

**Minutes of a Meeting of
BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday 22nd January 2013
7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

Present

Robert Turner, Chairman
Ron Galton
Mike Hitchins
Tony King
Barbara Pearce

Christine King, Clerk

PCSO Alan Beech
John Collins
Cllr Richard Thick MBC

9 members of the public

1. Apologies

Keith Anderson; Jenny Gibson; Jenny Whittle.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2012, having previously been distributed, were unanimously **agreed** and the official copy was signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

4. Matters Arising

Footpath conditions at Judge Farm and Broadstone Cottage have been reported but as yet no improvements have been made. Keith Anderson has reported the problem. The problem at Broadstone is that the stone sign gives no direction. Keith Anderson to be informed.

Action CK

5. Local Policing

5.1 Police Report from Alan Beech

Alan Beech gave short report covering the period 18th September 2012 to 22nd January 2013. There were 3 reported and recorded crimes. For the same period 2011 - 2012 there were 7 reported and recorded crimes. The PCSOs are more visible now and this may be a contributory factor to this good reduction. When asked if there will be a PCSO in this area after March, Alan said he is 95% sure there will be. Overall, quite peaceful and little to report.

5.2 Speedwatch Report from Keith Anderson, Speedwatch Liaison, read by RT

Not much has happened since our last Speedwatch session, Headcorn needed the equipment back and are now using it on a continual basis.

I have managed to secure Speedwatch equipment from Lenham, and took possession of it last week. To date the weather has not been conducive for Speedwatch, but as soon as it improves the team will be out there again making our presence felt.

6. Highway and Footway Matters

6.1 Speed Indicator Device

There has been no further response regarding proximity of the device to the road so needs to be followed up. (It has been noticed that the device doesn't work in cloudy/foggy weather when the solar panel is not getting any sunlight.)

Action CK

6.2 Flooding/Drains at Crumps Lane Corner, Headcorn Road

The Crumps Lane/Headcorn Road Corner situation is ongoing. Follow-up needed with Highways.

Action CK

6.3 Ditches and Gullies in Woodcock Lane

Richard Thick will take this forward as nothing has yet been done and one house is being flooded underneath its floor, with water entering the property via the air vents. RT to send Richard Thick a list of all the gullies and he will pursue.

Action RT

6.4 Blocked Gullies Church Road

Some of these have been done.

6.5 Liverton Hill

Gullies became blocked, as predicted; reported. Water is coming up in the road now.

Action CK

6.6 Missing Finger Post, Chain Gate

Ongoing

6.7 Grass Verge Cutting

Grass verges were cut from the Headcorn end of the Village to Park Farm, and then stopped. It was not done in the Village. KCC still hasn't given a reason for this.

Action CK

6.8 Pot holes

Elmstone Lane - notification had been received from Highways of silt-clearing, sweeping and then patching work to be carried out when weather improves.

Potholes between Blenberry Farm and Stream Farm on Headcorn Road have now multiplied to 5. Pothole along Coldbridge Lane beyond Danby's Oast.

7. Resources and Environment Matters

7.1 Emergency Plan

Update from RG, Chairman of Committee. The first meeting has been held and a plan has been started which it is hoped will be progressed further at a meeting next week. A report will be written for Malherbe Monthly and the Minutes, once approved, will be put on the Parish website.

7.2 Village Plan

Update from TK. The group had met informally to explore the concept of a Neighbourhood Plan and discuss the way forward. It was decided to invite an expert to come and talk through the implications before any commitment is made. CK had invited Brian Lloyd, CPRE, who is available in late February so a visit will be organised.

