



# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022, 7.30pm in the village hall

**Present:** Cllrs R Galton (Chair); R Turner; B Adams; N.Eastwood; G Kennaird  
Clerk Mr Chris Hume  
4 members of the public

Cllr Galton opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it** - none
2. **Apologies** – Cllr S Prendergast (KCC); Cllr M Round (MBC)
3. **Declarations:**
  - Any lobbying** – none declared
  - Any interest in items on the agenda** - none declared
  - Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests** - none declared

The Chairman thanked Chris Hume for being a great asset to the Parish Council as its Clerk.
20. **Grant Request from the Platinum Jubilee Committee** – Representatives of the Platinum Jubilee Committee outlined the planned events and reiterated the request for funding of £800. The Clerk suggested use of LGA 1972 s137 as the power for making the grant and confirmed that sufficient funds were available from general reserves.  
RESOLVED: that a grant of £800 be awarded.  
The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would need confirmation of when the money would be required and bank account details.
4. **Approval of Minutes** –  
After some discussion, the Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were approved subject to amendment of minute 14 to read:  
“**2022/23 Precept** – Following a majority vote it was agreed to set a precept for the forthcoming financial year of £7005. This decision was taken following advice from KALC and the Internal Auditor received by the Finance and Staffing Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Councillors also identified previous policy intentions that might require the use of reserves at some point in the future.”
5. **Matters Arising** – the Clerk advised that there were no outstanding actions.
6. **Public Session** – none
7. **Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council Reports** – No reports had been submitted but Cllr Prendergast would be available by telephone after the meeting.
8. **Planning Outcomes since 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022** – none
9. **Local Policing/Community**
  - 9.1 Police/Crime Report – no crimes reported
  - 9.2 Speedwatch – the Chairman reported that one member of the public had expressed an interest. Cllr Kennaird said he would be willing to take the lead; the Chairman asked that he approach two further members of the public regarding volunteering, informing them that they would need to undergo a DBS check and training. The Chairman confirmed that funding

was available. He had spoken to the Chairman of Ulcombe Parish Council regarding collaboration. There was potential to share volunteers between the Villages.

**10. Highway and Footway Matters**

**10.1 Liverton Hill, Ditches, gullies, potholes** – the Clerk had reported the fire hydrant problem to KCC; Cllr Turner had reported the dead badger found in Woodcock Lane.

**10.2 Traffic Incidents at Crumps Lane/Headcorn Road junction** –

RESOLVED: that the Clerk submit a formal response to KCC based on Councillors' comments received.

**10.3 59 Bus** – The Clerk reported that he had received an update from Mr John Collins.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk submit the comments prepared by Mr Collins.

The Chairman had spoken to Cllr Prendergast (KCC), who had said she would support retention of the service. It was felt that the service would be better supported if the bus went to Maidstone.

**10.3 Litter** – noted that the Lengthsman scheme was effectively a trial. The report from the Lengthsman was noted. It was confirmed that the direct line of reporting was to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council could be flexible with the hours worked to allow additional time at the start of the contractual period, provided that the overall number of hours was not exceeded. In the event of more hours being required, prior approval from the Parish Council would be required.

**10.4 Highways Improvement Plan**

(i) noted there had been no changes to the plan

(ii) It was suggested that the basis for the traffic survey conducted in December 2021 may not be correct. The Clerk advised that the results be discussed with Mrs Jennie Watson (KCC Highways), along with the 20 mph speed limit proposals.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Kennaird contact Mrs Watson.

**10.5 Footpaths** –

RESOLVED: that the Clerk report to KCC that the footpath between Woodcock Lane and Headcorn Road was overgrown.

The Chairman reported that there were still two kissing gates to be installed but the landowner felt the land was too wet for installation and would advise when possible.

**11. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended** – The Chairman and Cllr Eastwood had attended the meeting concerning the Community shop.

**12. Finance**

<b>12.1 Note the Balance at the Bank:</b>	Nat West Curr. Ac.	£5,345.03
	Nat West saver	£46,521.56
	Nationwide	£14,150.58
	Cambridge and Counties	£23,486.79

**12.2 Income since the last meeting** : none

**12.3 Bank Reconciliation** – noted statement on the agenda

**12.4 Any cheques to sign:** St Nicholas Church £500; Village Hall £195.50

**12.5 Authorisation of any payments since the last meeting:** Down's Mail £189; Justin Smith Essex £29.93; KALC £42; Captivewebs £65; Mr Chris Hume £2,452.

**13. Use of Reserves/Quinn Donation** – Members had before them a report from the Clerk regarding the use of reserves and previous Parish Council decisions. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council clarify its policy regarding the remainder of the Quinn donation. Purchase of the Village Green was discussed and it was noted that there was an option to borrow money for this purpose.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman circulate a suggested approach to purchasing the village green to Members.

RESOLVED: that the remaining Quinn donation money (£52,899.38) be allocated for the potential purchase of the Village Green, held for a further 12 months and then reviewed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk check with the Internal Auditor the level of general reserves to be retained.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk produce and circulate a "Reserves Policy" based on the Pembury scheme for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Council conduct an annual review of its reserves to update its policy; to take place at the same time as setting the revenue budget.

- 14. Downs Mail Proposal** – The Chairman voiced his support for the Malherbe Monthly.

RESOLVED: that the proposal be refused.

- 15. 20 mph Speed Limit** – Members argued that there would be no point in lowering the speed limit to 20 mph if 30 mph could not be enforced.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Kennaïrd raise the matter with Mrs Jennie Watson (KCC Highways)

- 16. Amendment to Employment Policy** –

RESOLVED: that the matter be deferred and the proposed amendment referred to KALC Adviser.

- 17. Correspondence** - none

- 18. Further Information** – none

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

- 19. Appointment of Parish Clerk** –

RESOLVED: that the appointment of Mrs Vickie Ford as Clerk to the Parish Council following interviews by a Panel of the Full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23
£		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Precept	5731.48	7005
Parish Services Scheme	409	327
	6140.48	7850
VAT Refund	200	150
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>6340.48</b>	<b>7482</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Staff Costs - Clerks Wages	2498	4196
Other Costs		
Village Green Maintenance	500	500
Village Hall Hire	250	250
Christmas Tree	300	300
Litter Collection	100	0
Churchyard Maintenance	500	500
Emergency Plan	0	0
Training Courses	300	300
Internal Auditor	70	100
Insurance	370	400
KALC Membership	300	300
Contingency	50	0
Chairman's Expenses	50	0
CPRE Membership	36	36
Stationery, postage	200	200
<b>Total Other Costs</b>	<b>3026</b>	<b>2886</b>
Repairs Fund contribution	500	0
Village Green fund		400
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>6324</b>	<b>7482</b>