

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th July 2015 in Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall pursuant to notice, commencing at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllrs S. Munford (Chairman)
 I. Ellis
 P. Herrin
 S. Evans
 A. Whybrow
 J. Skinner
 J. Gershon
 W. Clarke
 M. Slater
 B. Brown
 M. Bray

Acting Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Bracking, Date, Smith and Williams.
2. **Notification of late items for inclusion on the agenda**
The following late items were agreed:
14.13 – Village Café
14.14 – Report back from a meeting with a landowner
14.15 - Parish Clerk
14.16 – Complaint regarding footpath
14.17 – Village fete
3. **Standing Order 61: To decide whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for any item.**
Agreed that items 14.14 and 14.15 would be excluded.
4. **Reports from Maidstone Police / PCSO and KCC Rural Community Warden**
There were no reports.
5. **Open Quarter:**
No members of the public were present.
6. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda / Declaration of Changes to the Register of Interests / Requests for Dispensations :**
No declarations were made.
7. **Matters outstanding from minutes (5th May) not included in agenda:**
Item 7: Clerk to attend to item 7 from the Minutes (constitution of village hall committee).

Item 15.2: This would be deferred to the next meeting (allotments).

Item 15.6: This would be deferred to the next meeting (community bus scheme).

8. **Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2015:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th May 2015 were agreed as correct subject to the reference to the Boughton Monchelsea pantomime group in Item 16.1 being amended to refer to the pantomime/play group.

9. **Clerk's report:**

There was no report.

10. **Finance Report:**

It was agreed that that this item would be deferred.

11. **Correspondence:**

There had been no correspondence.

12. **Planning Report:**

It was reported that at the last meeting of the planning sub committee, held on 30th June 2015: i) it had been agreed to request an extension to the deadline for response to Maidstone Borough Council's Conservation Area Management Plan. An extension had subsequently been granted until 31st July 2015 and Cllrs Clarke and Gerschon were asked to prepare the response; **CLLRS CLARKE AND GERSCHON** ii) Mr. Chris Hawkins, of DHA Planning, presented to the Committee pre-application documents relating to a proposed development on land adjacent to Rock House, Boughton Lane. The proposal was for the construction of a new country house of exceptionally high design standards, based on "Passivhaus" principles, giving high levels of energy efficiency. The planning sub-committee had expressed strong support for the scheme; iii) there had been discussion as to the proposed new school at Langley Park and the Clerk had been asked to respond to MBC to say that there was no comment on this. **CLERK**

13. **Representatives' Reports:**

13.1 KALC: Cllr Ellis spoke regarding the housing numbers for the borough.

13.2 Allotments: Cllr Bracking: this was deferred unto the next meeting as Cllr Bracking was not present. Cllr Ellis expressed disappointment that the Allotment Society had not been represented at the Village Fete.

13.3 Village Hall & Recreation Ground : Cllr Munford reported that the rugby club had decide not to pursue the recreation ground as its home ground. There had been a positive meeting concerning the Constitution of the Village Hall.

13.4 Neighbourhood Watch : Cllr Williams was not present at the meeting. Cllr Munford reported that a Chairman was still sought for the group.

13.5 PACT : Cllr Date was not present at the meeting.

13.6 Bus group : Cllr Whybrow informed the meeting that the planned closure of Heath Road would affect the bus service; this information would be posted on the notice boards. **CLERK**

14. Items for Discussion:

14.1 Parkwood Farm reservoir update: Cllr Herrin reported that the latest consultant's report, commissioned by KCC, had been completed; a meeting would be arranged for this to be studied by Cllrs Herrin and Munford. **CLLR MUNFORD / CLLR HERRIN**

14.2 North Ward update: there was nothing to report.

14.3 Parish Council website / newsletter: Cllr Gershon advised that the Parish Council's website would be switching over to the free KCC website service over the summer.

14.4 Data Protection Act: Cllr Munford was authorised to register the Parish Council as a data holder and to pay the registration fee of £35. **CLLR MUNFORD**

14.5 Recreation ground /Invicta Panthers' rugby club: As the club was not now to pursue the recreation ground as its home ground, its last match would be on the 17th July 2015.

