

BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL

UNNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 15th November 2011 at 7.30pm
in Grafty Green Village Hall

PRESENT- Councillors: Mr R Turner (Chairman)

Mr R Galton
Mrs S Close
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 Mike Hitchins, 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 16th August 2011 having previously been distributed were unanimously **Agreed** subject to the amendment of the next meeting to read 17th January 2012; 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 the Clerk explained that she had tried hard to get the Police to send a substitute but there was no-one available, probably affected by the changes that were taking place. Although PC Kemsley hasn't been to any of our meetings for sometime he has been extremely ill and we wish him a speedy recovery.
A new Commander Adrian Futers took over from 5th October. With effect from 16th November there will be 3 divisions not 6 – Western Sector, Town Centre Sector & Eastern Sector; we will be in the Eastern Sector headed up by Inspector Geoff Wyatt plus Sergeant Martin Foord, PCSO Siobhan and others. Police can still be contacted in the usual way- emergency 999; the new non emergency number will be 101

Crime Figures:

Sept	1 Taking a vehicle without the owner's consent – Church Road
	1 Criminal damage to property Under £5000 – Coldbridge Lane
Oct	0
Nov	1 Attempted Burglary with intent to steal – Woodcock Lane
	1 Aggravated vehicle taking (Initial taker) Vehicle & Property Damage under £5000 – Headcorn Road
	1 Theft Miscellaneous including theft by 'finding' - Eastwood Road Burglary Dwelling &

4.2 Speedwatch

A report had been received from Warren Jarvis saying that with effect from 16th November Kent Police' involvement with Speedwatch is going to change, Warren will no longer be dealing with it an officer from the Neighbourhood team will be our point of contact and we will be informed in due course who this is. Letters and analysis work will be carried out by the central traffic unit.

The Clerk read out the following report from Keith Anderson:

During the latter half of the summer, GG Speed Watch enjoyed a number of early morning and afternoon speed checks catching on average 15 vehicles a day travelling over 30mph through our village, a big success. Thanks to Robert Turner, Mike Davidson, Ron Galton, Chris Wheel and Joan Drury for often turning out at 6am for a couple of hours of Speed checks.

The admin side of our local speed watch has switched from Chris Wheel to Robert Turner and I, as soon as we are able to download the software, it will enable our Team to resume Speedwatch sessions.

Speed watch is undergoing a number of changes at grass roots level i.e., Kent Constabulary. PC Warren Jarvis who has successfully ran the Speed Watch operation for a number of years is now moving on, the responsibility now coming under the Authority of an Officer from the our Neighbourhood team starting from 16th Nov, the Officer will be responsible for site assessments and all future training. Our data will be dealt with centrally, letters, analytical work, and identification of areas for enforcement responses will be conducted by a new team working from central traffic unit. Time will show how effective this hopefully will become.

5. HIGHWAY & FOOTWAY MATTERS

5.1 Potholes & Road Slippage

Although most of the potholes had been repaired, there are some that haven't, and some starting to appear such as Woodcock Lane and Coldbridge Lane. Chris Wheal has been dealing with the road slippage and reported that after a year a 3 mile stretch has finally been properly re-surfaced including a very bad pothole opposite Woodsden Hall, but some significant puddling still remains from McVeigh Parker towards Headcorn (200metres). Some safety issues still remain where the surface is above the verges which requires filling or marker posts.

5.2 Gully & Carriageway below Stream Farm

PA reported that she had been in touch with Kent Highways to progress the latest situation. Since the re-organisation there is a new drainage person Alastair Coleman who has taken over from Jamie Finch. Jamie Finch has been asked to give Alastair all the information he has and once they've been out to report back.

ACTION PA

5.3 Water Leak – Liverton Hill

Now that it is getting colder there are worries about the leaks on the hill and what is likely to happen once it becomes frosty and icy. As above this is being dealt with by drainage. One thing that was pointed out by Richard Emmett is that Liverton Hill is a primary route for gritting or spreading, it has been identified as a trouble area.

ACTION PA

5.4 Blocked Pipe Ash Tree Farm Nothing further done on this but will be monitored as mentioned at The clerk explained that she had tried to get this sorted out but had gone round in circles from Kent Highways to Maidstone Borough Council only to be told that no-one was responsible for any ditches, she had finally decided call it a day and not chase anymore.

5.5 Liverton Hill – HGV's

The report is due out in the New Year. The plan will seek to influence routes by ensuring that positive signing of lorry routes are correct and in place, use of pictorial lorry signs, working with sat nag suppliers for suitable routes for lorries, working with communities to track inappropriate lorries which would allow for further investigation of the causes.

ACTION PA

5.6 Footpath Sign opposite Liberton House

This has still not been replaced, PA will contact John Pelham.

ACTION PA

5.7 Parking at Village Hall

Signs have been put up which has had effect...

5.8 Bowley Lane Signs

KHS had been to Bowley Lane but could not locate the signs, Ken Alexander had kindly agreed to meet with an officer from Kent Highways tomorrow to show them exactly where the signs are.

ACTION PA

5.9 Grass Verges Woodcock Lane

PA is still waiting for a reply on who owns the verges, she had chased this.

ACTION PA

5.10 Grafty Green, Liverton Hill & Chevron Sign Boards

The Grafty Green sign has been replaced with plastic and so have the chevron boards, but not the Liverton Hill signs.

5.11 Elmstone Hole Lane

The mud and flooding should be sorted out in early December.

ACTION PA

5.12 Grit/Salt Bins

An email had been received asking if we require another grit/salt bin. It was **Agreed** that this would not be necessary.

5.13 Speed Indicator Device

Still in the pipeline.

ACTION PA

6. RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

6.1 No. 59 Bus

The Saturday service has been reprieved. The next meeting of the East of Maidstone Rural Transport Group is scheduled for mid January. **ACTION PA**

6.2 Emergency Plan

This needs to be dealt with as soon as possible especially in the light of the recent fire. Robert suggested that it might be an idea to involve members of the Community; the Clerk was to ask Councillor Hitchins to put an advert. in the Malherbe Monthly. **ACTION PA**

6.3 Grafty Green Village Hall Sign

A new Village Hall sign has been put up, PA asked if this was permanent, RT explained that no doubt when funds allowed something better would be erected

6.4 Village Green Sign

The sign has been refurbished to everyone's satisfaction.

6.5 Diamond Jubilee

Robert had contacted Jamie Clark who had given permission for the beacon to go on his land. Roy Pearce said that the post and basket he would make would last at least 100 years, it was suggested that perhaps after the celebrations it could go on the Village Green, permission would have to be sought from the landowner. A hog roast is planned for the celebrations, insurance need to be looked into but perhaps the Village Hall insurance would cover this? **ACTION RT**

7. PUBLIC SESSION

Joan Drury reported that she was having trouble with the Kent Messenger inasmuch as they have reduced the amount of space for village information, this used to be limitless and is now only 8 paragraphs all because more people are viewing on the Internet. People need to be encouraged to by the Kent Messenger to keep it going.

A question was raised as to the safety of the reservoir in Church Road, how would it be made safe?

8. PLANNING

8.1 Planning Applications Received

The following applications were considered and recommendations made:

8.1.1 St. Nicholas Church, Church Road, Boughton Malherbe-TA/0134/11

Application for consent to Crown 2 yew trees & 2 Horse chestnuts to 2m above ground level
Recommendation: No objection

8.1.2 Thornden Farmhouse Lenham Road, Headcorn TN27 9LH – MA/11/1392

Application for change of use from agricultural land to recreational area for main house & tennis court
Recommendation: No objection

8.1.3 St. Nicholas Church, Church Road, Boughton Malherbe – TA/0134/11

Conservation area notification re above tree works.
Recommendation: No objection

8.1.4 2 Coldbridge Cottages, Coldbridge Lane, Egerton TN27 9BP – MA/11/1557

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

8.2 Planning Decisions Received

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

8.2.1 Elmstone Farm, Elmstone Hole Road, Lenham, ME17 2AJ- MA/11/1128

Application to discharge conditions relating to MA/09/0516
MBC: Granted

8.2.2 Petsfield, Eastwood Road, Grafty Green ME17 2DQ-MA/11/1076

Retrospective application for the erection of a day room.
MBC: Granted
Acknowledgement of complaint re breach stating approval given, matter closed

8.2.3 Wrens Nest, Headcorn Rd. Grafty Green ME17 2AP – MA11/1249

Erection of a single storey garden/hobbies room with link to main house
MBC: Granted with conditions

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

Application for listed building consent for demolition of an existing outbuilding & erection of single storey garden/hobby room with link to main house.
MBC: Granted with conditions

8.2.5. The Dower House, Chilston Park, Boughton Road, Sandway ME17 2BE-MA11/1190

Submission of details re MA/10/1962 relating to external joinery
MBC: Granted

8.2.6. 2 Coldbridge Cottage, Coldbridge Lane, Egerton TN27 9BP – MA11/1557

Erection of a two storey rear/side extension
MBC: Granted

9. CORRESPONDENCE – The following correspondence was Noted:

KALC – Minutes of Meeting 16th August 2011
MBC – Maidstone Youth Forum
Copy letter from Robert Turner to J Clark re Queens Jubilee 2012
KALC – Minutes of meeting 7th September 2011
KHS- Proposed 30mph speed limit – replied 22nd September giving our support
KALC- Notice of 64th Annual General Meeting
MBS – Parish Conference Agenda 22nd October 2011
KALC – Calendar of Meetings & Training Events 2011-13
English Rural Housing Association-Annual Report 2011
KALC – Annual Report 2010/11
KALC – Agenda Meeting 15th November 11 & Draft Standing Orders
MBC – Parish Independent Remuneration Panel – Members Allowances
Feria Urbanism – Various emails on JPG

10. MATTERS OF REPORT – To receive reports from

10.1 County & Borough Councillors

Jenny Whittle

Jenny sent her apologies for not attending this meeting which was due to heavy commitments with Children's Services, she had to attend lots of media interviews on the subject.

She is currently working through Budget cuts.

Also trying to keep the Youth Club in Lenham open with a meeting coming up on Friday.

KCC will be subsidising the No 59 bus until March 2013, this should be alright but there may be another battle to be faced next year.

She reported that she was in touch with Chris Wheal re the state of the roads, and if he had any problems she was willing to step in.

Jenny Gibson

Jenny reported on Concurrent Functions expressing the need for everyone to make cuts, there is no other option there is no money.

A new gateway had been erected overnight at one of the traveller sites on the Headcorn Road; this was being contested as it is illegal to put up a gateway which opens directly onto a road.

There is to be a Landscape Character Assessment at MBC, Jacobs have been employed to do this. Parishes will not be involved but have agreed to send it to Ward Members for review, Jenny promised that once received she will ask someone from Grafty Green to run their eye over it, this would form part of the Core Strategy document.

Jenny discussed the plan for the Junction 8 warehousing which would create jobs, concerns were expressed by RT regarding increased volume of traffic, and this in turn would lead to more traffic using small rural roads such as ours, which was already overloaded. There would also be more jobs created with the proposed expansion of the Barradale Industrial Estate.

There is a proposal for the development of 8.5k houses south east of Maidstone, in villages such as Hunton and Otham by 2026.

RT asked Jenny for her opinion on the Localism Bill – she thought that some things were a good idea but some not.

Richard Thick was not present

10.2 Chairman

The Chairman reported on the devastating fire at Grafty Barn, letters had been written to KFRS as well as South East Water and all Parish Councils had been informed. Hugh Robertson had been sent copies and he had written offering his utmost sympathy.

Robert had attended the Police Forum Meeting that was held on 25th October. He had raised the issue of combining Fire and Police Call Centres, Inspector Prodgers insisted that at this stage this was just a discussion project. No action has been taken to move this forward. Speedwatch was also a topic and a lot of discussion took place with regard to the lack of Police support for this, especially that Warren Jarvis was being moved on. After the meeting a notice has been issued by Inspector Prodgers that Warren Jarvis was to stay with the Speed Watch operation, but this had all changed today and this was no longer the case.

From 16th November the Force would move to a new operational model and instead of 6 areas, there would be three – Western, Eastern & Town Centre Sectors. Inspector Geoff Wyatt would be taking responsibility for the Eastern Sector which is where Headcorn Ward comes under. A new Sergeant Martin Foord has been appointed for our area, with Siobhan de Burca staying as the PCSO.

He had attended 2 Parishes meetings on behalf of Boughton Malherbe to discuss the new Maidstone Plan, held at Ulcombe Village Hall with East Sutton and Ulcombe Parishes. Lengthy discussions were held on the proposals, much of which covered issues such as the proposed development at Junction 8 of the M20, the erosion of protected rural landscapes, travellers, the effect of Rural Service Centres (namely Headcorn, Lenham and Harrietsham) on the existing rural road network. Questions were raised about the traffic census on rural roads -- none carried out by Maidstone. He was pleased to report that financial help had been received from Jenny Whittle's fund to repair the Village Hall floor, the Village Hall was extremely grateful.

He attended a Joint Parishes Group Meeting (Feria Urbanism) on 15th September to finalise the response to MBC regarding the new Maidstone Plan.

11. FINANCE

11.1 Approval of Annual Return of Accounts

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return of Accounts had been approved by the Audit Commission on 23rd August, the Notice of Conclusion had been put on the Notice Boards.

11.2 To note Income received since last Meeting

The Clerk advised that £1585 had been received from MBC for the second half of the Concurrent Functions Grant on 25th October 2011.

11.3 To authorise any payments made since the last Meeting

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

000359	Maidstone Signs	£817.50
000360	Audit Commission	£144.00

11.4 To resolve that any cheques presented can be signed

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

		£
000361	Rosemary Smith	144.00

11.5 To note balance at Bank

The Accounts Book and bank statement were circulated to the Members and it was **Noted** that the balance was £2955.38

11.6 Concurrent Functions

The Clerk reported that there was a Consultation document on the new Parish Services Scheme which would be replacing the Concurrent Functions Grant, this had to be completed and returned by 25th November, and would be completed by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk. There is still no definite clarification on whether the current grant will be left as it is for 2012/13 or if there is to be a further cut of 30%. Budgets need to be calculated on a worst case scenario basis in time for the next meeting in January. Members were asked to think about any particular

projects/costs that need to be budgeted for and to let the Chairman or Clerk know as soon as possible, then proposed budgets can be agreed at the next meeting. **ACTION PA**

12. PARISH CLERK APPOINTMENT

The Chairman proposed that having completed the interviewing for the position of Parish Clerk, the new Parish Clerk should be Christine King, this was unanimously **Agreed**.

13. BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY

Ron Galton reported that they have 60 books left. Since the publication of the book there has been more than enough information gathered for another book, but this could take some time!

14. FIRE AT BARN – Report from Chris Wheal

Chris Wheal reported that he had been very active following the fire at Grafty Barn on 1st October, trying to address the many problems and shortcomings that occurred on that day with regard to Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS). He had written to KFRS expressing concerns over availability of fire appliances, response time and distances, manning of specialist vehicles and retained fire stations, maintenance and prominent marking of hydrants, water supply and pressure – during the fire there had not been enough water which led to KFRS using water from a swimming pool as well as a pond. KFRS gave an unsatisfactory reply prompting a further three letters seeking answers, the only reply received was that questions could be raised at a planned Public Meeting. He has pieced all the information together on what exactly happened on the day, which is extremely worrying for all rural communities. Chris has now arranged a meeting with KFRS on Monday 21st November which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will also be attending. *Regarding* our experience of the fire and the important KFRS consultation which finishes early in January, Chris was anxious, with the proximity of Christmas, to set the date for the public meeting (including other Parishes) for early December as time was tight for organising the meeting. It was most important for everybody to understand the facts regarding proposals for rural fire-fighting and respond to the consultation. The PC opted to wait until after the outcome of the meeting on 21st November to set a date.

15. ANY OTHER INFORMATION/ITEMS ARISING

Councillor Hitchins had asked the Clerk to mention that Members were up for re-election next year and that we as a Parish should be encouraging new faces to stand for election. He suggested that an article should be placed in the magazine – this was **Agreed**.

RT reported that there is water running into Grafty Green from a leak at the junction with Eastwood Road and Headcorn Road, the Clerk was asked to report this as soon as possible. **ACTION PA**

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

17th January 2012

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.50m

Signed. Dated