

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 12th
MAY 2009

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF BOUGHTON
MALHERBE WAS HELD ON Tuesday 12th May 2009 at 9.00pm in Grafty
Green Village Hall**

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

Cllr R Thick

5 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES: Jenny Gibson
PC Paul Kemsley

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting of 13th May 2008, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been a challenging year as Chairman especially after following Ken Alexander who held the role for about twenty years.

The Parish Council held 8 meetings, 6 of which were regular meetings plus 2 Extraordinary meetings mainly related to planning matters. There were 7 New Planning Applications - 3 were approved, 1 was refused and 2 were withdrawn. Application numbers were well down on previous years.

Liverton Hill

After Parish and Village meetings with KCC a curb was placed on one side of the hill, this contentious point now lies in the hands of KCC. These changes do not appear to have made the hill safer. The issue of signage on the hill rumbles on whilst we wait to be advised by KCC as to what we can and can't have. The discussions regarding the needs of Liverton Hill have not been completed to the satisfaction of all and the issue will continue into the next Parish year.

Speeding through the Village

The 30mph signs are at long last in their correct place ---but speeding above the limit still continues .There have been requests made to the police to enforce the speed limits
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and we hope for increased support in this area.. We have asked for interactive signs from KCC but have been refused on the basis that there are not enough reported accidents.

Petsfield-This item has been on the agenda for over two years .The current state is that the planning application has been withdrawn pending an ecological survey .Once completed a new planning application has to be re-submitted within a few weeks, if not, then Enforcement will do something about it. This new Application will be subject to the KCC Gipsy Policy

The 59 Bus-Thanks to John Collins for pursuing this matter .This is keeping the service running.

Road Repairs-The amount of time spent on this is enormous, as it is a permanent item on the agenda. Under the current regime patching is all we can expect .However larger works were recently carried out on Church Road

Rubbish Freighter -The frequency of attendance in the village is to be decreased from six weekly to eight weekly intervals. In my opinion, this is a retrograde step and it was challenged by the Parish Council .The response from KCC was rescheduling and cost cutting.

Litter Pick up Day-This was initiated by Joan Drury. Both Joan and Pat Anderson collected six sacks of litter .It has been suggested that Joan Drury be co-opted as Rubbish Liaisons Officer

Boughton Malherbe History Society-This new society is a welcome introduction into the Parish, a history of the Parish is being produced. As a Parish council we were delighted to have been able to offer support and we wish them well with their research

The Village Green-Our thanks must go to Rosemary and Michael Smith for their care of the Green

Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart-Sadly during the year Sandy Bruce –Lockhart died after a long struggle with illness. He, as a County Councillor and later as Chairman of KCC served the interests of this Parish well, he will be missed.

Quality Parish-Pat Anderson is to undertake the thankless task of leading the Parish to Quality Parish Status

Thanks-Thanks must go to our Borough Councillors Jenny Gibson and Richard Thick for the support and advice that they give the Parish Council. Also my personal thanks to the members of the Parish Council for their work and support. I would particularly like to thank Pat Anderson as Parish Clerk for all the work that she does on our behalf as well as keeping us on the 'right road'.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT – Mike Hitchins-Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

During the past year the Village Hall has been used for a wide variety of events and social gatherings, these including several engagement and birthday parties held by local families. It is currently being rented on a regular basis by several local organisations;

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these include the Gardening Club, Yoga classes, and Headcorn Morris dancers and are the venue for Boughton Malherbe Parish Council meetings.

No specific fundraising events were held during the year – a disappointment, but a very successful Harvest Supper was held in October.

Our finances are now in reasonable order. We have received considerable funding from the Parish Council, which will go towards the continued refurbishing and upkeep of the Hall. In this respect in September last year the complete ceiling of the main hall and the Gents Toilets was repainted by a professional firm. A new Hot Water Urn and additional items for the kitchen have been purchased to bring up the place settings to 100.

Income from rentals still does not cover our expenditure and in this respect we recognise that in a small community such as ours there is limited scope in increasing our rental income and that we will be reliant upon grants from the Parish and Borough councils to keep the Hall a functioning facility for the Parish.

This coming year the timber outside of the Hall will be treated and the external window frames re-varnished.

Lastly I would like to record a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for all the support that it has given to the Village Hall during the past year.

