

# **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**



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## **Minutes of a Meeting of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council in Grafty Green Village Hall on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Robert Turner, Chairman  
Ron Galton  
Mike Hitchins  
Tony King  
Barbara Pearce  
Clerk Christine King  
  
Cllr Richard Thick, MBC.

John Collins 59 bus; Joanne Davis, Courts; Stuart Ellesmere, Community Warden;  
Chris Wheal, KFRS Volunteer.

4 members of the public

### **1. Apologies**

Keith Anderson, Speedwatch; Alan Beech PCSO; Cllr. Jenefer Gibson MBC; Cllr Jenny Whittle, KCC.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 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**

- I. Declaration of Changes to the Register of Interests - none
- II. Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda - none

### **4. Matters Arising from Minutes - None**

### **5 + 6 CPR, Defibrillators and Community Warden**

Chris Wheal talked about the CFR scheme, and then introduced the new Community Warden for Boughton Malherbe, Stuart Ellesmere who talked about his role and how he is here to help residents, visiting the vulnerable; victims of crime - and anybody with a problem. If he can't help, he will find somebody who can. His base is at Headcorn Library although he can often be seen around and + about. An Information Open Day in the Village Hall in the spring was suggested.

Joanne Davis, Community Liaison Coordinator with AW Courts spoke to Council about the purpose of her role, addressing the needs and wants of communities and helping where ever possible.

## 7. Public Session

The absence of electricity for a third of village for 4 and-a-half days over Christmas was raised in relation to the Parish Emergency Plan, the situation being considered an emergency. Discussion followed on how 'emergency' is defined and the Parish Council's role, if any, beyond planning.

## 8. Local Policing

### 8.1 Police Report from PCSO Alan Beech.

Below are the figures for the period 11/11/2013 – 26/01/2014. For this period there have been 4 reported / recorded crimes for the Parish, they are shown as follows:

- ASSAULT A PERSON THEREBY OCCASIONING THEM ACTUAL BODILY HARM - SECTION 47  
Detected. X 1
- AGGRAVATED VEHICLE TAKING - (DRIVER DID NOT TAKE) AND PROPERTY DAMAGE UNDER  
£5000 x 1
- ROBBERY x 1
- ATTEMPT THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE x 1

For the same period 2012 - 2013 There were 4 reported / recorded crimes, since that time 3 have been revalidated to No-Crime due to the nature of the incident. So, only 1 crime is showing for that period for the Parish.

There is nothing of real note to report. The incident that was reported on to the Parish regarding Church Lane is still on- going. But I cannot give you any further information around this.

### 8.2 Speedwatch Report

Nothing to report this month, combination of Christmas Holidays and appalling weather.

## 9. Highway and Footway Matters

### 9.1 Liverton Hill

The usual problems with potholes getting worse with all the rain. These have been reported.

### 9.2 Pot holes

There are many potholes around the parish, all of which have been reported, though it is recognized that KCC are having an extremely difficult time at the moment.

### 9.3 Ditches and Gullies

Crumps Lane/Headcorn Road corner seems to have been cured of flooding. However, those at the Grafty Green end of Woodcock Lane; outside the big barn at The Homestead Headcorn Road, Grafty Green; the bottom of Liverton Hill, and Elmstone Lane are in need of attention.

**Action CK**

### 9.4 Grit bag in Church Road

Still not been supplied

**Action CK**

### 9.5 HGV Weight Restrictions - results of road strips monitoring are awaited from Jenny Whittle

### 9.6 Speed Indicator Sign re-siting

Still not been done

**Action CK**

## **10. Resources and Environment Matters**

### **10.1 Emergency Plan**

This was discussed at item 7.

### **10.2 Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllrs King and Turner had met with another parish of similar size to discuss a way forward.

### **10.3 Bus Service 59 - John Collins**

The East of Maidstone Rural Transport Group will next meet on 10th February when the results of tenders for the Saturday service will be known. There have been problems with buses being late, mainly caused by heavy traffic on the Loose Road. Also, the school run at the end of the day, when a single decker is used, there is not space for all out-of-town children to get home as the service is being used to get from Maidstone town to Loose.

### **10.4 Queen Elizabeth Yew Tree**

The weather has been too wet for drilling to take place, drier weather is awaited.

## **11. Standing Orders**

The Clerk requested that the Standing Orders be amended to permit the distribution of Agendas etc via e-mail with electronic signature, replacing the physical delivery of paperwork. Proposed by Cllr Turner, Seconded by Cllr. King, all approved.

## **12. Matters of Report**

### **12.1 County and Borough Councillors' Reports**

Richard Thick spoke about the horrendous problems caused by the flooding in Yalding.

Regarding the local plan, flooding has caused a rethink in terms of proposed housing targets for service centres in the south of the Borough. He reported a marked reduction in crime in the Headcorn ward helped in part, he considers, by the creation of a Task Group by Ann Barnes.

### **12.2 The Chairman's Report**

From November to January, Cllr Turner has attended 2 conferences, a KALC meeting; a Police Forum Meeting; a Neighbourhood Plan and a meeting about proposed development at M20 junction 8.

## **13. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended**

Cllr Pearce gave a short report on a meeting she attended about the proposed Roxhill development on the KIG site at Junction 8, (which is in addition to the proposed Waterside Park development). There had been no favourable comments and the consensus seemed to be to fight them to the end. The application has not yet been submitted.

## **14. Correspondence**

Oast to Coast

Clerk and Councils Direct

Glasdon Sheds and Shelters leaflet

## **15. Finance**

### **15.1 Income since the last meeting - None**

### **15.2 Authorisation of any payments:**

### **15.3 Resolve that any cheques be signed**

Cheque No	000406	KALC (Cllr Conference x2)	£144.00
	000407	KALC (Clerk Finance Course)	72.00
	000408	Mrs R Smith (Green Mtnce)	138.00

### **15.4 The balance at the bank of £22,638.11 was noted.**

**15.5 Report from Finance Committee**

Cllr Hitchins presented the Finance Committee Report, see below

**15.6 Approve the Budget 2014/15.**

Having been previously circulated, and after short discussion, Cllr Galton proposed approving the budget, seconded by Cllr Pearce, all in favour.

**16. Further Information**

None

**17. Dates of next meeting**

25th March 2014

The Meeting closed at 21.11

**Budget notes for Parish Council Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

In setting the Budget for 2014/15 the Finance Committee have recently met once informally and once formally in order to consider the amount that will be required in the form of the Parish Precept to carry out the Parish Councils obligations.

Last year in setting the budget for the current year 2013/2014 the Finance Committee were presented with a change of funding from Maidstone Council in that the Concurrent Funding scheme that had run for many years was being replaced with a new scheme called Parishes Services Scheme. The previous Concurrent Funding scheme had in past years provided the Parish Council with the bulk of the funding the Parish received in order to run its business. This was supplemented by the Parish Precept, a method of funding that is borne by the Parish ratepayers. The new Parish Services Scheme provided the Parish with a significantly reduced income and accordingly the Parish Council raised the Parish Precept last year in order to compensate for this reduced funding from Maidstone Council. Additionally last year there was considerable doubt at the time of setting the budget that the Parish Council would receive any income under the new Parish Services Scheme. In the event we did receive £993, but that was well after the budget was set and the deadline for submitting the Parish precept to Maidstone Council.

This year we have been advised that we will receive the same amount, £993, in respect of the Parish Services Scheme and therefore have been able to produce a budget that takes into account our expected income for 2014/2015.

As at 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the Parish Council had a balance of £24,582 in the bank, but it should be stated that this includes a legacy income from Henry Town of £16,727, and therefore the budget was determined without this legacy sum, i.e. a balance of £7,855. From this figure outstanding invoices and expected payments due before the end of the financial year equal £3,990 which leaves a balance carried forward of £3,865

The overspend against last years budget was £2,209 but this can be explained by 2 exceptional items of capital expenditure, the 30mph sign and the purchase of our own Speedwatch equipment, these totalling £3664. They were partly offset by income in the form of grants from Jenny Whittle of £750. Without these 2 exceptional items the actual expenditure against budgeted items is a projected under spend of £1455.

In setting the budget for the 2014/2015 the Finance Committee examined last years budget against expenditure and has projected forward the expected expenditure for the coming year taking into account that we are unlikely to repeat the exceptional capital items that caused the overspend last year. With the projected carried forward balance of £3865 being held as reserves the Finance Committee agreed that the Parish Precept for the 2014/2015 should remain at last years figure of £5000, i.e. no increase. This is the recommendation that is proposed for the full Parish Council to adopt.