

BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 16th August 2011 at 7.30pm
in Grafty Green Village Hall

PRESENT- Councillors: Mr R Turner (Chairman)

Mrs S Close
Mr M Hitchins
Mr S Wickens
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

Cllr Jenny Gibson

6 Members of the Public

1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jenny Whittle, Councillor Ron Galton (attending KALC Meeting re Concurrent functions grant), PCSO Siobhan de Burca, no apologies from Richard Thick.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REGISTER OF INTEREST CHANGES

There were no declarations of Interest and no Register of Interest changes.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th May 2011 having previously been distributed were unanimously **Agreed**, the official copy was signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. LOCAL POLICING

4.1 Police Report

Unfortunately Siobhan was unable to attend the meeting but emailed the Clerk to say that in November the Maidstone Neighbourhood Team was going to expand to approximately 10 teams. One of the teams would cover Headcorn, Sutton Valence and Downswood and would be made up of 1 Sergeant, 5 PCs and 3 PCSOs; hopefully she would remain as our PCSO. None of this is definite.

Crime Figures:

May	1	Theft Miscellaneous including Theft by finding-Banner taken from fence-Sandway
June	0	
July	0	
Aug	1	Theft Miscellaneous-including 'theft by finding' Boughton Rd, Sandway Copper Cable Value £2566
	1	Burglary Dwelling & Theft/Attempted Theft (No Violence Headcorn Road, Grafty Green

4.2 Speedwatch

Chris Wheal reported that due to health problems he has had to relinquish most of his Speedwatch duties, Keith Anderson is now organising dates and volunteers for Speedwatch. Collating information of speeding offenders has also become a struggle because of his computer, Robert Turner and Keith Anderson have offered to take this on and a request from Warren Jarvis for the database has been requested by the Clerk. Chris expressed his disappointment that with all the data collected and passed on to Warren Jarvis very little action from the Police was forthcoming, but hopefully letters have been issued to repeat offenders. Evidence shows that continual speeding above the 30mph limit was definite justification for an interactive sign.

5. HIGHWAY & FOOTWAY MATTERS

5.1 Potholes & Road Slippage

Not many unrepaired potholes although RT reported that there was a large pothole on Coldbridge Road near the Stream (Noahs Ark). Chris Wheal had reported that Eastwood Road was much improved apart from a few sections. The new Highways Manager had been contacted and a meeting was scheduled for tomorrow. Local issues appear to be back on track with Lenham Road marked up for repairs and extra items would be discussed at tomorrow's meeting. The clerk had been informed that Kent Highways had been re-organising and no further work had been given to

Ringway, a new contract had been awarded to Enterprise due to start on 1st September. There would obviously be a gap with very little being done until around the end of September **ACTION PA**

5.2 Liverton Hill – Improvement to Warning Signs

All done at last and a great improvement.

5.3 Bus Stop in front of the Homestead

The bus stop has now been replaced with a new one and is to stay where it is.

5.4 Gully & Carriageway-below Stream Farm

Nothing further done on this but will be monitored as mentioned at the last meeting **ACTION PA**

5.5 Water Leak – Liverton Hill

See Above **ACTION PA**

5.6 Carriageway Roundels

Now repainted.

5.7 Blocked Pipe Ash Tree Farm

PA reported that she still hadn't done anything about this and asked Councillor Wickens to explain again what had caused the block pipe. He reported that Highways had blocked the pipe when they dug out both sides and had blocked it. **ACTION PA**

5.8 Liverton Hill HGV's

Still ongoing, a report is due out in September. **ACTION PA**

5.9 Footpath sign opposite Liberton House

The Footpath Officer is due to come out this week to repair the sign. **ACTION PA**

5.10 Parking at Village Hall

MH reported that even though he was no longer Chairman this was in hand he would be sorting it out before the new Chairman took over. **ACTION MH**

5.11 Bowley Lane Signs

The Clerk had received a call from Highways to say that because of cuts there was no money to repair the signs, she had since informed them that the signs were in a ditch, didn't need replacing, just re-erecting, this would be done very soon. **ACTION PA**

5.12 Metal Fence Posts at Coldbridge Lane

The repair has now been carried out.

6. RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

6.1 No. 59 Bus

John Collins had informed the Clerk that KCC will soon withdraw funding for the Saturday Service it looks likely that this will stop on 31st December 2011 because of increased fuel costs and low usage. At the moment the Monday to Friday Service will continue to be run by Arriva, but will be closely monitored, it needs to be used otherwise this too could be under threat. John, along with the other members of the Maidstone Rural Transport Group work tirelessly to keep what we have, and our thanks go to all of them. **ACTION PA**

6.2 Emergency Plan

Still nothing done, PA promised she would kick start this **ACTION PA/MH**

6.3 Grafty Green Village Hall Sign

Councillor Hitchins said this was to be on the Agenda for the Village Hall Meeting due to be held this Thursday. **ACTION MH**

6.4 Village Green Sign

This is currently being refurbished by Maidstone Signs.

6.5 Golden Jubilee

Councillors agreed that this was indeed worth celebrating at the beginning of June next year and that we should apply to take part in the lighting of a beacon. One of the Parishioners volunteered to make a metal pos for the beacon and RT said that he would contact Jamie Clarke requesting permission to site the beacon on his land. The Parish Council agreed to help out and MH was asked to put an advert in the Malherbe Monthly asking for volunteers to set up a Committee.

7. PUBLIC SESSION

A question was asked about who owns grass verges in Woodcock Lane, particularly at the front of Judge Farm where rocks have been put in the verge at intervals. The clerk is to telephone Kent Highways and enquire. **ACTION PA**

A member of the public asked where would the water be coming from to fill the recently dug out reservoir on the land at the bottom of the orchard on Ivy Farm,. It was explained that this will be taken from the existing pond and streams, it is currently being filled up for winter storage.

An expression of thanks was made by the public to the Parish Council and in particular to Ron Galton for all the hard work put into contesting the proposed development planning application on the land at Ivy Farm.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Planning Applications Received

The following applications were considered and recommendations made:

8.1.1 Land at Ivy Farm, Headcorn Road, Liverton Hill-MA/10/2029

A Planning Committee meeting had been held at the Town Hall in Maidstone the previous Thursday 11th August, unfortunately the planning application had not been rejected despite the fact that most of the village were against it and MBC having received 101 letters of objection. Very few Committee Members appeared to have read the documentation and the majority did not take part in the discussion which created a very bad impression; parishioners who attended were not impressed. Final approval has been delegated to the planning officer and an implementation panel is to be set up to ensure all conditions are met, the Parish Council will be offered a place on this panel.

8.1.2 Coldbridge Cottages, Coldbridge Lane, Egerton TN27 9BP – MA/11/0653

Application for Erection of a two storey rear/side extension
Recommendation: No objection

8.1.3 Orchard Cottage Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AU – MA/11/1165

Application for Construction of a Sand School
Recommendation: No objection

8.1.4 Petsfield, Eastwood Road, Boughton Malherbe – MA/11/1076

Retrospective application for the erection of a Dayroom
RT & RG had visited the site with Tom Ladell, it was all very tidy, the Dayroom was purely that and promises were made that nothing else would be built on the site.

8.1.5 Wrens Nest, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AP – MA/11/1250

Application for listed building consent for the demolition of an existing outbuilding and erection of a single storey garden/hobbies room with link to main house
Recommendation: No objection

8.2 Planning Decisions Received

The following Decisions received from MBC were **Noted**:

8.2.1 Liberton House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green – MA/11/0578

Application for discharge of conditions relating to MA/10/2077(Detached Garage) MBC: Granted

8.2.2 2 Coldbridge Cottages, Coldbridge Lane, Egerton TN27 9BP – MA/11/0653

Erection of one and a 2 storey rear/side extension MBC: Refused

9. CORRESPONDENCE – The following correspondence was Noted:

KALC – Minutes of Meeting 31st May 2011
MBC – Mayor's Garden Party invite
KCC – Formal Notice of preparation Minerals & Waste Development Framework
MBC – Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations
NHS – Stakeholder News Spring 2011
South East Water – Water Resources Update
KCC – Consultation on KCC's Countryside Access Improvement Plan – review 2012
MBC – Record of Decision – Planning for Traveller Sites
KALC – Government Consultations on Local Planning Regulations, Draft National Planning Policy Framework and Local Government Resource Review
JPG – Various

MBC – Parish Conference Agenda
MBC – Concurrent - Various

10. MATTERS OF REPORT – To receive reports from

10.1 County & Borough Councillors
Jenny Whittle

Liverton Hill signage scheme is in place at long last .

