



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 24th January 2022, 7.30pm in the village hall

Present: Cllrs R Galton (Chair); R Turner; B Adams; N.Eastwood; G Kennaird
Clerk Mr Chris Hume
4 members of the public
Cllr Ziggy Trzebinski (MBC)

Cllr Galton opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it.** - none

2. **Apologies** – none

3. **Declarations:**

The Clerk made a statement reminding councillors and members of the public present of the council's standing orders regarding public contributions to meetings. The Clerk advised councillors that if they made significant changes to the draft budget and precept at this meeting, they should hold a further meeting before the end of the month to enable the public to consider a new draft budget. The Clerk also reminded councillors that they must not have a closed mind with regard to the decision on the budget and precept, and if they had fixed view they should declare it under this item as an interest and not take part in a vote on these items.

Any lobbying – none declared

Any interest in items on the agenda - none declared

Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests - none declared

4. **Approval of Minutes** – approved the Minutes of 8th November and 6th December 2021

5. **Matters Arising** – Cllr Kennaird reported that KCC are looking at the white lining issues on Headcorn Road

6. **Public Session** – comments were received from 3 members of the public with regard to items 13 and 14, saying that, as the council has large reserves, and no plans for their use, the increase in the budget should be funded from reserves rather than an increase in the precept. Additional comments had been received and distributed to councillors prior to the meeting.

Martin Le Voi spoke on behalf of residents of Boughton Park about a series of traffic accidents at the junction of Crumps Lane and Headcorn Road and asked the council to lobby for improved road signage

7. **Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council Reports** – Cllr Ziggy Trzebinski (MBC) updated the council with regard to (i) four yearly elections (ii) cabinet system of decision making being introduced

8. **Planning Outcomes since 6th September 2021** – noted Wallet Court application had been rejected and had been referred to the Planning Inspectorate on appeal

9. **Local Policing/Community**

9.1 Police/Crime Report – one crime reported

9.2 Speedwatch – noted that there was one volunteer, David Jenkins. Agreed to seek further volunteers through the village Facebook Group, Cllr Kennaird to arrange. Cllr

Galton to contact Ulcombe regarding possible collaboration

10. Highway and Footway Matters

10.1 Liverton Hill, Ditches, gullies, potholes – tree on verge in Woodcock Lane. Clerk to report to KCC and MBC

10.2 Traffic Incidents at Crumps Lane/Headcorn Road junction – following a meeting with the MP, MBC, Police and KCC on anti-social behaviour and speeding on the 14th January, KCC have agreed to survey the entire length of Headcorn/Lenham Road and consider whether action is required on speed limits and signage. The Parish Council has been invited to a meeting to discuss the findings.

10.3 59 Bus – John Collins reported that service reliability had improved since Nu Venture had taken over. Further meetings with KCC were upcoming to discuss the long term future of the service.

10.3 Litter – noted voluntary activity by Rosemary and Michael Smith. Clerk to thank them on behalf of the council.

10.4 Highways Improvement Plan

(i) noted there have been no changes to the plan

(ii) agreed to ask KCC if they would agree to add to the HIMP, improvements adjacent to the fire hydrant opposite Liverton Hill Farm to protect the hydrant from coverage with debris.

10.5 Footpaths – noted that the kissing gates replacing stiles on KH325 will be installed in February and the landowner will provide vehicular access. KCC report that they have contributed to the cost through the discounted price of the gates

11. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended - as above, item 10.2, Cllr Galton speeding meeting on 14th January

12. Finance

12.1 Note the Balance at the Bank:	Nat West Curr. Ac.	£7168.93
	Nat West saver	£46,520.78
	Nationwide	£14,150.58
	Cambridge and Counties	£23,486.79

12.2 Income since the last meeting : noted Cambridge and Counties interest £523.14

12.3 Bank Reconciliation – noted statement on the agenda

12.4 Any cheques to sign: none

12.5 Authorisation of any payments since the last meeting: Wynsdale Waste Management £66; Richard Tew, Christmas Tree £199.99

13. 2022/23 Budget – the following changes were made to the draft budget circulated with the agenda:

- Remove chairman's allowance £50
- Remove Contingency £50

The following changes were then agreed by a majority vote

- Remove repairs fund contribution £500
- Increase village green fund to £400

It was agreed that a further council meeting to ratify these changes, and seek further public comments, was not required as the changes agreed were not significant.

14. 2022/23 Precept – Following a majority vote it was agreed to set a precept for the forthcoming financial year of £7005. This decision was taken following advice from KALC and the Internal Auditor received by the Finance and Staffing Committee on 17th January 2022. Councillors also identified previous policy intentions that might require the use of Reserves at some point in the future.

15. Future of the Village Shop – noted update received from the shop committee

16. **Lengthsman** – noted feedback from insurers and report from Headcorn PC regarding fire hydrants and amended the specification for the Lengthsman. Clerk to design a recruitment process and advertise the role.
17. **Honeywood and Douglas Trust** – agreed to nominate William Alexander as replacement for Mike Davidson as Trustee from the parish. John Collins(who was in attendance as a member of the public) was asked to report this to the Clerk
18. **Tree Survey** – agreed to proceed and award the work to SJA
19. **Disposal of Historic Hard Copy Planning Applications** – agreed that the Clerk can dispose of hard copy planning applications held by the council
20. **Correspondence** - none
21. **Further Information** - none

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23
£		
RECEIPTS		
Precept	5731.48	7005
Parish Services Scheme	409	327
	6140.48	7850
VAT Refund	200	150
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6340.48	7482
PAYMENTS		
Staff Costs - Clerks Wages	2498	4196
Other Costs		
Village Green Maintenance	500	500
Village Hall Hire	250	250
Christmas Tree	300	300
Litter Collection	100	0
Churchyard Maintenance	500	500
Emergency Plan	0	0
Training Courses	300	300
Internal Auditor	70	100
Insurance	370	400
KALC Membership	300	300
Contingency	50	0
Chairman's Expenses	50	0
CPRE Membership	36	36
Stationery, postage	200	200
Total Other Costs	3026	2886
Repairs Fund contribution	500	0
Village Green fund		400
TOTAL PAYMENTS	6324	7482