

**Minutes of a Meeting of
BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday 27th August 2013
7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

Present

Robert Turner, Chairman
Ron Galton
Tony King
Mike Hitchins
Barbara Pearce

Christine King, Clerk

Cllr Jenefer Gibson MBC

9 members of the public

1. Apologies

Keith Anderson; Alan Beech; John Collins; Jenny Whittle.

- 2. Approval of Minutes** - the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 14th May 2013, having previously been distributed, were unanimously **agreed** and the official copy was signed as a true record by the Chairman

- 3. Declarations of Interest** - none

- 4. Matters Arising** - none

5. Public Session

Revitalising neighbourhood watch - traffic speed a concern. There was a query over who is running the Neighbourhood Watch. It was suggested that joining with other parishes on this road to monitor speed would be beneficial; watching sites have to be approved by the Police. Contact Keith Anderson and maybe Guy Rollinson, our Police contact.

6. Local Policing

- 6.1** Police Report from PCSO Alan Beech read by CK

**GRAFTY GREEN CRIME FIGURES
01/05/2013 – 01/08/2013**

For the above period there have been 3 reported / recorded crimes for the Parish. They are broken down as follows.

THEFT - MISCELLANEOUS - INCLUDING THEFT BY 'FINDING' x 1
THEFT OF CONVEYANCE OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLE OR PEDAL CYCLE x 1
THEFT - MISCELLANEOUS - INCLUDING THEFT BY 'FINDING' x 1

For the same period in 2012 there were also 3 reported / recorded crimes.

I have continued with the local surgeries, but there may be some changes to this over the next few months in regards to the deployment of Rural Mobile Police stations, this is a promise from Anne Barnes PCC, I am not totally sure how it is going to work but I will update the Parish as and when I know.

You may see a slight increase in patrols in the area as a result of incidents in the Village, all of which have been fully recorded and as a result we have been tasked with we will be paying more attention to the area.

If there is anything that is raised for my attention at the meeting would you please pass it on so I can deal with it on my return from Holiday.

6.2 Speedwatch Report from Keith Anderson

'Since using our own equipment, the Speedwatch Team have noted 218 roadside observations (speeding vehicles) through our village. From these figures the Roads Policing Unit (Kent Police) have added 127 vehicles to the National Speed Data Base and sent out 7 warning letters to the offending drivers, of which 32 were for excessive speed.

Given the figures above, the Grafty team have seen a reduction in vehicles driving over 30mph through the village but we must keep up the good work. We all benefit in the end.

It is worth remembering, just because Kent Police may appear to be slow off the mark or under resourced with regard to Speedwatch, other counties may not be. SO long as we are adding speeding vehicles to the National Speed Data Base we are doing our job.'

Insurance of Equipment - parishes it is loaned to will have to pay for their own insurance.

7. Highway and Footway Matters

7.1 Speed Indicator Device

Not been moved back so still liable to get hit

7.2 Ditches and Gullies

Liverton hill gullies cleared, - 2 areas choked with roots, as soon as cleared, water on road dried up. French Drain lower down doesn't work, but work getting done slowly. The Hill is on KCC's schedule for cleaning 3 times a year.

7.3 Liverton Hill - a few weeks back a vehicle pulled a branch out into the road, this was reported to KCC who sent out a manager in just over an hour. The branch was removed the next day. The service from KCC was excellent.

7.4 Pot holes

Those in Woodcock lane not yet done although some have been marked. Elmstone Lane has many, the verges have not been cut and water runs down the road. This was to have been done a year ago.

Overgrowing hedges have been reported in Church Road going towards Boughton Malherbe on left just past footpath. Hedges are the responsibility of the owner.

Action RT

The stile at the Lenham Road end of the footpath between Lenham Road and Woodcock Lane has rotted and is dangerous.

Action CK

The telegraph pole opposite Stocks Cottage is leaning at a 10 - 15 degree angle and could soon be a potential hazard to high sided vehicles.

Action CK

7.5 Grit Bin in Church Road

It was agreed that a request be submitted for a Salt Bin, to be located in the lay-by opposite the Oaks in Church Road.

