

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON 9th MAY 2007**

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON
Wednesday 9th May 2007 at 8.00pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

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

Cllr R Thick
Cllr J Gibson

PS Mick Hayes

APOLOGIES: Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Alexander having stood down, the Clerk asked for Nominations for the post of Chairman for the forthcoming year 2007/2008. Mr Alexander was the only nomination proposed by Mrs Sylvia Close and seconded by Mr Robert Turner. Mr Alexander indicated that he would be happy to accept.

ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given by PA on behalf of Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, and accepted by those present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on items on the Agenda

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr Robert Turner having stood down, the Clerk asked for Nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year 2007/2008. Mr Robert Turner was re-nominated, proposed by Mrs Sylvia Close and seconded by Mr Mike Hitchins. Mr Turner indicated that he would be happy to accept

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 27th March 2007, having been circulated, were approved subject to the amendment of Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart to Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman.

LOCAL POLICING

Following the letter PA had written to the Chief Constable, she had received several telephone calls and emails to try to sort out the Policing situation in our area. Police

Seargent Mick Hayes attended our meeting, introduced himself to the Parish Council and explained the reasons for the problems, which had been experienced during recent months, for which he also apologised. He has only been at Maidstone for one and a half months, although he has been a Policeman for 10 years. Georgina Messenger had left as minuted in March but had since been replaced by Claire Russell, who had in the meantime contacted PA to introduce herself and had also emailed our crime figures from June 06 until November 06, there were 7 crimes made up as follows: - 2 Criminal Damage, 1 Burglary, 1 attempted Burglary, 1 Common Assault and 1 Possession of Class C Drugs. PC Claire Russell covers Headcorn, Lenham and Harrietsham as well as ourselves and at some time in the very near future we will be getting a Police Community Officer who will be working with Claire. KA hoped that things might settle down in the future and that we might get some consistency. PS Hayes reported that there had only been one reported crime this year, which was Theft of storage tanks in Elmstone Lane during April. PA mentioned to PS Hayes that there had been a crime reported of criminal damage on Liverton Hill and queried why this had not been included in the crime figures, he could only assume that the crime reported came under the jurisdiction of Lenham, and would look into it. PSH advised that it is hoped that in future a Police representative would attend our Meetings, duties allowing. He gave out the following telephone numbers for any crimes that might take place in future: -

Non-urgent crime / or suspicious vehicles etc. (general police number) **01622 690055**.
Crimestoppers - **0800 555111**.

Kent Police Website - which helps with reporting crime etc. www.kent.police.uk

Emergency number **999**.

MATTERS ARISING from 27th March Meeting

40-30 Mile Speed Limit Sign Changes

PA had been in constant touch with Peter Rosevear since the last meeting and the latest update which was given on the day of the meeting was that the signs were on order and the first week in June had been set aside for the 30 mph signs to be installed. It did sound positive, but of course we have been there before – watch this space!

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

All quiet at the moment, the next meeting is due to take place on 25th June.

ACTION PA

Potholes Woodcock Lane & Church Road

PA reported that at long last her Spreadsheet had been looked at and she had been advised by Adrian Holland (Acting Head of Operations) the planned works for this year consist of resurfacing Coldbridge Lane between Coldbridge Farm and Woodcock Lane at a cost of £41k. Other potholes would be done on a more 'ad hoc basis'. This was

discussed and all agreed that Coldbridge Lane did not seem as bad as Woodcock Lane and Church Road, PA would query this and find out whether some of the money which was set aside could be divided up and repairs done to the other two roads.

ACTION PA

Proposed Closure of Platts Heath School

Discussions were still going on, nothing new to report.

ACTION KA

Travellers Sites

No concrete information on this subject yet, as soon as Richard Thick has something official to report, he will let us know.

ACTION PA/R.THICK

Hedge Cutting

Andrew Hopkins had carried out the hedge cutting work to everyone's satisfaction.

Willow Tree Cottage-Fire Hydrant

Earl Bournier advised PA that this had been passed to Dennis Gower for the repair to be done as soon as possible.

ACTION PA

Liverton Hill Farm

Nothing new to report on this. PA will keep submitting this on the Spreadsheet to Kent Highway and hopefully at some time in the future funds will be available to put double kerbing in, as promised.

ACTION PA

Dog Fouling

Notices had now been put up on Notice Boards, telegraph poles and in the Parish Magazine. Hopefully this will encourage dog owners who are ignoring the current Notices, to take their dog waste home with them in future.

Public Footpath-Church Road

This had been reported to Ian Hayes who had unfortunately been off sick for some weeks with a broken collarbone. He had informed PA that once he is driving again, which should be in a couple of weeks time, he would be coming out to investigate the problem.

ACTION PA

Dormer Windows

PA had done as requested and asked for a written explanation. A reply had been received but it had not really answered the questions, it was full of rules and regulations but did not answer the question of whether the Dormer was within the Planning Regulations, in fact no one had actually been out to look at the property. PA suggested to the person who had written the letter, that maybe someone should actually come out and have a look in order to get it sorted out once and for all. It was agreed that this would now be passed on to the Enforcement Department who will inspect.

ACTION PA

Pothole – Ivy Cottage

Lots of misinformation, the person responsible told me that this had been repaired, but after a conversation with Mike & Joan Davidson, it would appear that it hasn't been done. Dennis Gower promises that this will be done as a priority.

ACTION PA

Mayors' Visit

The Mayor of Maidstone's visit was a great success. As per the plans he arrived at 11 am with his wife went straight to Grafty Green Garden Centre where they were made very welcome by Pauline the owner and her Manager. After that a very informative tour around Whistable Brewery at Telpits Farm and then onto the Kings Head for Fish & Chips, where Mike Fitzgerald met other members of our small community. An article written about the visit was also reported in the Downs Mail. A big thanks you to everyone who was involved.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS**2 Fermor Cottage, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AN Ref MA/07/0627**

Change of use from a self-catering holiday cottage to a single-family dwelling.
PC has no objections.

Yew Tree Farm, Eastwood Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2DQ Ref MA/07/0373

Conversion of barn to form one residential dwelling – amendment to landscaping.
Council would not comment, because of interest issues.

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

Amended/additional/details/landscaping.
Council has no objections

CORRESPONDENCE

Kent Highways – Notification that Liaison Officer left 23/2/07 Letter dated 21/3!
KCC-Website agreement renewal
KCC-Environment and Regeneration Contacts Database
MBC-Review of Fees & charges
MBC-Reports for Decision re Building
Environment Agency-Decision on British Energy nuclear power station authorisations
MBC-Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/5/07-31/08/07
MBC-Agenda Joint Transportation Board 18/4/07
Yalding Parish Council-Letter re Planning Enforcement Issues
Copy thank you letter to Rafik from Whitstable Brewery
MBC-Report on Refuse & Recycling Collection Policies adopted 27/4/07
MBC- Record of Decision on Private Sector Housing
Kent Highways-Capital Works Programme Report 2007/8
KCC-Notification of Local Board Meeting 23rd May 2007

FINANCE

Balance in Hand on 27th Mar '06 **£ 1299.72**

The following cheques had been issued: - £

300274	Kings Head	151.30
275	A Hopkins	126.00
276	Village Hall	<u>750.00</u>

Balance in Hand as at 31/03/07 **£ 272.42** **(1027.30)**

360

Precept Receipt 10/4/07	1200.00
Vat Refund 0/05/07	<u>168.08</u>

Balance in Hand as at 09/05/07 **£ 1640.50**

KA reported on the Accounts. The Accounts book was passed around to the Parish Council members for perusal and then signed by KA as a true and correct record.

Two cheques were issued and signed - Allianz Cornhill £294.14 and Kent Association of Parish Councils £151.00.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parking Church Road

Because of the parking situation in Church Road, PA had been asked by one of the residents to find out whether a provision had been made for 2 parking spaces at Ledgers Cottage when Planning Permission was granted. She checked with Maidstone Borough Council and no such conditions had been imposed.

Comments on Planning Applications

KA said that it is sometimes quite difficult when Planning Applications come in for properties where invariably the applicant is well known to members of the Parish Council. In a lot of cases the PC is unable to make any comment because of interest. Richard Thick explained that things are changing in this respect and in future when such a situation arises KA should contact him and he would in turn 'call it in' (refer it to the Planning Committee).

Date of Next Meeting

21st August 2007

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Signed. Dated