14.6 Proposed Jubilee Resource Hub: this item was deferred to the next meeting.

14.7 Decommissioning of Church Street phone box – the possible use for a public access defibrillator was being investigated by Mrs Windless.

14.8 Honours Board: Cllr Brown reported that an estimate for making the board, on which there would be engraved the names of those from the village who had been killed during the two World Wars, had been received. The cost would be £445.00. It was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Slater that the project proceed; all in favour with one abstention. Cllr Brown raised the question of whether the names of Chairmen of the Parish Council should feature on a similar board. The meeting was broadly in favour and Cllr Brown agreed to look into this further to determine whether the names of Chairmen since 1894 could be ascertained. **CLLR BROWN**

14.9 Renovation of parish hut door: the funds which had been voted for this purpose were insufficient and the door could not be repaired. Two options for new doors were discussed. The Clerk was requested to pursue quotations for new oak doors (painted and unpainted). Cllr Skinner would try to find an old photograph of the hut in its original condition so that this could be considered before a final decision on the type of door was taken. **CLLR SKINNER / CLERK**

14.10 Renovation of finger post - Old Tree Lane – Cllr Ellis undertook to discuss with Mr. Edwards what might be done to repair this. Delegated power to re-site the sign at Bottlescrew Hill was given to Cllr Munford. **CLLR ELLIS / CLLR MUNFORD**

14.11 Dog walkers at Campfield farm: the farm manger was experiencing difficulties with dog walkers who claimed the right to walk where they wished, rather than to keep to the path, on the basis that the freehold was owned by the Amenity Trust. The strong view was expressed that dog walkers should keep to the path, it being acknowledged that the alternative would be for the farmer to fence off the path in a manner which might be considered unattractive. Cllr Munford undertook to speak to the farm manager and parishioners would be asked via the website to keep to the path. **CLLR MUNFORD / CLERK**

14.12 Play area renovation - Cllr Ellis sought confirmation that maintenance reports were still being carried out by Maidstone BC and the Clerk was asked to check and advise. **CLERK**

14.13 Village Café – it was reported that the Village Hall committee was considering the construction of an extension to one side of the village hall for the sale of snacks. A discussion on the merits of the village hall then followed, Cllr Ellis expressing the view that it was unfit for the 21st century. Cllr Smith would be asked to form a sub committee (including Cllrs Ellis and Gerschon) to consider the updating of the building/ its reconstruction. This should encompass the provision of further car parking accessed from Heath Road. **CLLR SMITH / CLLR GERSCHON/ CLLR ELLIS**

14.14 Report back from a meeting with a landowner – excluded item.

14.15 Parish Clerk – excluded item.

14.16 Complaint regarding footpath – the footpath between Green Lane and the Quarries was blocked by nettles. Cllr Skinner would investigate and the Clerk would contact Cllr Hotson if this had not been attended to. Fly tipping on footpath KM103 was reported. **CLLR SKINNER**

14.17 Village fete – Cllr Munford congratulated Cllr Whybrow and her committee on a most successful village fete, which would be making a contribution to village charities.

15. Deferred items schedule:

15.1 Nothing to report

16. Any Other Business:

16.1 Cllr Bray said that this meeting would be his last as he would be tendering his resignation. Cllr Munford, joined by all Councillors, said that he was very sorry to hear this and expressed thanks to Cllr Bray for his many years of service.

16.2 Dogs had been seen on the Recreation ground (from which they were banned) and the Warden would be asked to check on this practice. **CLERK**

16.3 Cllr Ellis reported that a ragstone wall had been demolished by a vehicle along Heath Road. The Clerk would seek advice from Kent County Council as to whether some precautions might be taken to prevent this from happening again. **CLERK**

16.4 Cllr Evans asked for publicity to be given on the website to the opportunity for the picking of litter presented by the closure of Heath Road. **CLLR GERSCHON**

16.5 Cllr Evans asked if road name signs could in future omit reference to “Maidstone Borough Council”. This would be taken further by Cllr Munford. **CLLR MUNFORD**

17. Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st September 2015.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.