

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 14th August 2008

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON
Thursday 14th August 2008 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)

Joan Davidson

APOLOGIES: Cllr J Gibson
Cllr R Thick

PC P Kemsley
PCSO Tom Smith

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Members were extremely upset to learn of the death that morning of Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart who had always given his great support to the village. Robert wanted to record a moment of sorrow for him and his family, he will be sadly missed. Robert and the members agreed that it would be appropriate to send a card on behalf of the Parish Council.

TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The clerk advised that apologies had been received from Councillors Jenny Gibson and Richard Thick, also PC Paul Kemsley and PCSO Tom Smith 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 Annual Parish Council Meeting of 13th May 2008 having been circulated were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

LOCAL POLICING

PA advised that 2 crimes had been committed since the last meeting:-

2/06/08 1 Theft

405

8/08/08 1 Theft of Motor Vehicle.

Several of the Parish Councillors mentioned the accident on the Headcorn Road a few weeks ago and also the accident on Liverton Hill the previous Friday, and wondered why this had not been reported by the Police. PA would look into this. **ACTION PA**

PA reported that the Police had informed her that a speed check had been carried out where 4 people had been stopped who were exceeding the speed limit, she had been advised that as soon as resources were available a more extensive check would be carried out during the busy periods.

Again the Parish Councillors expressed their disappointment that not one representative from the Police had been able to attend our Meeting, also that they are not visible enough, they may drive through once in a while but there is never anyone walking around. PA was asked to advise the Police of this and ask them to make every effort to attend our next meeting.

MATTERS ARISING from Minutes of 13TH May 2008

40-30 Mile Speed Limit Changes

PA reported that she had been in touch with the Transport Engineer for Kent Highway Services, Michael Heath who had advised that although he had visited Grafty Green and noticed inappropriate speeding this had not been reflected in their crash figures which would be a basis for an interactive speed or safety warning sign, he would contact the Police to carry out further speed checks. PA had replied that his reply was not acceptable and had arranged for a meeting on the following Monday 18th August, it was agreed that Ron Galton and Shaun Wickens would also attend. **ACTION PA**

30 Mile Speed limit Signs

Still nothing heard about the installation and re-siting of the 30mph signs, this will be brought up at the meeting with Michael Heath on Monday. **ACTION PA**

HGV's Weight Restrictions

Again this would be discussed with Michael Heath who had replied to PA saying that it would be difficult to implement a width or weight limit in the area, and that other routes are more unsuitable. **ACTION PA**

No. 59 Bus

John Collins had informed PA that from the beginning of September the 9.30 would be reverting back to 9.15 am. The Thursday only bus continues and the Lenham Community bus had not yet started. The Saturday bus was still managing to keep its head above water. **ACTION PA**

Potholes

PA said that Kent Highways had been informed about the Potholes in Woodcock Lane. **ACTION PA**

Petsfield

At the Planning meeting which Robert and Ron Galton attended, it had been decided that an Ecological survey is to be carried out before the application could proceed any further. It was agreed that Ron Galton would write a letter to Maidstone Borough Council expressing the Parish Council's concerns especially with regard to this application. **ACTION RG**

Public Footpath-Church Road

PA reported that she had contacted the Public Rights of Way office, a replacement for Ian Hayes had still not been found and the person who was standing in for him – David Munn, was away on holiday. Hopefully this item would be cleared up by the next meeting.

ACTION PA

Various Requests from Rosemary Smith for the Village Green

Michael had carried out the repairs to the bench as well as the fence, the filling in with soil is still to be done, but not until the autumn, as advised by Rosemary that this would be the best time.

ACTION RT

Liverton Hill

Since the last meeting the wooden bollards have been removed and replaced with plastic ones plus each side painted and the agreed road markings. Because this was still unacceptable a meeting was also held on the green with some of the parishioners to enable those responsible from Kent Highways to come up with what would be the best way forward. Kerbing is to be installed within, it is hoped the next month, when the hill will be closed again and at the same time the current drainage problem will also be sorted out. It had been suggested to Kent Highways that there are not enough warning signs on the Hill where the road narrows and becomes single file and that perhaps Give way signs should be installed, PA had been advised that the only thing for this is Priority passing or Traffic Lights, which is totally impossible because of the sight lines and no clear vision.

ACTION PA

2 Manholes Dipping

It is hoped that when the hill is closed the repairs to the manholes at Lavender Cottage and the old Garage will be carried out.

ACTION PA

PUBLIC SESSION

There was only one member of the public present – Joan Davidson and we had already covered her item which was the drainage on Liverton Hill.

ACTION PA

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Erection of a two-storey extension. Approved on 15th May

Little Telpits Farm, Woodcock Lane, Grafty Green ME17 2AY – MA/08/0576

Following the amended Planning Application a letter had been written on behalf of the Parish Council re-iterating what had previously been said.