Proposed reduction of speed limit on Liverton Hill from 60mph to 30mph - I met with a Highways officer last week who advised me that a Traffic Regulation Order will be advertised in the next few weeks. I hope to have a confirmed date that I can include in September's Malherbe Monthly.

Request for a Speed Indicator Device from the Parish Council in Grafty Green - I have sent a form to the Clerk to apply for funding from my Member Highway Fund.

I will be emailing Parish Councils shortly to advise that I am hiring a highways crew to go through my 15 parishes and undertake maintenance work including verge cutting. This is the time to send me your wishlist - please compile asap!

Proposed funding reductions for Youth Centres: I am meeting with the Head of KCC Youth Service and Lenham Parish Council Chairman Nigel Godfrey and Borough Councillor John Barned next week to discuss how we can best protect the youth provision at Lenham Youth Centre. Young people from surrounding parishes use this Centre and I am keen to safeguard this for the future.

Jenny Gibson

Jenny reported on the Core Strategy , Staplehurst and Headcorn will be allotted more houses, in all there are 27k to be built in the Borough by 2016. Headcorn want to ensure that they have the infrastructure and transport etc in place for more housing, someone from MBC is coming to talk and meetings have been arranged with the Joint Parishes Group (JPG). Villages need to make up there own minds about where more houses could be build otherwise there will be increased pressure on villages like ours if housing , warehouses and industrisal units is increased.

The Borough is keen to spread the load with regard to Travellers, she reported that those living at the Meadows only have permission to live there for 2 years.

Richard Thick was not present

10.2 Chairman

The issue discussed by the Chairman has been reported under 'Jenny Gibson'

11. FINANCE

11.1 Approval of Annual Return of Accounts

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return of Accounts had been sent to the Audit Commission on 18th May, to date she had not heard anything from them.

11.2 To note Income received since last Meeting

The Clerk advised that £1585 had been received from MBC for one half of the Concurrent Funcations Grant on 6th June 2011.

11.3 To authorise any payments made since the last Meeting

It was proposd by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Close "that the Council approve the following payments made since the last Meeting". This was **Agreed**.

000355 McVeigh Parker £259.76

11.4 To resolve that any cheques presented can be signed

It was proposed by Cllr Hitchins and seconded by Cllr Wickens "that the Council approve the following payments". This was **Agreed** and the following cheques were signed:-

000357	Aspen Tree Services	420.00
000358	John Collins- Audit	50.00

Chq. No. 000356 had been cancelled

11.5 To note balance at Bank

The Accounts Book was circulated to the Members and it was **Noted** that the balance was £2801.88

11.6 Concurrent Functions

The Clerk reported that there was a meeting being held by the Maidstone Area Committee of KALC at the Town Hall which Cllr Galton was attending this evening. Under discussions would be the report of the Review team on the Parish Services Scheme including the proposed cuts to the Grant the proposed new method of financial reporting from Parishes and the proposed consultation timetable.

12. BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY – Update

Nothing further to report since the last meeting, however there are new things coming to Ron's attention all the time, there are 80 copies left which are on sale in the shop as well at the weekly Cream Teas.

13. ANY OTHER INFORMATION/ITEMS ARISING

- 13.1 The Chairman reported that Elmstone Hole Lane was in a very bad state, if traffic is likely to increase in the future it would need repairing.

ACTION PA

- 13.2 Councillor Close reported that the History of Boughton Malherbe books are still being sold at the cream teas. Cream teas are a great success again and £1000 has been raised to date with 4 more weeks to go.

- 13.3 The Clerk informed those present that due to other commitments she was tendering her resignation and intended to finish at the end of March 2012. It was **Agreed** that an advertisement should be placed in the Malherbe monthly as well as on the KALC website, any potential applicants should apply in writing sending their CV to the Clerk, following which they would be interviewed by Parish Councillors. Once a suitable candidate is found they could then shadow PA for a few months.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

15th November
18th January 2012

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed. Dated