

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 24th January 2017 at Fusion Health Living Centre, Cobb Way, Parkwood, pursuant to notice, commencing at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllrs S. Munford (Chairman)
I. Ellis
J. Gershon
K. Williams
S. Evans
P. Herrin
L. Date
D. Smith

Parish Clerk

Maidstone Borough Councillor, Matt Burton

Kent County Councillor, Gary Cooke

KCC Warden, Liz Lovatt

1 parishioner

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Martin, Whybrow and Skinner.
2. **Filming of meetings : Request for notification of whether any person intends to film or record any item**
There was no intention to film or record any item.
3. **Notification of late items for inclusion on the agenda**
The following late item was agreed : 7.8 KCC Warden Report
4. **Standing Order 61: To decide whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for any item.**
No excluded items.
5. **Open Quarter**
Members welcomed the one resident who was present at the meeting. Cllr Munford thanked Cllrs Williams and Date for delivering flyers advertising the meeting to homes in north ward.

Resident, Nolan Wilde, expressed concern at the poor condition of equipment and lack of facilities at the Joywood play area. He added that MBC had installed new bins recently but there were now three bins within a few metres of each other. Mr Wilde also reported that the CCTV on the lighting column had been removed.

Cllr Burton advised that MBC were currently reviewing CCTV provision throughout the borough. Cllr Cooke noted that KCC were undertaking a programme of lighting column bulb replacement. Mr Wilde advised that the contractor who changed the light bulb on the streetlight was the same one who took the CCTV down from it. Cllr Cooke agreed to investigate this.

CLLR COOKE

Cllrs Munford and Williams spoke regarding funding for upgrade works to the Joywood play area. Cllr Burton advised of a forthcoming MBC planning meeting regarding section 106 monies and added that a sum of money was available for the play area. Cllr Munford stated that MBC Parks and Leisure have made a commitment to this project. Cllr Burton agreed to take this forward. **CLLR BURTON**

6. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda / Declaration of Changes to the Register of Interests / Requests for Dispensation :

Nothing to record.

7 Correspondence / Items for discussion :

7.1 Parish Councillor vacancies in north ward :

It was noted that there are two vacancies in north ward. Cllr Munford spoke briefly regarding roles and responsibilities of a Parish Councillor. Resident, Mr Wilde, expressed an interest in applying. Clerk to forward relevant information. Vacancies to be advertised on north ward noticeboards. **CLERK**

7.2 Litter picking :

Cllr Evans advised that the Parish Council's litter pick could probably be co-ordinated to take place at the same time as KCC's Spring Clean in March. She added that KCC's contractor had not done any of the work they were supposed to do during last year's litter pick. Cllr Cooke advised that there had been repercussions from this but that the workers were not directly employed by KCC. Cllr Cooke stated that KCC will liaise with individual parishes on exactly what work needs to be done. Clerk to produce list and forward to KCC. **CLERK**

Cllr Williams noted that litter in north ward is so bad that residents are put off from volunteering their time as a morning's work has little impact. Cllr Ellis asked what responsibilities MBC have. Cllr Munford advised that MBC carry out six weekly litter picks in the parish and also respond to fly tipping incidents, as they occur. It was agreed that the clerk should contact MBC to ask for the next litter pick to concentrate on north ward. **CLERK**

The possibility of using Community Payback to assist with litter picking was discussed. Clerk to investigate. **CLERK**

Liz Lovatt advised that Brishing Lane is full of litter. Cllr Williams noted that KCC may offer a road closure to allow for litter to be safely picked. It was agreed that MBC should be asked to litter pick both Brishing Lane and Pested Bars Road. **CLERK**

7.3 Dog waste bins : Complaints had been received from several residents regarding MBC's recent dog waste bin removal programme. It was noted that new co-mingled bins have been installed but three bins are now located within metres of each other. Cllr Burton advised that additional bins have been ordered. Cllr Williams advised that an additional bin is needed on Roman Way, adjacent to the Parkwood recreation ground. Cllr Burton to feed this information back to MBC.

