

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 11th January 2024 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Wilson (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Blatherwick

Cllr Collins

Cllr Harlin

Cllr Hill

Cllr Saunders

Cllr Strong

Michele Nicholson (Clerk/RFO)

01/24 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllrs Checksfield, Davis, Davison, and White. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.
City Cllr Howes.

02/24 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

03/24 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2023.

Cllr Collins said that there was a mistake on the minutes. The list of attendees included the names of the members that were not present. The clerk apologised for the error and amended the minutes.

The amended minutes were agreed as a correct record.

04/24 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

The clerk reported that the dumping of waste on the Strode Farm site had been reported to Canterbury City Council (CCC) Planning by both her and City Cllr Jones. The officer has reported this to Kent County Council (KCC) Highways.

The clerk reported that Cllr Davis had received a complaint from a resident, via County Cllr Watkins, regarding Stonebond leaving debris along Bullockstone Road. The debris resulted in damage being made to the underside of a car.

The clerk said that the Friends of Herne Mill had held public sessions at the Herne Centre on 9th, 10th and 11th January 2024 regarding the KCC Windmill Consultation.

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

Draw for 100 Club.

1st: 8, 2nd: 16.

05/24 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Wilson said that paper copies of the KCC Windmill Consultation were available in the Herne Centre.

06/24 Police Matters/Crime report.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

PCs Hoffmeister and Beatty, from the Community Safety Unit, attended the meeting.

PC Hoffmeister said that there was little to report back.

Issues with anti-social behaviour are low, with no new reports of vandalism in Cherry Orchard. This is mainly due to the current cold weather.

He has been working jointly with a CCC Housing Officer regarding some ongoing issues on the Talmead estate.

Cllr Harlin asked whether anything could be done to reduce the number of vehicles speeding along the A299 slip road. PC Hoffmeister replied that due to it being a dual carriageway he would need to check whether it would be possible to set up a speed watch along there. If it is, he will add it to his list of sites.

Cllr Strong asked what the response times should be for break-ins. PC Hoffmeister replied that attendance is judged on the threat of risk and harm. He is aware that there is a policy change due soon and will clarify what this is.

Lisa Harrison (KCC Warden) asked whether PC Hoffmeister knew anything about the abandoned car at Herne and Broomfield Surgery. Cllr Collins explained that it is obstructing the view when exiting the surgery car park. PC Hoffmeister replied that he is aware and will see if it can be moved.

07/24 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 also 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. I also link some of these with the Herne Centre as they may be able to support each other to offer services for the community.

Just a few of the local resident cases I have dealt with during December 2023.

One resident was being threatened by a scammer and the resident contacted me as they thought they were in trouble with the police and were scared. I immediately put their mind at rest and showed them it was a scam. I contacted the bank so that the resident did not lose any money, blocked and reported the scammer, and sent an assertive email to the scammer from the community safety email address to inform them that we were dealing with the case. Luckily, the resident felt safe contacting me as she would not have contacted the police, or anyone else, as she thought she was in the wrong. The resident did not lose any money and had no more contact from this person.

Supported one resident to join groups and referred them for bereavement support due to her losing her husband and struggling to cope.

Supported one resident to get agency supporting for hoarding issues that she felt were getting out of control.

Supported another resident to get a blue badge, get care for her husband so that she can get a break, join local support groups, and join fun joint activities together.

Reporting to other services:

2 scams

4 fly tipping

1 graffiti

1 abandoned/stolen car

Events supported in December:

Santa Sleigh, Children's Christmas Party.

Cllr Wilson asked whether there was an update regarding the antisocial behaviour that had been reported on the Redrow estate. Lisa Harrison replied that it is not currently much of a problem, it is mostly children playing in the ball court. She said that a parish noticeboard is very much needed on the estate. Cllr Wilson asked the clerk to add this to the agenda for the next Environment & Leisure Committee meeting. **Action: clerk.**

08/24 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh, City Cllr Howes and City Cllr Jones.

City Cllr Jones:

CCC are working to reduce recycling bin contamination. Currently, recycling rates are 43%, which is below the national average. From 15th January 2024 collectors will be doing a visual check of the bins. Any contamination seen will result in the bin not being emptied and a notice placed on the bin. Cllr Wilson raised concerns that this would discourage residents from recycling. City Cllr Jones replied that CCC will monitor the recycling rates to assess what impact the proposals have had. Cllr Wilson asked whether it would be possible to have monthly updates.

City Cllrs Howes and Jones will be meeting the Friends of Herne Mill to support them through the consultation on the future of the windmills managed by KCC. City Cllr Jones has contacted the CCC Heritage Team to request their support. The lead City Cllr will be meeting with the Friends.

The latest parking review by the Joint Transport Board is being undertaken. Cllr Blatherwick said that the Planning & Highways Committee had considered the proposed double yellow lines for the parish and submitted their support.

County Cllr Marsh:

KCC are yet to agree the budget for 2024/25. Various proposals regarding where budget savings could be made are being consulted on and it is important that the parish council respond.

KCC Highways have been regularly gritting the roads through the current cold weather.

