

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20th SEPTEMBER 2005

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON
Tuesday 20th September at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

PRESENT: Mr K Alexander
Mrs S Close
Mr M Hitchins
Mr R Turner
Mr S Wickens
Cllr J Gibson
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

PC B Hillman
PC Harding (Special)
PC Tony Howland (Speed Watch Launch)

APOLOGIES: Cllr R Thick
Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

REGISTER OF INTEREST

The Parish Clerk and Sylvia Close had been advised by the Standards Board that they would shortly be publishing the case summary relating to Sylvia Close on their website. The allegation made was that she had failed to complete the register of interests, this issue has been resolved and the Ethical Standards Officer was taking no further action.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record, subject to an amendment to Page 297 – Police Car should read Len Valley Police Car and an amendment to Page 297 - RT, should read Richard Thick.

MATTERS ARISING

Since the last meeting a call had been made to Dennis Gower regarding the water on Liverton Hill, some repairs have been carried out to part of the hill by Mike Davidson's property, but there is still water further down. **ACTION PA**

Jenny Gibson explained the point about the changes within the Planning Office, if we as a Parish Council have any objections, we would need to attend in person at Borough level and give the objection verbally.

At the previous meeting in June Shaun Wickens had pointed out that ours was the only village locally where there was no restriction on HGV's, which lead to a lot more heavy traffic thundering along the road between Headcorn and Lenham via Grafty Green. PC Hillman said that a call would be made to Steve Gilet, and to date he had been unable to get hold of him. **ACTION PC Hillman**

Dog fouling signs, telling people to take their dog mess home, had been put up in various places.

The sign on Woodcock Lane which had been knocked down by a bus, although standing temporarily, still needed to be cemented in place. **ACTION KA**

The wastewater drain cover at the bottom of Woodcock Lane has still not been dealt with. **ACTION KA**

Pat Anderson reported that she had continued to telephone Jamie Hare at the Highways Department asking when the 40 mile speed limit signs would be changed to 30 miles, she had been informed that the main cost was not the sign replacement but the cost of having to place an advertisement in the newspapers on 3 consecutive occasions, it would probably not happen until next year because of budgeting restrictions. She said that she had mentioned to him about the accidents on Liverton Hill and the speed of the vehicles travelling through the village, she was informed that this might help prioritise the funding.

LOCAL POLICING

Unfortunately, PC Bryan Hillman was unable to give his crime report because his computer had crashed, but if it were put right before Minutes were printed he would email Pat Anderson. This has since been done and the only crime reported was 1 Theft from doorstep.

PC Hillman suggested that Pat Anderson should speak to Adrian Highgate at the Highways Department about the speed limit signs. Shaun brought up the point about the amount of accidents Liverton Hill and Bryan pointed out that if the accidents were damage only, they would not be recorded. **ACTION PA**

PC Hillman and PC Harding were thanked for attending the meeting, advised of the next meeting which is to be held on 17th January 2006, and left after introducing PC Tony Howland who proceeded to give the Council a demonstration of Speed Watch.

Speed Watch allows parish councils to record the speed of vehicles travelling through villages such as ours. Volunteers would be required who would be trained in the use of the tripod-mounted equipment which would log registrations and speeds of vehicles which were significantly above the limit. If a vehicle was found to be speeding twice within a 12 month period the owner of the vehicle would receive a letter from the Kent Police with possible follow-up action. The costs of the equipment varied from the cheapest being £1800 to the most expensive £2800 which had an automatic data logger. The equipment could not be rented, but one possibility would be for 3 Parishes to share the cost and use the equipment for an agreed period of time in their village. Everyone agreed that the principle of Speed Watch was a good idea, but the Parish Council could not look into it further until the speed limit signs had been changed.

PC Howland said that on 5th November 2005 there was a meeting to be held at Ditton Village Hall where the manufacturers would be present and would no doubt be interested in negotiating a price for the equipment

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Orchard Cottage Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AU Ref MJA/12-04/11-01 PL & MJS/12-04/11-02 Retrospective application for change of use from agriculture to provision of a driveway and turning area. Parish Council had advised that they would stand by what we had previously said, which was, if the Highways did not object then we would not.

