

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Herne Centre, St Martin's View, Herne CT6 7AP

Minutes of the meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at the Herne Centre on Thursday 10th August 2023 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Davis, Cllr Davison, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Collins, Cllr Harlin, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Strong, Cllr White, and Cllr Wilson.

149/23 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Hill. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

City Cllr Howes.

150/23 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

Cllr Davis declared a personal interest under 162/23, regarding the two Braggs Lane planning applications.

151/23 To confirm the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 13th July 2023.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

152/23 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

The clerk reported that the fly-tipping at Broomfield Community Park will need to be cleared by the parish council, as it is classed as private land.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Draw for 100 Club.

1st: 20, 2nd: 21.

153/23 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis reminded members about the meeting with other parishes on Friday 8th September 2023, from 7 until 9pm, which is before the next council meeting. Hopefully, members will attend to welcome the visitors. Herne and Broomfield Local History Group have been asked to give a presentation. Volunteers will be needed to serve light refreshments.

Cllr Davis explained that the idea is to have an annual meeting with the northern neighbouring parishes (Blean, Chestfield, Chislet, Hackington, Hersden, Hoath, and Sturry Parish Councils, and Fordwich Town Council), to exchange ideas in an informal setting and see where we can support each other with "cross-border" issues. The meeting would be hosted by a different parish each year.

154/23 Police Matters/Crime report.

No report had been received.

155/23 Warden's Report.

Lisa Harrison – Kent County Council Community Warden Herne and Broomfield.

I continue with welfare visits which are requested by various agencies including social services, GP, Hub etc in the Herne, Broomfield and Herne Bay Area. Welfare visits and support do take up quite a lot of my time as demand is getting higher with limited services and various social pressures. I am really pleased with the positive outcomes we have been achieving. I work closely with the GP surgery and attend their Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting every week to discuss residents that may be of concern, which has been working well to establish residents that need extra support and agree, as a group, who needs to support them.

I have also been busy visiting and supporting both old and new community groups, using these groups as an opportunity to advertise various other groups and activities within the community.

They are also a good source of information on local issues and obtaining information on what support residents need within the community. Coffee Morning at the Mill is not running throughout August, due to volunteers and myself taking holiday, and some illnesses, so we were unable to cover all the weeks. Also, Knit and Natter is being run at the Mill over August, instead of Broomfield URC, due to the closure of the hall.

I have supported the following events since my last report:

Broomfield URC Fete

Joint Speed watch with Police on School Lane and the Redrow Estate

ASB week in Herne Bay Town Centre with Police and Local Council

Community Fun Day at Cherry Orchard.

I have had many calls about various parking issues, overgrown hedges, broken fences, fly tipping, graffiti, and highway issues across the area, which I have dealt with.

Over the last few weeks, I have been undertaking evening surveillance once a week, as there have been complaints of some hijinks from young people in certain areas. As yet I have not witnessed anything untoward but will continue with evening surveillance for the next few weeks.

As you are aware the warden service is currently undergoing some significant changes. The public consultation started on Wednesday 12th July 2023 and ends on 3rd October 2023. Please can you encourage residents to take part in the consultation online. I also have some limited hard copies to give to residents that are not online.

The details for completing are as follows: www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview

Just to make you aware, I am on leave from Wednesday 23rd August 2023 until 31st August 2023.

156/23 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh, City Cllr Howes and City Cllr Jones.

County Cllr Marsh.

County Cllr Marsh reported that he had attended the official opening ceremony for the Bullockstone Road Improvement Scheme. He said that the parish council should ask Canterbury City Council (CCC) for an updated report on air quality and a report on traffic density.

He said that he had received 13 enquiries regarding dustbins not being emptied due to the strike by some Canenco refuse collectors and suggested the parish council write to the leader of CCC.

County Cllr Marsh said that Kent County Council (KCC) is offering £100 supermarket vouchers from the Household Support Fund.

Cllr Davis asked County Cllr Marsh whether he had any further information regarding the KCC Members Tree Scheme grant that had been applied for. He asked the clerk to email the officers again, and to copy him in.

City Cllr Jones.

Regarding the strike by Canenco refuse collectors, City Cllr Jones reported that CCC had met and made a further offer to the GMB union. This included an increase in pay and a change to the terms of employment. These would be effective from the beginning of January 2024.

City Cllr Jones reported that he had had a response from Hazel Walters (KCC Highways) regarding the damaged road surface outside the Curious Cat Public House. The resurfacing of the road is scheduled to be done, with a provisional date of 7th or 8th September 2023.

He said that he had been in contact with CCC Parking Enforcement who are monitoring some of the problem areas around the parish.

157/23 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The clerk said that the Admin Assistant would be on annual leave from 7th until 11th August 2023.

The clerk reported that on 8th August 2023 she spoke with the solicitor regarding the ongoing court case. He said that the amended Particulars of Claim had been submitted to the court and

outlined the next steps. However, on 9th August 2023 he contacted the clerk to report that the claimant had made an offer and proposed a course of action.

The clerk recommended that the parish council follow the solicitor's advice. Members agreed to follow the solicitor's advice, with one abstention.

158/23 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting: none.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied:

Payments were approved.

To report on income received: Newsletter advertising £86.40, Total £86.40.

159/23 To consider the External Auditor's report for the financial year 2021/22.

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The clerk explained that the External Auditor had requested a copy of the minutes where the External Auditor's comments for the financial year 2021/22 had been received. It had not been possible to do this. As there were no issues raised, this may have been reported verbally but not recorded in the minutes.

The clerk said that the auditor may make a comment regarding the omission in the report for the financial year 2022/23.

Members received the External Auditor's report for the financial year 2021/22 and accepted their comments.

160/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 20th July 2023.

The minutes were received.

161/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Herne Centre Committee meeting held on 27th July 2023.

The minutes were received.

162/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 8th August 2023 and discuss any matters arising, and other planning and highways issues.

The minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick spoke regarding the spine road through the Strode Farm development. It is intended to be the main A road through Herne. The new junction with the Eddington roundabouts will be completed during Phase A, but it depends on the developer when the rest of the road is finished. Building will begin on 4th September 2023, with access to the site coming from Canterbury Road until the new junction is completed.

163/23 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Davis said that the parish council has still not had a response regarding the KCC Members Tree Scheme grant funding for the Queen's Green Canopy trees. The application was made last October.

She reported that as noted in the Planning & Highways Committee meeting minutes, the veteran oak at 83 Broomfield Road is under threat again from an insurance company who wants the tree felled.

Cllr Davis reported that she had registered a fault on the KCC website, on behalf of a resident, regarding maintenance of the birch tree situated on the corner of Hunters Forstal Road and Arden Road. The KCC Highways Tree Officer has inspected the tree and raised a job to have the re-growth from the previous pruning removed. Works are raised on a two-month priority and should be completed within two months of being received by KCC Highways contractors.

She had also been contacted by a resident regarding a tree under threat from a neighbour in Mount View Road. Unfortunately, there was no protection for the tree as it was not in a conservation area and did not have a TPO. The neighbour just cut it down even though it was not their tree and was on land originally part of the landscaping for the estate that has gradually

become a car park.

Cllrs Davis and Davison met with the chair and vice-chair of Friends of Broomfield Pond, City Cllr Jones and Rebecca Booth (CCC Senior Environmental Officer), to discuss future management of the pond and potential funding, plus the application to cut back the willows on the island. An on-site meeting will take place on Monday 14th August 2023 at 12.00pm.

164/23 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

Cllr White reported that she had attended the KALC Canterbury Area Committee Annual General Meeting. The speaker had been the new leader of CCC, City Cllr Baldock.

165/23 To discuss guidelines for the Herne & Broomfield Parish Facebook group.

Cllr Davis explained that it can be difficult to decide what advertising to allow on the Facebook group. Members agreed that advertising charitable events would be acceptable.

Cllr Davis confirmed that individuals wanting to join the group are asked to agree to the rules and respond to the message. Companies are not permitted.

166/23 To discuss the Kent County Council consultation regarding the Community Warden Service.

Cllr Davis said that there would be too much to discuss at this meeting regarding this consultation. She suggested that members bring their responses to the next meeting for approval. Members agreed.

Members commented that this is a very important service, providing a lifeline for lots of vulnerable people in the area.

Cllr Blatherwick said that it might be useful for the clerk to refer to a previous response to a KCC Warden Consultation.

167/23 To discuss the progress of transferring the management of the Herne Centre to the parish council and any transitional requirements. This item will be preceded by a resolution Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude the public and press due to the Confidential nature of the business being discussed.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that there will be no TUPE of staff. The Herne Centre Committee have been looking at staffing; what is needed and what the parish council can afford. Initially, it will be necessary to employ a manager and a cleaner. Adverts will be put in the next newsletter for an Amenities Manager and a Herne Centre cleaner. In addition, there will be a request for expressions of interest for casual staff.

Cllr Blatherwick said that she and Cllr Davis had been meeting with various people to look at the provision of catering for bookings, and the feasibility of having a drop in café.

Cllr Davison suggested that members make a list of ideas regarding possible activities at the centre. Cllr Blatherwick said that people would need to be found to run them.

168/23 Members Reports.

Cllr Davison said that Herne & Broomfield Local History Group will start organising the parish archives once the Holiday Club has finished.

169/23 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 14th September 2023.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.