



# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4th July 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs B Adams; N Eastwood; R Galton (Chairman); G Kennaird; R Turner  
Clerk Mrs Vickie Ford  
Cllr Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council)

The Chairman opened meeting at 7.30 pm

**Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it – none**

### **M01/07/22 Apologies**

Apologies from Cllr Prendergast (Kent County Council) and Cllr Round Maidstone Borough Council) were received and accepted.

### **M02/07/22 Declarations:**

**Any lobbying – none declared**

**Any interest in items on the Agenda – none declared**

**Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests** - Cllr Turner had completed a new Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form

### **M03/07/22 Approval of Minutes**

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

### **M04/07/22 Public Session – one member of public present**

Mr Jon Thompson, Chairman of Grafty Green Village Hall Committee gave the background to the request for funding for the Hall centenary celebration. He spoke about the importance of the Hall to the local community and the difficulties of maintaining a 100 year-old building. However, the Committee wished to hold a birthday celebration. Mr Thompson confirmed that the event would be free to attend but there would be a charge for refreshments. There was some discussion of Village Hall finances. Mr Thompson stated that the Village Hall was holding some reserves but wanted to be sustainable.

### **M05/07/22 Request for grant towards Village Hall Centenary Celebrations**

Cllr Turner stated that he would not vote on the matter due to his position as treasurer of the Village Hall Committee.

RESOLVED: to award a grant of £500 towards the Village Hall centenary celebration.

### **M06/07/22 Planning Outcomes since 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Noted that 22/501707/PNMA Prior notification for the change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to bedroom for existing residential dwelling (Use Class C3) for Post Office, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AN had been granted.

### **M07/07/22 Local Policing/Community**

Police/Crime Report: It was noted that 1 crime had been reported.

Speedwatch: Cllr Kennaird reported that one volunteer had come forward with another possible plus himself. He would be undertaking training once he had two other confirmed volunteers.

### **M08/07/22 Liverton Hill, Ditches, gullies, potholes**

Councillors reported possible water leaks on Liverton Hill and at the entrance to Ash Tree Farm.

RESOLVED: Cllr Trzebinski to raise with South East Water

The large pothole at the junction of Headcorn Road and Eastwood Road was noted.

RESOLVED: Cllr Adams to inspect.

#### **M09/07/22 59 Bus**

Councillors had before them Mr John Collins' report. The Chairman expressed regret that the service terminus was at Morrison's and not in the centre of Maidstone. He reported that he had written a letter to Cllr Prendergast but other Councillors stated that they had not seen it. Cllr Eastwood stated that the report for KCC Cabinet had not mentioned the 59 service being a KCC instigated pilot scheme so the Cabinet Member making the decision on its future would be doing so without being aware of that important fact.

RESOLVED: Cllr Trzebinski to write to KCC, including dual-hatted MBC and KCC Members, to make them aware of people's views.

#### **M10/07/22 Litter**

Councillors observed that the effects of the Lengthsman's litter picking were noticeable!

RESOLVED: the Clerk to pass on Councillors' observations to the Lengthsman.

#### **M11/07/22 Highways Improvement Plan**

There were no changes to be made.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to chase up the signage at the junction of Crumps Lane and Headcorn Road and also the repainting of the central white lining that is needed from some distance back towards Headcorn up to and round the bend so that drivers can judge the road properly.

#### **M12/07/22 Footpaths**

Councillors noted the importance of maintaining the footpath between Headcorn Road and Woodcock Lane. The grass had recently been cut by a group of volunteers from the Ramblers.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to ask the Lengthsman if he would be able to maintain the footpath by, for example, strimming every other month.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to ask KCC who is responsible for footpath maintenance.

#### **M13/07/22 Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended and MBC Councillor's Report**

The Chairman reported that he had attended a councillors' conference in Lenham, at which the main topic under discussion was the cuts in rural bus services.

Cllr Trzebinski reported that, since the recent elections, the Conservative group held a majority of seats on Maidstone Borough Council. Work started last year was continuing and a Cabinet structure was in place. 1,000 houses for Maidstone were being progressed. Cllr Trzebinski had been appointed to 4 committees; Cllr Round was working hard looking at parks and open spaces, including staging concerts, events etc and had organised Headcorn Air Show.

### **FINANCE**

**M14/07/22 Balances at the Bank:** Balances as at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 were noted:

Nat West current	£7,463.41
Nat West saving	£46,529.63
Nationwide	£14,230.15
Cambridge and Counties	£23,486.79

**M15/07/22 Receipts since last meeting:** £4.08 bank interest

The Clerk was asked to check on the interest rates for the Council's savings accounts.

#### **M16/07/22 Bank Reconciliation**

The statement prepared by the Clerk was accepted and signed.

#### **M17/07/22 Statement of receipts and payments against budget**

The statement to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 prepared by the Clerk was accepted.

#### **M18/07/22 Authorisation of any payments since last meeting:**

Mrs L Hook £198; C Tomlinson £90; Lionel Robbins £90; Mrs L Hook £83.12; Amesis Ltd £42; Kent Association of Local Councils £42; Susan Burch £20; First Rescue Training and Supplies Ltd £285.54; V J Ford £1,026.48

**M19/07/22 Any cheques to sign:** H&P Conservationworks Ltd £950.40; V J Ford £44.50

RESOLVED: the Clerk to request, and circulate to Councillors, details of charges including hourly rates for installation of the kissing gates from H&P Conservationworks Ltd prior to payment of the invoice

**M20/07/22 NatWest accounts**

RESOLVED: due to difficulties with multiple authorisation of online payments and changes to the bank mandate, the Clerk to instigate a switch to Lloyds Bank; Cllrs Eastwood and Galton and the Clerk (for administrative purposes only) to be nominated signatories; Cllr Turner to be retained as signatory if possible.

**M21/07/22 Request for grant from KSS Air Ambulance Charity**

RESOLVED: to award a grant of £50 after switching to Lloyds Bank

**M22/07/22 Society of Local Council Clerks**

RESOLVED: to pay the Clerk's professional fee for membership of the SLCC (£120)

**M23/07/22 Review of Traffic Survey Data**

Cllr Kennaird commented that the survey results, as presented, did not show great improvement and suggested the need to reinforce the message with a speed indicator device (SID)

RESOLVED: Cllr Kennaird to contact KCC to advance the Parish Council's request for a SID

RESOLVED: to publish the survey results in the Malherbe Monthly Parish magazine

**M24/07/22 Opening of New Almshouses and 400th Anniversary of Honeywood and Douglas Charity**

Mr David Chantler's report was noted.

RESOLVED: Cllr Turner to write a note of congratulations to the trustees of the Charity.

**M25/07/22 Grafty Green Village Green**

It was noted that the land adjacent to the King's Head public house had been used as a Village Green since at least 1936 and maintained by the Parish Council since the 1963 agreement with Fremilins.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact the KCC Village Green Officer to make general enquiries regarding Village Green registration.

RESOLVED: to pursue retention of the Village Green.

**M26/07/22 Purchase of leaflet holders**

RESOLVED: to purchase leaflet holders to place below the notice board on the Village Green to facilitate collection by the public of the Malherbe Monthly; maximum cost £100

**M27/07/22 National Highways and Transport Survey for 2022/23**

RESOLVED: not to respond as the survey was directed at individuals rather than parish councils.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm