

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 12th January 2023 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Collins, Cllr Davison, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hill, Cllr Saunders, and Cllr Strong.

Not present:

Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Sargent, and Cllr Wilson.

01/23 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Sargent, and Cllr Wilson. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.
County Cllr Marsh and City Cllr Howes.

02/23 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

03/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2022.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

Cllr Davison arrived at this point.

04/23 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

None.

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

Draw for 100 Club.

1st: 31, 2nd: 20.

One member of the public attended and spoke regarding the parking issues in Hillbrow Avenue. He thanked the parish council and City Cllr Dekker for their help. City Cllr Dekker reported that this will now be taken to the Joint Transport Board for consideration.

05/23 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis thanked everyone for their messages and cards.

06/23 Police Matters/Crime report.

Crimes of note:

- 01/12 - Curtis Wood Park Road – Theft from motor vehicle – Van broken into
- 02/12 - Herne Street – Criminal damage – Shed lock broken off
- 03/12 - East Blean Wood – Theft – Timber being stolen
- 13/12 - Parkland Road – Burglary – Care home broken into by youths
- 23/12 - Herne Street – Criminal damage – Front window smashed
- 23/12 - Herne Street – Drink driving – Seen driving after exiting the pub

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- 04/12 - School Lane – Dangerous driving – Speeding possible drug driving

Items of good work:

Visible patrolling – Foot and vehicle

Community engagement

Updates of previously reported issues:

General thefts have increased. Lower ASB.

Burglaries and theft have a tendency to increase building up to the holidays.

This has been recognised nationwide and as a result further patrols have been on duty throughout the night in hopes to reduce this matter.

07/23 Warden's Report.

Parish Council Report – Lisa Harrison – 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 gets higher with limited services and various social pressures, although really pleased with the positive outcomes we have been having.

As my last report was up to 16th December 2022, that coupled with taking leave over the Christmas period and only being back for less than two weeks, I do not have much to report this month.

Before I had my time off, I got into the festive spirit and supported the Herne and Broomfield Santa Float, which was well received by residents.

08/23 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Cllr Howes (there will be no report from City Cllr Dekker whilst Lord Mayor).

City Cllr Dekker.

She mentioned that there will be some changes to procedure for the elections in May 2023. Firstly, the introduction of photo identification, with something in place for those that do not currently have any photo identification. Secondly, applicants looking to stand will no longer need 10 sponsors, but only 2.

There will be boundary changes for the next general election, which are likely to affect the parish.

09/23 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The clerk and admin assistant would like to thank everyone for their Christmas gifts and wishes. The new log in details for the internet banking have been received and the accounts can now be accessed online.

Cllr Davis and the clerk had an online meeting with two officers from CCC, Debra Nicholls and Sarah Randall, as part of CCC's review of public conveniences. A report from this meeting was circulated. Sarah Bingham met with the clerk and admin assistant on 6th January 2023 to have an initial discussion regarding the Community Fun Day. St. Martin's Church would like to hold a joint event with the parish council. This will be on the agenda of the next Environment & Leisure Committee meeting for discussion of how to take this forward.

With the elections due in May 2023, both the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) will be providing training. The clerk and admin assistant will do as much of the officer training as they can, the first being organised by the local branch of the SLCC on 23rd February 2023. The details of any training for councillors will be sent out.

10/23 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: adverts in the Community News £86.40, Christmas Fun Day £622.75, Santa Float donations £418.99, total £1,128.14.

11/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 22nd December 2022.

See 03/23 above.

12/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 5th January 2023 and discuss other planning and highways issues.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that a resident had spoken regarding their application in the May Street area. They were asking for some advice and support. She suggested that they contact City Cllr Joe

Howes. Members had been unable to comment on the application as they had not seen the plans. City Cllr Dekker said that applicants are able to book time with the preplanners at CCC. Regarding the Draft Local Plan, Cllr Blatherwick reported that she had sent her comments to the clerk. She had looked at the proposals made for new schools and a Canterbury ring road. The clerk confirmed that comments regarding the environmental proposals had not been received yet. Cllr Blatherwick mentioned that concerns had been raised regarding the Altira roundabout. The Hillborough development, in addition to the proposed development in the Altira area, will create more traffic. The concerns were that the current roundabout would not be able to take this extra traffic. The clerk had emailed KCC Highways with these concerns.

13/23 To consider the suggestions put forward by CCC regarding the toilets in Cherry Orchard as part of their review of public conveniences.

Report previously circulated.

The clerk reported that she and Cllr Davis had had a meeting with two officers from CCC regarding CCC's review of public conveniences.

The review involves looking at the condition, equipment, location, cost to run, and number of all the toilets. Only three toilets in the district are sited within a parish council area; Sturry, Chartham, and Herne & Broomfield. Both Sturry and Chartham have taken over responsibility for the toilets in their areas. There is also a community run toilet in Beltinge.

No decisions have been made regarding the toilets in Cherry Orchard. The meeting was to share information with the parish council and to highlight some possible options.

Members agreed to defer to a later date for discussion when more information is available.

14/23 To discuss the options for storage of local archives from Herne & Broomfield Local History Group.

Cllr Davis and Cllr Blatherwick have looked at possible sites within the Herne Centre for the storage. Possible options could be in the main hall cupboards, the Activity Room, or the Roundel. For accessibility, a public area would be better. The storage is likely to be two filing cabinets. Members have already agreed this in principle, but need to agree where the storage is to go and approve the purchase costs once these are available.

15/23 To consider the request from the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) to ask MPs to sign an Early Day Motion (EDM) regarding the Government revisiting its response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life report.

The clerk read out the EDM requesting the introduction of tougher sanctions to deal with poor behaviour in local councils.

Cllr Collins asked how poor behaviour from residents and councillors is dealt with. The clerk explained that it would be reported to the Monitoring Officer at CCC to investigate. Currently the sanctions that can be imposed are not robust making it difficult to get a satisfactory resolution. Members agreed to contact MP Roger Gale.

16/23 To consider whether to adopt the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Award Scheme 2023.

The clerk outlined the scheme, with the Award Winners receiving a framed certificate. Cllr Davis asked whether it was like the parish council's own award scheme. The clerk confirmed that it was. Members asked for more information regarding the KALC scheme.

17/23 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

18/23 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Harvey reported that the recent water test results for Plenty Brook are still not good and showing contamination.

Cllr Davis reported that the tree planting needs to be organised very soon. The clerk will contact Kent County Council again regarding whether the grant has been approved.

19/23 To report on the Staffing Committee meeting (Closed session) 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.

The clerk reported that the Staffing Committee had been pleased with the progress of both the clerk and admin assistant. The committee agreed to recommend to full council to increase the admin assistant's hours from 20 per week to 30 per week, and to her membership of the SLCC. Members agreed to the Staffing Committee's recommendations.

20/23 Members Reports.

Cllr Strong reported that he had attended the KALC Introduction to Allotment Law and Management training.

21/23 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 9th February 2023.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.