Great Humphreys Farm, Coldbridge Lane, Grafty Green ME17 2AX Ref MA/05/1268 Application for erection of a part two storey, part first floor side extension and a rear conservatory. A fax had been sent to MBC stating that no comment could be made because of interest, (i.e. close relationship between the Parish Council and Mair-previous Parish Clerk)

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter had been received from Rosemary Smith of Fermor Cottage, complaining about the 5 green rubbish bins at the end of Victoria Close, which she felt were a total eyesore, in an otherwise very attractive little village, especially when they overflow with rubbish which does both smell (during the hot weather) and or blow about the village. She asked whether they could be sited in a less obvious place. It was suggested that a friendly letter be written on behalf of the Parish Council to Keith. **ACTION KA & PA**

Various KAPC newsletters were handed out
Kent Police Newsletter
Notice of Alteration to the Electoral Register
Notice of Intention to apply for the transfer of a Justices' Licence for the Kings Head pub for Ken & Eve Sweet and Beverley Simpson-Sweet
Mid Kent Water – hose pipe ban
Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium Kent
Technology Enterprise Request for Grant-Awards for Excellence 2005
Kent Fire & Rescue – Service Performance Plan
MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions
MBC – Changes of Post Office Services, Harrietsham, Chart Sutton & E.Farleigh
Action with Communities in Rural Kent
North Downs Way National Trail – Strategy Consultation Document
KAPC – Voting Slip
KCC – Waste Reduction promotion
KCC – Community Paths Project
Rural Transport Wardens
Kent BTCV – Tree Warden Scheme
MBC – Land Drainage Survey
Medway Valley Countryside Partnership-Mid Kent Pond Project & River Rubbish
Citizens Advice Bureau
MBC – Electoral Registration Service
KCC – Legal Event Orders which modify maps relating to CTRL
English Rural Housing Association 2005 Report and Review
Standards Board – Notification of website publication re S Close

304

FINANCE

Since the last meeting £2163.62 had been received from Maidstone Borough Council for the 1st instalment of Concurrent Functions and £153.37 had been received from HM Customs and Excise for VAT claim.

Therefore balance at bank on 20 th June 2005		808.10
Less Cheques issued:	R. Smith 134.50 Audit Comm 141.00	(275.50)
Plus Receipts:	MBC 2163.62 VAT 153.37	<u>2316.99</u>
Balance in Hand 20/9/05		<u>£2849.59</u>

There was just one request for a cheque to be made out for £96.35 to Four Jays for the hire of toilets, this was proposed by Shaun Wickens and seconded by Mike Hitchins.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No. 59 Bus

Arriva has decided that the No 59 bus would no longer operate on a Saturday from Grafty Green to Boughton Monchelsea. Jenny Gibson had written to Arriva and had been informed that on one particular Saturday, only 4 people had used the bus, and that the final decision had been made. Pat Anderson was asked to check the timetable to see if this had been made public.

ACTION PA

Grant

After the last meeting Mike Hitchins had completed a grant form for the repair of windows for the village hall and had received £900. He said that there were no major repairs coming up in the immediate future.

Dog Signs

Pat Anderson said that she had requested metal dog signs to replace the existing signs which had faded and would not be suitable for the Winter. Unfortunately because of cost, we may only get 1.

ACTION PA

Parish Magazine

Mike Hitchins is now producing the Parish Magazine and is still talking to Tony King about the website.

ACTION MH

Tree and Hedge Trimming

The trees on the Village Green desperately need trimming; Shaun said he would obtain quotes for getting this done.

ACTION SW

The hedges at Elmstone Hole need cutting as well, as they are becoming dangerous; Kenneth suggested that he would ring the Highways Department to see if this could be carried out. **ACTION KA**

Robert asked what rights people have to cut down trees, several trees had been cut down at Masons Farm, Jenny Gibson said that unless the trees have a preservation order on them nothing can be done.

County Lengthsman

Robert Turner, our County Lengthsman said that he would complete the necessary forms for the footpath to be sorted out, and at the same time see if he could sort out the trimming of Elmstone hedges as well. **ACTION RT**

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th January 2006

Signed. Dated