

## BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall, commencing at 7.00pm

#### Present:

Cllrs S. Munford (Chairman), I. Ellis, P. Herrin, D. Smith, S. Evans, L. Date, J. Skinner,  
N. Wilde

KCC Cllr Eric Hotson

KCC Cllr Gary Cooke

Police Sgt Rachael Cumberland

PCSO Pete Gardner

KCC Warden, Liz Lovatt

Parish Clerk

Approximately 80 parishioners

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Gershon, Cllr Martin and Borough Councillor Matt Burton

2. Welcome address and Report from Cllr Stephen Munford, Chairman of Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council and Borough Councillor for Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton.

Cllr Munford began his address by noting the sad passing of previous north ward Borough Councillor, Daniel Moriarty. He explained that Cllr Moriarty had been a north ward Councillor for 12 years, until 2016 and had done an enormous amount of good work for us in the parish and beyond

Cllr Munford gave an overview of finances, work carried out and issues dealt with during 2016/17 including :

- For the financial year 2016/17, income was £65,050 and expenditure £79,661. This gives an overspend of £14,011 however this is money that has been held in reserve by the Parish Council and has funded works to Parkwood Farm reservoir, which is now complete
- This year has seen a reorganisation of the structure of Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust (BMAT), putting it in a more resilient position to operate into the future. BMAT have recently secured another 45 acres of land adjacent to Cornwallis Academy, bringing total land ownership to more than 300 acres. Further information will be provided in the next edition of the Parish Council newsletter
- Work has continued on Boughton Monchelsea's Neighbourhood Plan. This plan will incorporate planning policies written by the community. Once complete, these will be applied to any planning application within the parish. With the firming up of Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan we will see a lot more activity on this during the year ahead. Residents will be consulted and a referendum will take place before the plan can be accepted
- The Parish Council is a consultee on all planning applications within the parish. The planning committee is chaired by Cllr Doug Smith. 14 meetings have been held since this time last year and 63 planning applications were responded to
- Throughout the year the Parish Council has responded to various Borough and County Council consultations , including :

- MBC : Consultation on Local Plan
- MBC : Consultation on local libraries
- MBC : Consultation on Draft Integrated Transport Strategy
- KCC : Active Travel Strategy consultation
- Repair work to Parkwood Farm reservoir is now complete. This means that the reservoir can now be made available to the relevant authorities, including Kent County Council, to be used as part of a co-ordinated action plan in the event of a potential flood situation
- The Parish Council take a keen interest in issues involving the roads and footpaths within the parish. Kent County Council are responsible for maintaining these but we do meet regularly with County Councillor, Eric Hotson, and relevant highway officers to discuss and attempt to resolve any problems. The Parish Council has lobbied KCC, on behalf of residents, for improvement works to :
  - Heath Road / Church Street junction
  - Linton crossroads
  - A274/B2163 junction at 'The Plough'
  - Wallis Avenue / Sutton Road junction
  - Brishing Lane
- CCTV has now been installed to the junction between Church Street and Heath Road. This is a result of anti-social behaviour and in an effort to deter fly tipping along Church Hill and beyond. Further CCTV signage will soon be erected
- Maidstone Borough Council made a decision several months ago to remove all dog waste bins within the Borough. MBC have installed a number of new co-mingled bins in the parish however dog waste can now be disposed of in any litter bin
- We have now installed a public access defibrillator inside the old red 'phone' box outside the social club. The code to this can be obtained by dialling 999. This project was made possible thanks to funding from The Big Lottery Fund, Kent County Council and the Parish Council
- In response to concerns regarding the old metal play area gates, new gates have now been fitted to all three entrances to the Church Street play area. The gates are bright yellow and all have been set to prevent children from pushing on the gates and getting out
- Maidstone Borough Council have advised us that monies are available for redevelopment of the Joywood play area. Our north ward Parish Councillors are looking into this alongside Borough Councillor, Matt Burton
- Thanks to the efforts of Cllr Kirstie Williams, the Borough Council has agreed to put in a new path from the Roman Way development to the Park Wood play area and shops
- Maintenance work has been carried out to the allotment site over the last year. The Parish Council are currently considering installing some raised beds for those with health or mobility issues that prevent them from working a traditional plot. There are some vacant plots available at the moment and, as an incentive, the Parish Council will rotavate all newly leased plots, free of charge. Contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in taking on a plot
- We had a fantastic response to our organised Spring litter pick and would like to thank everybody who took part. A special thank you to Cllr Sara Evans for

organising the event. We are also pleased to have a growing band of volunteers who are carrying out regular litter picking in roads they live in or paths they walk along.

- The Parish Council aim to set up a 'Youth Parish Council' to work alongside us and put forward ideas and proposals about things that matter to young people. Anybody aged 13 to 17 is welcome to get in touch to find out more
- Kent County Council are looking to recruit a Volunteer Community Warden to work alongside Liz Lovatt. This role will be advertised again in the next edition of the Parish Council newsletter. Further information can be obtained from the KCC website
- The Parish Council e-mail circle is still up and running. Contact Cllr Leon Date to join
- Cllr Jonathan Gershon has recently re-vamped the Parish Council website. Meeting agendas and minutes are available, alongside much other useful information
- The Parish Council comprises 15 members, 11 for south ward, 4 for north. Cllrs Nolan Wilde and Richard Martin have joined in the last year however there are still 2 vacancies – 1 in south ward and 1 in north. We aim to fill these vacancies at the next Parish Council meeting therefore please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in applying

3. Address by Cllr Eric Hotson, Kent County Council. Cllr Hotson's address included the following :

- Thanks to those members of the public who voted for Cllr Hotson at the recent County Council elections
- Recent dialogue with Boughton Monchelsea Primary School regarding road safety at the zebra crossing on Heath Road