Action CK

7.6 HGV Weight Restrictions

Deferred to 9.1

8. Resources and Environment Matters

8.1 Emergency Plan

There was a meeting last week and it was decided that the plan needs revising and simplified cutting down in size.

8.2 Community First Responders - introduced by RT

This is a volunteer scheme and part of the Ambulance service. It would bring a defibrillator to the village, and CFRs would respond to 999 calls. The cost of having a responder is £1300. Explained later in the meeting by Chris Wheal.

8.3 Neighbourhood Plan - a Meeting is planned for Monday 23rd September.

This will be a kick-off meeting where the way forward will be decided upon. The Plan should be made by the Village for the Village, with Parish Council support. It is not a Parish Council venture.

8.4 Bus Service 59

The East of Maidstone Transport Group met on 15th July and the Arriva representative reported that no service changes are currently being considered to the Monday to Friday commercial services. The service is currently 'financially viable but will never make lots of money!'

The KCC contract for the supported Saturday service is up for renewal from April 2014, and the tender documents for this and the two KCC supported services on Mondays to Fridays (the 07.21 from Grafty Green on non-schooldays and the 17.45 from Maidstone) are expected to be issued in November. The Group is to write to KCC seeking to be involved in the service specification on which the tenders are to be based.

The Group is scheduled to meet next on Monday 21st October.

8.5 Queen Elizabeth Yew Tree: advice has been sought, and it was suggested that checking what work was done previously would be advantageous and have a bearing on how to proceed. Meanwhile, RG to arrange drilling into the base for drainage and check wall thickness before the next meeting.

Action RG

9. Matters of Report

9.1 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

Jenny Gibson - any incident of antisocial behaviour etc must be reported as that is the only way Police can build a picture of what's going on. They cannot act on gossip or hearsay.

- Junction 8 - KIG was beaten and a lot of money was spent in doing so. Now a new development is in the offing behind the Great Danes in the form of Warehouses - which are needed for Internet buying and they have to go somewhere. There are traffic implications etc which may affect Boughton Malherbe.

Jenny Whittle - read by CK: (incorporated 7.6) - This is taking a long time as the money is coming from Member Highway Fund, however, Jenny will arrange to meet Robert and a KCC representative to advise re siting.

It was suggested that Shaun Wickens also attend the meeting at a date to be arranged.

9.2 The Chairman's Report

RT attended two JPG meetings, both about planning submissions in the Maidstone area; and the last Police Forum meeting in Headcorn.

10. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended

BP- also attended a JPG meeting, and commented on the Maidstone plan where the environment, it would seem, is not being considered, just housing requirement. She had put an article in Malherbe Monthly about this asking readers to let her know of areas they would like to see protected in the Parish and received no response. It was suggested that the Parish Council write a letter.

Action CK

First Responders explained by Chris Wheal.

Chris Wheal explained that a fully trained First Responder has an on-call area of around 3 miles. Headcorn and Lenham already have a team. Boughton Malherbe could include Ulcombe in one direction and across to Pembroes Cross in the other. In rural areas they are mobilised when a 999 call is received to supply emergency intervention until the paramedics arrive. It was considered a good idea for Boughton Malherbe and will be discussed further. Chris Wheal will invite a representative from the Ambulance Service to the next meeting.

11. Correspondence

Clerks and Councils; Oast to Coast.

12. Finance

12.1 Income since the last meeting - None

12.2 It was **agreed** to authorise the following payments:

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 000403 | R Turner, Wine and Nibbles for AGM | £45.20 |
| 000411(N) | Unipar Svcs, Speedwatch equipment | £2,364.00 |

12.3 It was **resolved** that the following cheque be signed:

R Smith, Care of Village Green 6mths Jan-June 2013 £147.00

12.4 To note the balance at the bank

£22,535.11

12.5 Report from Finance Committee

There is a request from KALC not to sign the Parish Funding Agreements as they are not correct. Zena Cook is examining a more equitable way of distributing money available.

13. Further Information

None

14. Dates of next meetings

12th November, 28th January 2014, 25th March 2014

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm