

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2006**

**A MEETING OF BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2006 at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Mr K Alexander  
Mrs S Close  
Mr M Hitchins  
Mr S Wickens  
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)  
Cllr R Thick

Mrs J Davidson

**APOLOGIES:** Mr R Turner  
  
Cllr J Gibson  
Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart  
  
PC B Hillman

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that because Robert Turner was unable to attend this meeting, the election of Vice Chairman would be postponed until the next meeting.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006 were circulated, and subject to two corrections in the Finance section on Page 331, no.1 being the cheque to KAPC should read £157.85 and not £134.34 and no.2 the Balance at 23<sup>rd</sup> May should read £1531.76 not £1331.76, were approved and signed as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING from 23/05/06 Meeting**

**Liverton Hill** PA reported that Mid Kent Water had taken over the repairs at Liverton Hill from KCC. Tests had been carried out further up the hill that had shown chlorine present in the water, proving that the leak was not Spring Water. MKW had replaced the traffic lights which had been erected some weeks before and it was their intention to carry out another dig on the following Thursday or the Tuesday after the Bank Holiday

**ACTION PA**

**Sign Woodcock Lane** It was agreed to leave the sign where it is, as opposed to moving it as was suggested at the last meeting.

**Debris Elmstone Hole**

Dennis Gower has advised that this will be cleared when the road sweeping is done; the date is still to be agreed. **ACTION PA**

**Road Sign on Village Green**

At long last, the arm pointing to Headcorn has been replaced.

**40-Mile Speed Limit Signs**

A speed survey had been carried out some weeks ago and tubes had been placed across the road just after the Grafty Green sign at the Liverton Hill end. The results had shown that the average speed travelled at that point was around 37 mph, which would result in the limit being reduced from 40 to 30mph. PA had been in touch with the Highways Department and pointed out to them that the survey should have been carried out in the middle of the village where people travel at a much greater speed from both directions than that shown on the survey. One of the employees from Kent Highways had met with her and agreed that the tubes had been put in the wrong place but had suggested that if the survey were to be done again this would further delay the reduction of the speed limit which is now expected to take place in the Autumn. After discussion it was agreed that things should be left as they are and that a letter should be written to the Highways asking for them to confirm in writing all that PA had been told.

**ACTION PA**

**HGV's Weight Restrictions**

PA reported that she had done nothing further about Weight Restrictions and would wait until the change of speed limit had been implemented. **ACTION PA**

**No. 59 Bus**

A meeting had taken place on 26<sup>th</sup> June '06. The only thing to report was that fares on the Saturday service would increase from 15th July and the levels of passengers are being maintained. The next working party meeting, which is attended by John Collins on our behalf, is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006. **ACTION PA**

**Elmstone Hole Lane**

Dennis Gower advised PA that the Highways Dept don't dig ditches and that the farmer must dig them himself. Ken suggested that a phone call to Dennis' boss to see if he can be persuaded to dig the ditches should be made. PA had not yet done this, but promised she would get onto it in the next few weeks. **ACTION PA**

**Potholes Woodcock Lane & Church Road**

PA reported that a few of the potholes had been filled some time ago and then the work had stopped. Traffic signs had been left in Woodcock Lane, which she had placed on the verge as it had caused problems for large vehicles, Dennis Gower had been informed. She had been told that the budget had been used up and the work had been delayed, but was still trying to find out when it would be completed Dennis Gower had been on holiday and was now off sick. It was suggested that PA write to Kent Highways saying that we expect our roads to be repaired to a safe standard and that some of the very large potholes go against Health and Safety. **ACTION PA**

**Inspection/Manhole Covers top Liverton Hill**

At long last, this repair has been completed.

**Path at the side of the Kings Head**

To everyone's satisfaction Wilson Tarmac has laid a new path, which is a great improvement. Thanks to Mike Hitchens for organising this.

**Map of Parish**

KA had printed a map showing the Parish of Boughton Malherbe, and all that needed to be done now was to highlight the boundaries and then send to Bryan Hillman.

**ACTION KA**

**Potholes Coach Road**

No resurfacing had been carried out during July/August in Coach Road, Popes Hall Lane and Chain Gate Road. Dennis was to be contacted on his return to work to find out when this would be done.

**ACTION PA**

**Green Lane/Byway KH632**

This work has now been completed, but the Byway will be shut for 6 months, of which there are still 3 months left, in order to let the new path bed down and settle.

**Proposed Closure of Platts Heath School**

At the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> May, parents formed a committee to progress keeping the school open, following this a Public meeting was held on July 13<sup>th</sup> at Kingswood School, everyone raised their objections, it was very well supported by the local MP Sandy Bruce-Lockhart and various Councillors. The findings of that meeting are collated by KCC LEA and is present to SAOB committee who will make a decision on 18<sup>th</sup> September which will either propose that the school is closed or that it will remain at Platts Heath. If they decide to close and merge with Kingswood, and anyone objects, it will go before an independent Arbitrator, which will probably take place in February '07.

**ACTION PA**

**Grass Cutting**

The grass at the Triangle near what was the Pig & Whistle and the verges were cut shortly after the last meeting

**Church Road Potholes**

These potholes were now on the existing Spreadsheet, which PA sends to Kent Highways on a regular basis for their comments. Unfortunately, everything at the moment is on hold until Dennis Gower returns to work, but PA would keep chasing.