GARDENING CLUB REPORT – SUE BURCH

Pat Anderson read out the following report on behalf of Sue Burch

The Gardening Club continues to be a successful and thriving club; there are currently 45 members and activities ranged as follows for 2008

Date	Topic	Speaker
8 th January	AGM + “The Vertical Gardener”	Hilary Newman
5 th February	“New Zealand Interlude”	Brian Self
4 th March	“The Garden as a Nature Reserve”	Janet Bryant
1 st April	“Saxon Shore Way” part 2 + Spring Show	Chris Wade
Saturday 3 rd May	Plant Sale on the village green at 10.a.m.	
6 th May	Outing to Copton Ash, Faversham	An interesting garden with many plants from Australia and the Mediterranean
Saturday 31 st May	Outing Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst (National Trust)	
20 th June – 22 nd June	Weekend away staying in Bury St.Edmunds. Visiting Beth Chatto, Foggy Bottom (for trains, Dads’ Army Museum as well as plants), Mannington Gardens and Hyde Hall.	
1 st July	Outing Tram Hatch, Charing Heath	A garden on our door-step tucked way for tranquility and interesting planting
Saturday 2 nd August	Outing Great Dixter, Northiam	As ever, Great Dixter has much to interest every visitor
2 nd September	“National Trust Gardens and how they are maintained” + Autumn Show	Roger Smith. Excellent talk and winner of the Autumn Show – Pauline Bird

7 th October	Venezuela – plant hunting	Tom Hart-Dyke
4 th November	"A Kent Woodland Through the Seasons"	Robert Canis
2 nd December	Practical evening making Christmas table or door decoration + Wine and nibbles	Brilliant way to start the festive season.

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Tom Hart-Dyke; Grafty Green Village Hall packed with members and visitors to hear an interesting and most entertaining talk.

The weekend in East Anglia gave a surprising amount of variety at the different venues that were explored.

The programme for 2009 is as follows:

Date	Topic	Speaker
6 th January	AGM + Vegetable growing - hints and tips	Sissinghurst gardener - Amy Covey
3 rd February	Dry Garden	Hilary Newman
3 rd March	Butterflies	Steve Weeks
7 th April	Spring Show + River Medway Part 2	Graham Johnson
Saturday 9 th May	Plant Sale	
5 May	New vegetable garden and orchard at Sissinghurst	Amy Covey
5 th June – 7 th June	Weekend visit to Hampshire	
12 th July	Lullingstone Castle – World Garden visit	Tom Hart Dyke
4 th August	Social at Myrtle House, Grafty Green	
1 st September	Autumn show - Aspects of showing	Lesley Feakes
6 th October	Village Signs	Avicé Harms
3 rd November	Kent in the 1900 century	Bob Ogley
1 st December	Gardening quiz and supper	

We have been donated a little silver cup by Lesley Feakes to be awarded to the winner of the spring show. The first holder is Rosemary Smith winner of the Spring Show 2009.

The club committee is made up of enthusiastic members who put in a few hours during the month to make sure all runs smoothly and who plan the following years' events to provide a variety of speakers and outings to suit all.

The village planters continue to give a little colour at various points through the area and are looked after by Rosemary Smith, Judith and Les at Three Chimneys and Chris Wheal at Wren's Nest for which I am grateful.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH REPORT – JOAN DAVIDSON

This was read out at the meeting by Sylvia Close

Report from St. Nicholas Church for Boughton Malherbe Parish Council AGM May 2009
 On 16th October, 2008 The Rev: Dr. Richard Venn was licensed in St. Mary's Lenham by the Bishop of Dover, Stephen Venner, it was a very happy occasion and the Church was packed with Parishioners and Civil Officers of the four Parishes of the Benefice and the Borough of Maidstone was represented by the Mayor Denise Joy and her Husband. After an eighteen month Interregnum we were finally welcoming our new Priest-charge and his wife Helen. Dick and Helen have settled into village life and are enjoying being in the Len Valley Benefice, they have worked hard in the Vicarage Garden and have made great in roads into the Jungle which was the Garden. We are getting to know them both as they come as a team, working very much

together in support of each other, something we have not been use to for some time. The Pattern of Services has just been changed and the details can be read in the MMNews for May. We are hoping to attract more people to Services with a new form of Morning Worship, we will be keeping the Family Worship but it will be held on

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the last Sunday of the month, for the time being, so we will have two Sundays a month with non- Eucharistic Services which it is hoped will be more inviting to any new people who may come along. I'm told that Dick and Helen can be seen at the Kings Head from time to time enjoying the excellent Fish and Chips on Friday nights, Fridays is Dick's Day off but this is not adhered to religiously if something comes along that simply must be dealt with on that day.

Fund Raising continues as usual with the Cream Teas are a major contributor to Funds helping us to pay our share of the Parish Share due to Canterbury and we are very grateful to everyone for their support at this Event. We held a Flower Festival last October, this was a great success in spite of the appalling weather, the Equinox Gales coming a week earlier than usual last year. The church looked fantastic with every corner filled with Flowers and our grateful thanks are due to all the Ladies of St. Nicholas and our neighbouring Churches who gave of their time and donated their Flowers to help our Funds. Also to Rob Eastwood who organised a Concert on the Saturday night. The Lent Lunches are well supported and the ladies, who come to these, enjoy the different Soups and fresh Bread supplied by the Hostesses. The proceeds of these Lunches is sent to the Christian Aid Week collection Christmas at St. Nicholas is always a fun time with the Carol Service being a great draw to people, who return to St. Nicholas, the church of their childhood and they bring their Families along to swell our numbers. We also hold our Christingle Service during December, when the Children receive a Christingle each. Mothering Sunday is another special Service for the Children.