On 13th June the application was refused.

Planning Enforcement

An update had been received on the various enforcement issues in the parish for the period 1/2/08 – 30/04/08, PA had recently telephoned MBC to ask questions on individual items and nothing further had been done on any one of the 5 cases.

A letter had been received from MBC asking for views on Planning Enforcement, it was agreed that PA would reply to this making sure our opinions on the above are mentioned as well as Petsfield pointing out the time it has taken and why everyone is not treated the same, i.e. if this application were for a 3 bedroom house it would have been dealt with long ago.

We had been sent a copy of the reply to Hugh Robertson from David Petford Head of MBC re Petsfield.

CORRESPONDENCE

KALC – Minutes of meeting held at Bredhurst on 4th March 2008
 MBC – Forward plan of Key Decisions 1/6/08-30/09/08
 South East England Regional Assembly – A Clear Vision for the South East
 KCC – Changes to Map Pluckley
 Kent Highways – Community Liaison Officers here to help
 Enforcement Meeting Yalding
 Freight Locations 2/8/08-2/11/08
 Kent Highways – Community Operations
 MBC – Questionnaire on Integration of Diverse Communities
 KCC - KCC Legal Services
 MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/8/08-30/11/08
 KCC – Annual Parish Plan
 South East England Regional Assembly-Sustainability Framework

FINANCE

Balance in Hand on 13th May'08		<u>£1096.12</u>
The following cheques had been issued: -		£
300300	KALC	184.56
301	"	4.41
302	Allianz Insurance	306.16
303	Threshers	<u>30.69</u>
		(525.82)
Plus Receipts: MBC Concurrent	2175.00	
VAT Refund	<u>200.33</u>	
		<u>2375.33</u>
Closing Balance 14th August		<u>£2945.63</u>

A cheque for £40.00 made payable to John Collins for auditing the Accounts and a cheque for £90 made payable to Rosemary Smith were issued and signed. It was noted and agreed that Rosemary's hourly rate had increased to £10 per hour. **ACTION PA**

Any other information items/arising.

Hedge Cutting

Shaun asked if any more information had been received regarding the cutting of the hedges. He pointed out that at the meeting held on the Green regarding Liverton Hill, Richard Emmett had promised that he would contact the Farmers who own the land adjacent to the overhanging hedges to remind them that it was their responsibility to maintain their hedges. Nothing had been done and vegetation was obscuring a lot of the signs i.e. the 30mph sign at the entrance into the village. The whole of Liverton Hill needed trimming from top to bottom on both sides. PA was asked if she would look into this and at the same time find out who was responsible for hedge trimming at the Who d'A Thought It as well as pointing out that there are some very large lumps of wood in the hedge by Blenberry Farm which, if they were to fall out could be very dangerous.

ACTION PA

HGV's & Sat Nav's

PA reported that she had received an email from the Network Planner at Kent Highways asking for any roads to be identified which were unsuitable for HGV's; she had advised that Liverton Hill was unsuitable. She was asked by the Members to contact them again and inform them that Elmstone Hole Lane was also unsuitable.

ACTION PA

KALC – Speed Restriction Review

A letter had been received from KALC asking for volunteers to take part in a scheme tasked by Government to present Parish Councils views on the above subject. It was agreed that Ron Galton and Pat Anderson would volunteer.

ACTION PA

Parish & Town Council Seminar 14/10/08

An invitation has been received for just one person from the Parish Council to attend this Seminar, PA is to find out exactly what will be discussed, and then it can be decided who will attend.

ACTION PA

Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme

PA had recently been sending out various pieces of information regarding the Parish becoming a Quality Parish Council which would streamline all Parish Councils and prove that the Council is run within certain guidelines, and although it is not for certain yet, there is a possibility that Parish Councils could be penalised by their funds being reduced by 10%. One of the drawbacks of obtaining the qualification is that only the Parish Clerk can do it and it stays with the Parish Clerk, so if that person were to leave, the qualification goes with them. The other drawback of course would be the commitment and time it would take to do it, although PA has been advised that it is possible that most of the things required are probably only box ticking because we are already doing them but it may not apply to everything. Robert asked for this to be an item on the Agenda at our next meeting.

ACTION PA

Councillor's Training

Ron Galton reported that prior to his appointment as Parish Councillor, he had read that MBC provide training for new Councillors, he had been very disappointed to find that when he telephoned MBC there was no such training. He then contacted KALC, the person he spoke to was extremely rude and told him that there had already been Councillor Training sessions for this year and in any case they did not speak to anyone but the Parish Clerk. PA said she would look into this.

ACTION PA

Date of the Next Meetings

28th October 2008

13th January 2009

17th March 2009

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

Signed..... Dated