CLLR BURTON

- 7.4 Fly tipping : It was noted that there is a statutory fine of £400 for fly tipping but the crime has to be witnessed. Cllr Williams noted that recent fly tipping in Brishing Road includes items such as tyres and fridges. The possibility of CCTV was discussed. Cllr Burton advised that MBC have ten mobile CCTV units and the Parish Council can request use of these. Cllr Evans suggested that an appropriate location might be the junction of Church Street and Heath Road. Cllrs Munford and Burton to pursue this with MBC. **CLLR MUNFORD / CLLR BURTON**

The subject of motorbike nuisance was also discussed. Cllr Munford noted that those affected by fly tipping or other nuisance must report this directly to MBC / the Police, not via the Parish Council. This way, incidents / crimes will be properly recorded. Cllr Gershon suggested that more commitment is needed from the Police. It was noted that contact information on reporting various issues is provided in the Parish Council's newsletters but that this could be stepped up by way of a 'campaign', including publication of contact details for Police 101, MBC, KCC, trading standards etc. **CLERK / CLLR DATE / CLLR GERSHON**

- 7.5 Footpaths : Cllr Burton stated that there was no update yet on the footpath from the Roman Way development across the Parkwood recreation ground. Cllr Williams advised that, at present, residents have to walk across mud to get to the bus stop and shops. It was noted that section 106 funds have been agreed for this project. Cllr Munford to chase this up in his capacity as Borough Councillor. **CLLR MUNFORD**

- 7.6 Improvements to Joywood play area : Covered in item 5. above.

- 7.7 Parking issues : Cllr Williams advised that there had been several queries from residents recently regarding parking covenants. She added that the roads have all been adopted by KCC now so the covenants no longer apply. It was noted that some commercial vehicles have been parking irresponsibly.

Cllr Williams noted that parking on the Roman Way and Thomas Rider Way developments is awful but that there is a general acceptance of this and nobody has approached her as a Parish Councillor to complain. Cllr Cooke expressed concern that emergency services access may not be achievable at times.

Cllr Burton suggested that now the car park has gone from Parkwood, any new parking provision in Roman Way would be likely to be used by those from further away, not the residents it would be intended for.

- 7.8 KCC Warden, Liz Lovatt, handed a written report to the clerk which is summarised below :
- 'Friends Against Scams' is a national trading standards team initiative which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering communities to take a stand against scams. Anyone interested can learn more by attending a 'Friends Against Scams' awareness session or by completing online learning. Further details available from Liz

- There have been a number of complaints regarding dog fouling on the open space at Lockham Farm Avenue. Residents are reminded to clean up after their dogs
- There were a number of shed breaks in Boughton Monchelsea at the start of the year. Crimes in progress should be reported via 999. 101 should be used to report a crime or incident that has already occurred. Liz is available to provide free crime prevention advice to residents
- Liz is intending to organise a Great British Spring Clean as part of Keep Britain Tidy week (3rd to 5th March). Anybody interesting in volunteering should get in touch with Liz. It was noted that the Parish Council's Spring Clean may also take place over this weekend. Cllr Cooke advised that the Spring Clean would also include work such as refreshment of road markings and sign cleaning.

8. Any other Business (Non-decision items only)

- 8.1 It was noted that the Parish Council had previously agreed a grant of £200 towards a community event in north ward. Cllr Williams suggested perhaps joining together with Parkwood on this. Cllr Burton and Cllr Cooke noted that Parkwood residents association meet once a month in Fusion and there may be a possibility for some integration with north ward. It was also suggested rotating Parish Council meeting venues between north and south wards and perhaps holding a future meeting at Langley Park.
- 8.2 Cllr Date advised that the light inside the phone box in Church Street does not seem to be working properly. Clerk to investigate. **CLERK**
- 8.3 Cllr Smith advised that he is working on engaging a new Neighbourhood Planning consultant. **CLLR SMITH**
- 8.4 Cllr Gershon reminded members to advise him whether they are happy for their contact details and photos to be displayed on the Parish Council website **ALL CLLRS**
- 8.5 Cllr Williams asked whether salt bins could be provided for the Roman Way and Thomas Rider Way developments. Cllr Cooke agreed to pay for these from his member fund. **CLLR COOKE**
- 8.6 The clerk advised that she would chase up Arriva regarding their previous commitment to investigate re-routing the number 82 bus closer to the north ward housing developments. **CLERK**
- 8.7 Cllr Cooke advised that Arriva are currently reviewing all their bus services and cuts are likely in rural areas. Cllr Munford asked the clerk to contact Cllr Eric Hotson regarding plans for the number 59 bus. **CLERK**

Meeting closed at 8.35pm