We are always very grateful for any help we are given with funds and are now in debt to the Parish Council for generously giving us a contribution towards the renewal of the Railings leading to the Church Gate and the replacement of the Field Gate post. Many thanks.

As you my remember Don left us to take early retirement at the end of April 2007, but we soldier on with retired Priests and Non-Stipendiary Priests, Lay Readers, and Authorised Lay Ministry people taking our Services. The Rotas for these Services are put together by Molly Poulter, who does a great job for the Benefice in dealing with this very important part of our Church life, it has settled down to a few very willing people who are happy to take our Services for us, so that we now know them very well.

As to the appointment of a new Priest we have advertised twice and on both occasions only one person has applied for the post and both were found to be unsuitable when the Bishops looked at their CVs, which they do before passing on only the good candidates for selection, so as not to waste time, in leaving the sifting to the Parishes. The Churchwardens are now going to meet again with the Archdeacon to see where we go from here. This meeting will take place on 28th May, which is the night that we would have met for a Ministry Leadership Team Meeting in any case, so not an extra Meeting, although there have been several during the year.

The Church year continued on, in 2007, with the Benefice Walk in June, the Cream Teas in July and August and into September, which were very successful again with thanks to everybody who support us. Many people come back time and again, so we must be doing something right. The Harvest Supper was very successful once again and we made a good profit to help with Church maintenance. That was the last Supper that I will be organising there won't be one this year unless someone comes forward to organise it. We are hoping to replace it this year, with a Flower Festival in October.

Christmas saw us joining in the Carol Singing in the Village, as we are all getting older, this year we visited Les and Doreen Hulm at their home, Audrey and Roy Wickens at March Farm, The Who'd a Thought It and finished up at the Kings Head.

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The Carol Service was enjoyed by a good Congregation, some people coming back to their home village for this event. Lent Lunches this year were well supported and we raised a good sum for Christian Aid Week. Lent Groups were held throughout the Benefice. The Sunday School has seen fewer and fewer Children this year with the older Children finding other things to do with their time. But we hope that this is just a hitch and that more will come forward soon.

Malherbe Monthly News: - On behalf of the Village I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is involved with the publishing of our magazine and the distribution to all the Homes in the Parish, a very big thank you is due. It's a very worthwhile exercise by you all and it is appreciated.

Sylvia thanked Joan Davidson for the wonderful Flower Festival.

YOGA CLUB REPORT – Sue Burch

PA read out the following report on behalf of Sue Burch

Yoga Classes –

The weekly yoga class continues although numbers are small. There is a little interest for a class to run in the evening which I might try from September.

I held classes for Mothers and Babies from September through to February when it came to a natural halt because the babies began to crawl!

BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY – Ron Galton

The possibility of writing a book on the history of Boughton Malherbe has been in the minds of several villagers for some time but it was not until I asked for 'Any bright ideas' in the parish magazine that a suggestion was made by Peter Bird for such a book to be compiled, with a free copy to every household in the Parish. This brought together the four founder members, myself-Chairman, Peter Bird-Secretary, John Collins-Treasurer and Mike Davidson – Committee Member. The Boughton Malherbe History Society was formed and it soon became clear that a wealth of information was already available and if combined with more research a book was well within our capabilities and we have now reached the first step towards fruition.

A bank account in the name of The BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY has been opened. Initial funding of £500 has been gratefully received from the Parish Council and further funding will be actively sought, in fact an application to the Maidstone Mayor's Fund has just been made

Anyone interested in joining or helping in any way would be most welcome and should contact any one of the following members:-

Ron Galton 01622850369

Peter Bird 01622850456

John Collins 01622850213

Mike Davidson 01622850210

A lot of research has already been collated with an estimated date for completing this work of 31st October 2009. It is hoped to have the draft of the text substantially complete by 1st May 2010 with a target date for publication of Aug/Sept 2010. These are ambitious targets and will depend upon circumstances but to distribute by Christmas 2010 would be wonderful.

To all those of you who have already helped with documents and information, a very big thank you.

THE HONYWOOD & DOUGLAS CHARITY

Although this was not an item on the Agenda, at this point in the meeting The Chairman asked Mike Davidson to say a few words about the Honywood and Douglas Charity of which he is a Trustee.

Mike Davidson began by giving a potted history of the Trust. Originally they were 2 Trusts, Honywood was founded in 1621 and Douglas in 1858, they merged in July 1996. The board of trustees consists of 1 ex-officio trustee who is Rev. Dick Venn, 4 nominated trustees, 2 from Boughton Malherbe and 2 from Lenham plus 7 co-opted Trustees. The Secretary is Pat Sutton and the Treasurer John Collins. Meetings are held 4 times a year to deal with the affairs and decisions are taken based on a majority vote.

Almshouses are provided for residents who are over 60 and have lived in either the Parish of Lenham or Boughton Malherbe for 2 years.

At the beginning of 2008 there were 21 residential units, a further 5 units were built during 2008 bringing the total now to 26.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm