

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 5th November 2008

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON
Wednesday 5th November 2008 at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

PRESENT: Mr R Turner (Chairman)
Mrs S Close
Mr R Galton (Vice Chairman)
Mr S Wickens
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

Cllr J Gibson

Mike Davidson
Tom Ladell
Ian Shaw

APOLOGIES: Mike Hitchins

Cllr R Thick

PC P Kemsley
PCSO Tom Smith

TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The clerk advised that apologies had been received from Mike Hitchins, Councillor Richard Thick, 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 Parish Council Meeting of 14th August 2008 having been circulated were approved and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman.

LOCAL POLICING

PA advised that 4 crimes had been committed since the last meeting:-

21/08/08 Theft of garden equipment Headcorn Road
22/09/08 Theft of a gate – Woodcock Lane

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07/10/08 Burglary other than dwelling – Cold storage warehouse Headcorn Road
(Nothing taken)

14/10/08 Theft of a motor vehicle Headcorn Road

Since the last meeting PA had been advised that although the Police are told not to include Road Traffic Accidents (RTC's) in with Crime Figures, they would make an exception should any occur on or near Liverton Hill only because of the recent issues there.

No vehicle accidents had been reported in the parish, this is not to say that there were none at all, many accidents are never reported to the police.

There were a large number of shed/garage burglaries across rural Maidstone, 4 suspects were arrested and there has been a large reduction in this type of crime.

A £25k stolen tractor was recovered plus 2 generators and a lawn mower in rural Maidstone.

Both PC Kemsley and PCSO Smith have stepped up patrols around the country lanes and farm land areas in the parish which are considered to be the type of properties being targeted because of the current value of scrap metal and plant machinery. 'Country Eye Scheme' is currently being set up which is a rural version of 'Neighbourhood Watch'. If anyone is interested particularly residents with farms please contact PCSO Tom Smith.

MATTERS ARISING from Minutes of 14TH August 2008

40-30 Mile Speed Limit Changes

PA reported that the meeting on 18th August with Michael Heath, Ron Galton and Shaun Wickens had gone ahead. Michael Heath was very sympathetic with the problems of speeding through the village and promised to do all he could to have an interactive sign installed to help slow speeding vehicles. October would be the next date for submission of bids and the process time would be at least 4 months, if accepted, this would take us to next summer. Applications submitted are prioritised so there would be no guarantee for us although the fact that the average recorded speed is 39 mph in our 30 mph speed limit would push us up the list. Another outstanding matter which was resolved was the query that there is only 1 30mph sign in Woodcock Lane; Michael Heath explained that because the road is less than 5 meters wide only 1 sign was required. **ACTION**

PA

30 Mile Speed limit Signs

Michael Heath had informed the clerk today that he had now received the paperwork for the installation and re-siting of the 30mph signs. He hoped that this would be carried out within 6-8 weeks. **ACTION PA**

HGV's Weight Restrictions

This issue will be put on the back burner for the time being.

ACTION PA

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No. 59 Bus

John Collins had advised PA that the working group last met on 13th October. Nothing to report on the 59 bus other than the Saturday KCC supported service is running in line with the contract. The temporary Thursday 331 Post bus replacement continues

ACTION PA

Potholes

PA reported that many weeks ago Kent Highways had marked out all the potholes, then a few weeks after that the potholes on the verges of Woodcock Lane had been filled with verge fill, that is the way it has been left and nothing done since. PA had been in touch with Kent Highways who had said the patching was still to be done but had no idea when.

ACTION PA

Petsfield

The Planning Application has now lapsed pending further action, the deadline for the ecological survey had passed with no response making the application null and void. PA is to find out what the next course of action is.

ACTION PA

Public Footpath-Church Road

PA said she had once again contacted the Public Rights of Way office; a replacement for Ian Hayes had started a week ago with induction taking place this week. He will be taken around next week to be shown the various footpaths with problems and our problem should be resolved within 8 weeks.

ACTION PA

Various Requests from Rosemary Smith for the Village Green

Robert advised that he would contact Rosemary for an update.

ACTION RT

Liverton Hill

Most of the work has now been carried out, which we believe is to everyone's satisfaction. PA had spoken to Richard Emmett who had advised her that the lines on either side of the carriageway were still to be painted as soon as it was dry enough to do so. PA was advised by the members that as far as they were aware this had already been done, she would find out. One extra thing that had been done was to paint 30mph roundels on the road at each end of the village in the hope that motorists might become more aware of the speed limit.

ACTION PA

2 Manholes Dipping

PA said she was not sure whether the repairs to the manholes at Lavender Cottage and the old Garage had been done.

ACTION PA

PUBLIC SESSION

Mike Davidson opened the session by saying that at long last it looks as though the problem with water running down the hill has been repaired. To do this the existing narrow pipes had been replaced with 9 inch pipe which seems to have solved this long running issue. He pointed out that the gullies and drains must be regularly jetted, PA is to find out when this is scheduled to be done and if in fact there is a schedule.

