

Here we are again with another annual report but with this one there is a twist in the tail. It will be my last report and my final attendance at a Parish Council meeting. Silvia you may not stand down and I will not be co-opted on again, even if the remaining councillors agree to it.

I have done my stint as a Parish Councillor.

Now to Business. The Parish Council has met on 5 occasions as a pattern of the regular meetings and 2 times, I believe, as a planning committee in between the usual meetings. If I go back, however many years it is we would be still have the same items on the agenda.

The speed limit – That at long last has been reduced to 30mph, but whether, or not, the speed of the traffic has been reduced is a different matter. The exit, or is it, the entry signs still have to be brought back to the last house in the way to Lenham.

The state of the Woodcock Road, in particular, I believe, was mentioned at every meeting. Of course all the roads and lanes in the parish are in an appalling state. Potholes are mended very occasionally, only to reappear again a few weeks later.

Liverton Hill has been opened and closed on several occasions during the year, the final fiasco being the erection of wooden and plastic posts to protect a bank which is being eroded by vehicles passing each other at the pinch places. I haven't been up there recently so I don't know whether the wooden ones have been removed, or whether they are being left to be hit by a certain lorry. It was very badly handled by Highways and our thanks to Shaun Wickens who attempted to sort the mess out. The Council did have the hedges cut last summer to relieve the pressure but must be careful not to create a precedent.

The 59 bus continues to make its journey to and from Maidstone, and as long as it pays its way will be a permanent fixture.

I believe there were 11, planning applications during the year, some of which are still in the melting pot. 7 have been approved, 1 refused on appeal, 1 withdrawn.

During the year David Chantler and Mike Davidson were reappointed as our representatives on the Honeywood and Douglas Charity. This Parish has an allocation of houses and if any parishioner is in need of a retirement home they should apply for one. Especially as there are new ones being built now.

The Police are very welcome to attend our meetings even though, thank goodness, crime doesn't figure very high in the Parish.

Finally, as always, I would like to thank Pat for keeping me and the Council on the straight and narrow.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **2 Wallett Court Cottages, Southernden Road, Headcorn TN27 9LN –MA/08/0668**

Erection of a two-storey extension.

Development Control Manager's Recommendation is to approve and the application will be reported to the meeting of the Planning Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm.

PA read out a reply she had received from Hugh Robertson regarding the copy letter that had been sent to him about Petsfield. In the letter he sympathises with us and agrees that it is quite wrong that travellers get rights that are denied to other people. He pointed out what we already know that all these problems are as a direct result of a decision by John Prescott, he would be writing to MBC on our behalf.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Rural Community Council – Invitation to join Action with Communities in Rural Kent

MBC – News Release re Spring into Clean Sweep

KCC – Proposed Changes to the Planning Application Process

Freighter Locations list April – July '08

Kent Police Authority – Have your say 8<sup>th</sup> April

KALC – Minutes of the Meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008-05-17

MBC – Meeting with Parish Councils Chairmen & Clerks

MBC – Agenda Licensing Act 2003 14<sup>th</sup> April re Who d'a Thought It

MBC – Election Notices

Kent Highways – The Speed Limit Review

Maidstone Trust – Gurkha Engineers

MBC - Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/5/08 – 31/08/08

South East England Regional Assembly – Region's housing needs

KCC – Kent Annual Public Health Report – Management Summary

## **FINANCE**

**Balance in Hand** on 18<sup>th</sup> March '08

**£1870.63**

The following cheques had been issued: -                      £

### **396**

300294	R. Smith	172.88
295	R. Tew	86.98
296	Grafty Garden Centre	99.99
297	P. Anderson	614.66
298	Malherbe Monthly	500.00
299	G.Green Village Hall	500.00
		<u>1974.51</u>
	<b>Balance as at 31/3/06</b>	<b><u>£(103.88)</u></b>

Since year-end £1200.00 for Precept had been received

**Closing Balance as at 13<sup>th</sup> May** **£1096.12**

The Accounts book together with the Annual Return for the Audit Commission were passed around to the Parish Council members for perusal and then signed by RT as a true and correct record. PA said that John Collins would soon be auditing the accounts, after which they would be sent to the Audit Commission.

A cheque for £184.56 made payable to the Kent Association of Local Councils was issued and signed.

The clerk reported that the Insurance premium of £306 was due to be paid at the beginning of June and asked whether it might be worth obtaining another quote, it was agreed that it would be and MH suggested asking other clerks what Insurance Company they used.

**ACTION PA**

#### **Any other information items/arising.**

RT asked PA to contact Kent Highways to report that the triangle of grass at the junction on Eastwood Road (opposite what was the Pig & Whistle), needs cutting, and could be causing a problem obscuring the vision of motorists.

**ACTION PA**

Ron Galton advised the meeting that he had recently read about something called 'The People's Million' which was a way of small communities obtaining funds for projects and perhaps during the coming year we could work towards receiving such a grant if we could identify a project, he reported that Bearsted had recently received £50,000. MH informed RG that we do receive grants for smaller projects and it was suggested by Jenny Gibson that if we required larger grants than we were receiving at the moment, that Loic Flory at MBC should be contacted. Discussion took place about what projects might require a grant; one suggestion was the possible installation of water and a toilet up at the Church. The matter of grants for projects will be followed up.

#### **Date of the Next Meetings**

12<sup>th</sup> August 2008

**397**

4<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
13<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
17<sup>th</sup> March 2009

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

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