09/24 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Thank you for the Christmas gifts, and a happy New Year to you all. Hopefully, everyone had a good Christmas.

The new Administrative Assistant is due to start on 22nd January 2024.

Just before Christmas there was an issue with the Co-operative bank. Between the clerk and chairman, and with some considerable time spent by the chairman on the telephone, the matter was resolved.

The tours of the Santa float went well. The weather was fine, with lots of people coming out. Running it over two evenings was better, but the routes require a bit more adjusting to balance the two routes out timewise. Nearly £500.00 was raised over the two evenings. Thank you to everyone who helped, both on the float and walking alongside.

The survey on the trees in the Wildlife Area is scheduled for 29th January 2024.

The clerk from Hoath Parish Council has been in contact. Hoath Parish Council are hoping to organise another parish council get together in March.

A response has been received from Kelly Tonkin (CCC Planning) regarding the dumping of waste at Strode Farm. She said that it is being transported from the golf course site, as additional soil is required to build up levels. The Strode Farm site is currently being secured with fencing and hoardings, with site set up being established. Full digging works for temporary access are due to commence on 15th January 2024.

10/24 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting:

Ann Blatherwick:	£38.50
Ian Sargent:	£49.99
Marie Hackshall:	£94.05
Supermaids:	£73.80

Total: £256.34

Payments were ratified.

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

Payments were approved.

To report on income received:

Bar takings: £428.43

Centre bookings: £985.00

Total: £1,413.43

11/24 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 9th January 2024 and discuss any matters arising, and other planning and highways issues.

The minutes were received.

Cllr Wilson said that some of the double yellow line requests are as a response to utility vehicles experiencing issues with accessing some of the streets. This is a particular problem for refuse lorries, resulting in residents not having their bins emptied.

12/24 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

The clerk reported that Cllr Davison had been contacted by a resident regarding wood being cut up and removed from Curtis Wood. Cllr Davison has reported this to CCC. Rebecca Booth (CCC Senior Environment Officer) has responded that CCC do not have any authorised works going on at the present time, so this activity would be unlawful. Anybody undertaking work on behalf of CCC would be carrying identification and wearing clothing with their company logo on. CCC will see if there are any measures that might be put in place to deter this type of activity. Any further incidents should be reported to CCC directly.

13/24 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

14/24 To discuss the use of the Herne Centre by the NHS Blood Donation service.

The clerk reported that the NHS Blood Donation service had expressed an interest in hiring the Herne Centre for blood donation sessions.

Members agreed to support this in principle. Further information would be needed to see how this would impact other centre bookings. The clerk was asked to contact the Kings Hall to see what arrangements they have in place. **Action: clerk and centre staff.**

15/24 To discuss the report received regarding the IT requirements for the parish office and Herne Centre staff, and to consider the recommendations made.

A report and quote had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The clerk reported that an IT engineer had reviewed the parish council's current IT equipment. The parish council currently has two desktop PCs and one laptop. One of the PCs and the laptop are very old and have become sluggish. They are also not compatible with the latest version of Windows, so it is recommended that they are replaced. The other PC is a few years old, but is running the latest Windows, version 11, so will last for a few more years before needing replacing. The recommendations are to purchase two new laptops and a docking station. One laptop and docking station would replace the older PC and laptop, and the other would be for the Amenities Manager. The newer desktop PC would be kept as it is for the time being and replaced at a later date.

The clerk said that she would get two more quotes.

Cllr Blatherwick proposed that a maximum budget is set of £2,000.00. Members all agreed to the proposal. The clerk will forward the other quotes to members once they have been received.

Action: clerk.

16/24 To receive the Amenities Manager's report regarding the Herne Centre and to discuss any matters arising.

The clerk reported that the Amenities Manager had not managed to write a report.

Cllr Blatherwick explained that she had met with the Amenities Manager, who would be putting together some costings for the centre.

Cllr Blatherwick suggested having a rota of parish council volunteers to help keep staffing costs down, or to employ a younger person. Cllr Wilson requested that a calendar of events is emailed out to members. **Action: centre staff.**

Cllr Blatherwick reported that the HuB@Herne would not be continuing after January 2024.

The parish council need to decide what the focus should be for the coffee shop/cafe. Is it to provide somewhere for people to be able to drop-in and get refreshments or is it to be run as a commercial cafe. There was some discussion with members agreeing that the centre is a community facility. Cllr Blatherwick said that it needs to be kept going, so that the current users are not lost. It would be good to have the HuB open every day, with one day offering a hot meal. After some discussion it was suggested that an advert is posted on Facebook and the parish council website to see if someone would be willing to volunteer to run a community cafe. **Action: centre staff.**

17/24 Members Reports.

Cllr Harlin reported that a hedge from a neighbouring property was growing over into the Herne Centre car park. He said he would be able to cut it back on the centre side. Cllr Collins said that she would help with this. The resident would need to be informed before any work is done. **Action: clerk, centre staff, and Cllrs Harlin and Collins.**

Cllr Strong asked whether there was any update regarding the Herne Centre heating. The clerk said that a site visiting is being arranged with some of the companies involved in the original installation. **Action: clerk.**

18/24 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 8th February 2024.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.