ACTION PA

Tom Laddell requested that something be done with the gulley just below Stream Farm as it is higher than the carriageway. The carriageway is dipping badly in several places

and when it rains there are large pools of water, a repair needs to be carried out urgently before the frosts come when it would become extremely dangerous for motorists.

ACTION PA

Ian Shaw asked that a letter be written on behalf of the Parish Council to thank Andy Moreton and his team for all the hard work they had carried out so successfully on Liverton Hill.

One issue that needed to be looked at is the alignment of the hill and the bad visibility for motorists coming down the hill.

ACTION PA

Hedge Cutting

The hedge cutting at Liverton Hill had now been successfully carried out to everyone's satisfaction.

Hedge Cutting – Who d'A Thought It

It was reported that still nothing had been done about these hedges being cut which was obstructing motorist's vision. PA said she would look into this again.

ACTION PA

HGV's & Sat Nav's

PA reported that she had informed the Network Planner at Kent Highways that Elmstone Hole Lane was also an unsuitable road for HGV's.

ACTION PA

KALC – Speed Restriction Review

PA said that she had received a letter from KALC giving the names of the representatives who had been selected for the review, as our nearest Councillor (Mike Pearson) was in Tenterden she had written to him explaining our problems with speeding and asked him to keep us informed.

Parish & Town Council Seminar 14/10/08

This had been to introduce the Kent Highway Services representatives and explain the structure within KHS. No one from our Parish had attended.

Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme

Since the last meeting all members had been given booklets and literature advising on the benefits of us becoming a Quality Parish Council. PA explained that some of the advantages of this award would be a Charter Mark as well as prestige. It could be that we could become vulnerable without it and as previously mentioned we could lose 10% of our Concurrent funding, not that this would be a huge amount for us but one of the Acts states that Government **may** give, not must give and it is thought that not being a QPC could be used as a 'stick and a carrot', we could also be amalgamated with another Parish Council which would be very negative. Members agreed that as long as PA was willing to give the time and commitment to achieve the award they would like it to be done. PA agreed that we need to be a QPC but because of her personal commitments would give it some thought. PA said she had received a copy of an email sent out to all Parishes from a similar Parish to ours in the same situation and were trying to avoid the Clerk having to be trained because this qualification stayed with the Clerk and not the Parish. She said she would let members have a copy.

ACTION PA

Councillor's Training

The clerk said that she had been in touch with KALC to find out about Councillor training etc. she had been told that training sessions would start again in 2009 and she would be

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advised of them. Apologies were given if Ron found the person he spoke to be rude, and as far as only talking to the Parish Clerk is concerned, this is a fact as it could be an issue where there is a conflict of interest between a Parish Councillor and the Parish Clerk.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Elmstone Farm, Elmstone Hole Road, ME17 2AJ

Installation of endless pool within ground floor storage space, existing door in west elevation to be replaced with BI-Folding door and enlargement of windows to new pool room. PC had already written to say no objections, although RG had pointed out that the application was not signed and could invalidate it. Plans were subsequently amended as the originals were inaccurate.

Planning Enforcement

Ron Galton was due to attend a Workshop on Planning Enforcement on 11th November. The object of the meeting was to listen to concerns of Parish Councils and try and deal with any issues they may have. Ron will report to us at the next Parish Council Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

MNC – Minutes of Joint Transportation Meeting 16/4/08
Kent Highways-Kent Council Draft Permit Scheme
KCC – Details of Service of Thanksgiving for Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart
Kent Health Watch – Helping you comment on health and social care
Freighter Location details
Kent Highways – Meeting with new Community Liaison Officer
MBC – New Recycling Service Phase 2 & 3
KALC – Email that Clive Powell is leaving on Xmas Eve
Kent Parish Councils Newsletter
MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/10/08-31/01/09
MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/11/08-28/02/09
South East Regional Assembly-Update on a clear vision for the South East
MBC – Residential Extensions Supplementary Planning Document
KALC – Notice of 61st AGM 8/11/08

FINANCE

Balance in Hand on 14th Aug'08 **£2945.63**

The following cheques had been issued: -

£

300304	John Collins	14/08	40.00
305	R. Smith	14/08	<u>90.00</u>

(130.00)

Closing Balance 5th November

£2815.63

ANY OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS/ARISING

Village Telephone Box

Since the last meeting, it had been brought to the attention of the Clerk that there was great concern about the red telephone box outside the Post Office, because of a report in the media that several boxes were to be taken away unless the Parish Councils concerned contacted their local Council. PA had telephoned the Council and they didn't seem to know anything about it, she then contacted BT and was informed that the boxes that were to be removed, because of lack of use, had been decided on approximately 18 months before and we certainly weren't one of them. PA was asked to arrange to get the telephone box cleaned and to find out what the agreement was with BT from Mr & Mrs Dobson who had owned the shop during the time of the agreement. **ACTION PA**

Footway

It was reported that the footway in front of Lynwood House had several dips in the path, obviously when it rained the dips were full of water. As this is the only pavement on that side of the road, it was making it extremely dangerous for people using it. PA was asked to contact Kent Highways. **ACTION PA**

Date of the Next Meetings

10th February 2009
17th March 2009

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

Signed..... Dated