Address by Cllr Gary Cooke, Kent County Council. Cllr Cooke's address included the following :

- It was good to see a Parish Council meeting held in north ward at the start of the year
- Current issues of note are traffic, parking and junction improvement work on the A274 Sutton Road
- There is a proposal to increase the road width on Wallis Avenue by reducing the width of the green verge
- Buddy system in operation to help older people. This included the Fusion café being open on Christmas day, which was paid for from Cllr Cooke's member fund
- Year 6 school children had had the opportunity to take part in a mock debate in the Council Chambers

4. Presentations from Police and KCC Rural Warden :

Sgt Cumberland spoke as follows :

- New intake of PCSO's now coming through
- Residents should ring in any concerns to the Police via 101
- PCSO Pete Gardner covers Staplehurst and Boughton Monchelsea
- There was a spike in shed burglaries earlier in the year but arrests have been made. PCSO Gardner has visited those affected as well as more general visits to community groups such as school and scouts

- CCTV is a good deterrent and is now in place at the Church Street / Heath Road junction
- PCSO surgeries are starting up again in Boughton Monchelsea

KCC Warden Liz Lovatt spoke as follows :

- Much work is done with other agencies and wardens act as a 'trusted friend' to many, especially older, residents
- KCC's warden service started 14 years ago. There are now 70 wardens in Kent
- Wardens receive an increasing number of referrals from social services and the NHS, assisting homeless families to find accommodation, for example
- Any concerns regarding residents who may be vulnerable and / or in need should be reported directly to Liz

5. Presentations from local organisations :

- Friendship Circle – £250 grant awarded
- Friends of St Peters – speech by Margaret Greig
- Brownies – speech by Hannah-Jane Tripp. £200 grant awarded
- Toddler Group – £200 grant awarded
- Scouts – speech by Karen Filmer. £300 grant awarded
- Village fete committee – Cllr Munford spoke. £200 grant awarded
- Village hall and recreation ground committee – Cllr Munford spoke
- St Peters Church / Junction / Messy Church – speech by Rev Phil Goodey. £2500 grant awarded as a contribution towards churchyard grass cutting costs
- Boughton Monchelsea Helping Hands – speech by Katy Abson. £300 grant awarded
- WI – speech by Patsy Wastell
- Bowls Club – speech by Derek Carpenter. £250 grant awarded
- North ward event – £200 grant awarded
- Royal British Legion – £350 grant to be awarded, near to remembrance day
- Salvation Army – £300 grant to be awarded following Carols on the Green
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance - £250 grant awarded

6. Presentations on 'Quiet Lanes'.

Cllr Evans presented to the meeting as follows :

What are Quiet Lanes?

Quiet Lanes are minor rural roads designated by the local authority to make them safer and more attractive to walkers, cyclists and horse riders and all who enjoy them, by encouraging drivers to drive more considerately. Use of these roads is shared – traffic is not banned. However, discrete signs and subtle changes to the lanes can promote a more tranquil, rural environment. Lower speeds are encouraged and through traffic may be directed to use more appropriate alternative routes.

A national Quiet Lanes sign has been developed to identify entry into and exit from a Quiet Lane. At the exit, the Quiet Lanes emblem will be crossed out. Signs can be mounted on small timber posts so they do not detract from the character of the countryside.

What are the benefits of Quiet Lanes?

By encouraging walking, cycling and horse riding, Quiet Lanes widen transport choices for the community and encourage healthy, recreational activities where people can enjoy country lanes peacefully and with less threat of speeding traffic. Since Quiet Lanes work best as a network of designated lanes, they can link where local people live, work, shop and go to school and connect lanes around a village centre, and with local footpaths. Such links can be an asset for the area and mean more custom for local businesses.

The Parish Council are proposing that Quiet Lanes be designated in this area to regain the character and tranquillity of our country lanes.

A questionnaire had been placed on every seat in the hall and parishioners were asked to complete this at the end of the meeting. Cllr Evans explained that the Parish Council would analyse the responses and pass this on to Kent County Council, who would be responsible for developing the Quiet Lanes project in partnership with the community.

Survey questions were as follows :

- What problems, if any, have you had using country lanes in the area as a walker, cyclist or horse rider?
- Do you think Quiet Lanes are a good idea? Please state why
- If you answered yes, which lanes do you think should be part of the Quiet Lanes network? Gandy's Lane / Green Lane / The Green / Beresfords Hill / Atkins Hill / Bottlescrew Hill (part) / The Quarries / Cliff Hill Road / Cliff Hill / Pested Bars Road / Brishing Road / Back Lane / Wierton Road / East Hall Hill / Wierton Hill / Hermitage Lane / Lucks Lane / Chart Hill Road (part) / Lower Farm Road / Long Lane / Peens Lane / Church Hill
- What objectives would you like to see traffic control measures achieve in your area? Encourage more considerate driving / Reduce the amount of traffic on the lanes / Reduce the amount of vehicles travelling at high speeds / Encourage more cycling / Encourage more walking / Encourage more horse riding
- Any other comments?

7. Parishioner of the Year presentation. The award for 2016/17 was presented to Terry Tuck. Cllr Munford spoke regarding Terry's years of dedicated service to the village, including his time as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

A Special Award was presented to Mrs Gillian Davis.

8. Open Forum

Residents spoke as follows :

- Rev Goodey spoke regarding the differences between the parish and ecclesiastical boundaries and how this might affect entitlement to marry in St Peters Church or be buried in the churchyard. Cllr Munford agreed to discuss this with Rev Goodey outside the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Refreshments followed.