**ACTION PA**

**M20 Meeting**

PA had received Minutes of the meeting held in May and nothing had been resolved with regard to the re-surfacing, an action Group has been formed to ensure that the M20 is resurfaced as promised. In the meantime it was suggested that those affected by the M20 noise should start to apply for a Rate Rebate, which could cost the Council quite a lot and might make the Government re-think their decision

**LOCAL POLICING**

Bryan Hillman was not able to attend this meeting as he is still not back to full duties, but had telephoned and reported that there had been no crimes since the last meeting.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Masons Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone ME17 2AP**

**Ref MA/06/0577**

Erection of a rear conservatory.  
Permission granted 18<sup>th</sup> May 2006

**Masons Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone ME17 2AP**

**Ref MA/06/0573**

**Certificate of Lawfulness** for construction of a domestic barn to provide garaging, secure store plus block to provide stabling, tack and store for domestic use. Clarification had been given by the Planning Dept and they had explained that it means that 'after adjusting the plans, i.e. the height, the applicants no longer require Planning Permission, exactly the same as if they were erecting a shed.

**Woodcock Farm, Woodcock Lane, Grafty Green, Maidstone ME17 2AY**

**Ref A/06/0214**

Erection of a new livestock building – Application withdrawn

**Great Humphreys Barn, Coldbridge Lane, Grafty Green, ME17 2AX Ref MA/06/1049**

Application for listed building consent to vary condition 1 of listed building consent MA/01/0046 (conversion of barn to dwelling and agricultural shed for use as a garage and use of existing farm track as access to dwelling) to allow a further 3 years to commence development.

**Great Humphreys Barn, Coldbridge Lane, Grafty Green, ME17 2AX Ref MA/06/1049**

As above – Permission granted for extension of further 3 years 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006

**Thornden Farmhouse, Lenham Road, Headcorn TN27 9LH Ref MA/06/0420dcorn**

**Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone ME17 2AT Ref MA/06/0559**

Re-submission of MA/06/0420 – 1<sup>st</sup> floor element on left hand side removed and existing access retained. Erection of a two-storey front and single storey south side extension. Demolition of garage, shed and greenhouse and erection of double carport and garden store.

**The Homestead, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AP Ref MA/06/1412**

Full Planning permission for erection of an oak framed detached double garage

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Charter 88 – Community Decline and Campaign for a modern democracy empowering citizens and local councils.

Electoral Registration Notice of Alteration

MBC – Provision of youth activities in the borough

MBC – Forward Plan of Key decisions 1/6/06- 30/09/06

M20 Minutes of Meeting

MBC – Forward Plan of Key decisions 1/7/06-31/10/06

MBC – Reports for Decision by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration

MBC – Reports for Decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation

MBC – Reports for Decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment

MBC – Weekend Freight Service

No. 59 Bus Minutes of Meeting

### **337**

BTCV – Tree Warden Scheme  
MBC – Record of Decision – Cabinet Member for Regeneration  
MBC – Adoption of Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document using Water  
MBC – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1/9/06-31/12/06  
Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual Report  
KCC – Minerals Development Framework  
KCC – KCC Annual Plan 2006/7  
KCC – HGV's Chegworth  
MBC – Road Closures for celebrations etc.  
MBC – Review of Parks & Open Spaces  
MBC - Mayor of Maidstone's Charity Dinner 27/8/06  
Clean Kent Campaign – our Space  
MBC – Flood Plan – stored in current Clerk's Box

### **FINANCE**

<b>Balance in Hand on 31<sup>st</sup> March '06</b>	<b><u>£ 407.45</u></b>
Concurrent Receipt	2178.73
The following cheques had been issued: -	£
300267 D.Wynn Tree Cutting	495.00
268 Allianza Cornhill	292.92
269 Wilson Tarmac (Path)	<u>620.40</u>
	(1408.32)
<b>Balance in Hand as at 22/08/06</b>	<b>£ <u>2302.17</u></b>

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Liverton Hill** The positioning of the Traffic Lights for the water investigations is causing a problem with the traffic. It is not until you are actually at the lights that you know they are there, you can't see them, and because the road is very narrow it can be difficult for 2 vehicles to pass each other. It was suggested that Mid Kent Water should move the lights further up the hill. **ACTION PA**

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

KA read out a letter from Keith Anderson saying that as there has been no movement with Neighbourhood Watch in the village the £6 paid by some of the villagers should be returned and that 'Grafty Green Local Watch' should be set up whereby he plus possibly Sue Birch, a resident in Church Road plus another person in Liverton Hill could contact each other by email or phone if there were any suspicious goings on and pass information to others in the village. At the same time, keep a look out for elderly neighbours, keep in contact with Maidstone Neighbourhood Watch Office, Bryan

Hillman, our local Police Constable and publish items of interest in the monthly magazine. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

**Travellers Sites**

Richard Thick informed us that on 12<sup>th</sup> September there was to be a consultation to discuss how many Travellers Sites there could be available in certain areas, ours being one of them. We as a Parish Council should be thinking about a potential site that we can suggest, otherwise the Council could just tell us where the Travellers will be put. As soon as RT knows anything after the meeting he will inform KA. **ACTION RT**

**Litter**

RT informed us that if we get a particular litter problem anywhere in the area, we should let him know, as there is now a dedicated team who will sort it out

**Church Porch**

Sylvia Close reported that of late boys had been smoking in the church porch and leaving the cigarette ends everywhere, she expressed concerned that this good present a fire hazard and that when our local police were driving in the area they should keep an eye on the church. **ACTION PA**

**Blocked Drain Duct**

SW reported that in Woodcock Lane, just past the bend after Ash Tree Farm, there is a rain drain, which is completely blocked and does not help when it rains heavily. This is to be reported to Mid Kent Water. **ACTION PA**

**Date of the Next Meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> January 2007

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Signed. .... Dated .....