Action CK

7.3 59 Bus

Report given by John Collins. The East Maidstone Rural Transport Group (which was set up 7 years ago and is the only group of its kind in Kent) met last Monday. The outcome is positive:

- From March, the 59 will leave Maidstone at 12.30pm, 10 minutes later than currently.
- Arriva will be reinstating the afternoon 13.20 service of the No 59 bus instead of running it back to Maidstone empty.
- From March, the last bus from Maidstone will be 17.45 rather than 17.25 to enable use by business customers.
- From March Arriva will take delivery of 11 new buses which will allow for better buses to be used on the 59 service including low floor vehicles (no steps).
- Contracts for Saturday Service will be up for renewal from April 2014.

7.4 Queen Elizabeth Yew Tree

RT will meet with Jamie Clark on 11th February and report back at the net meeting.

Action RT

8. Public Session

There was a request for a map of footpaths displaying the numbers.

Action BP

The necessity for the two enormous 30mph signs at end of Elmstone lane was questioned. Richard Thick explained that big signs signal the beginning of a 30mph stretch of road and the small signs are repeaters.

There is a total of 19 signs on Liverton Hill!

9. Planning Committee

Having been previously circulated and read, the Unapproved Planning Committee Meeting minutes have been received by the Parish Council and **noted**.

RT gave an update on the result of Park Farm Cottages and the confusion over planning changes being applied for. RG looked at the plans from previous applications in detail, concluded that the changes were small and the Application was Approved by BMPC. However, the Application was later withdrawn.

10. Matters of Report

10.1 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

Jenny Whittle (on phone to CK before the meeting) had explained that, regarding weight limit signs for Liverton Hill, a Traffic Regulation Order is a statutory requirement and that it is necessary to advertise any changes to weight or speed limits. She suggested contacting Ben Hilden and arrange for them both to visit the site and meet with Parish Councillor and Clerk.

Action JW

Richard Thick reported that it had been a quiet period. A meeting on Monday last had been cancelled due to the snow. Crime is down and the main concern is flooding.

10.2 The Chairman's Report

RT had attended a meeting in Lenham, which was chaired by Hugh Robertson, about Gypsies in Headcorn ward.

11. Councillor Reports on External Meetings attended

As above

12. Correspondence

Clerks and Councils Direct
Water Resources update
HM Revenue and Customs Business and Employer Event
Glasdon Litter Bins etc

13. Finance

13.1 Income since the last meeting - None

13.2 It was AGREED to authorise the following payments made since meeting of 20th November 2012:

Cheque No 388	Lenham PC	Speedwatch Equipment Hire	£50
Cheque No 389	Lenham PC	Refundable Deposit	£250

13.3 It was **resolved** that the following cheque be signed:

Cheque No 390 R Smith:
Village Green Maintenance + Notice Board Lock replacement £107.75

13.4 The Balance at the bank was noted: £6,295.36

Unpresented Cheques 000378 £450; 386 £144; 388 £50.00

Available Balance £5651.36

13.5 Finance Meeting Report from MH

MH explained the basis on which the proposed budgeting is calculated, and that the withdrawal of the Concurrent Functions grant means that the Parish Council has been left with no option but to raise funds from the Precept, payable by parishioners through the Council Tax. He read through the proposed items to be claimed for.

For the year 2012/13, the Precept was £9.25 at Band D. That, divided into income at Band D, gives 229 dwellings. At the proposed 2013/14 amount of £5,000, divided by 229 dwellings, the amount is £21.83 at Band D, an increase of £12.58 per year or 24p per week per household at band D.

MH proposed the new budget, TK seconded, all were in favour.
CK to complete the Budget Form and send to MBC

Action CK

Having been previously circulated and read, the Unapproved Finance Committee Meeting minutes have been received by the Parish Council and **noted**.

14. Parish Services Scheme update

Was covered by MH.

15. Further Information

Ice is a problem along Church Road extending to Millpond Hill, and it was suggested a grit/salt bin be installed. CK had contacted Highways who can supply a ton bag of salt/grit to use in the short term, and then order a bin when orders are next put in, around October. When the location for a salt bag has been decided CK will let Highways know.

Action CK

16. Dates of next meeting: 19th March 2013

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm