

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 15th December 2023 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis (Chairman)

Cllr Wilson (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Blatherwick

Cllr Checksfield

Cllr Collins

Cllr Harlin

Cllr Strong

Michele Nicholson (Clerk/RFO)

238/23 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllrs Davison, Hill, Saunders and White. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

County Cllr Marsh, City Cllr Howes and KCC Community Warden Lisa Harrison.

239/23 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

240/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2023.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

241/23 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

The clerk reported that she had contacted Matt Judge (Architects) and Peter Thorpe (Betteridge & Milsom), regarding the ongoing problems with the Herne Centre heating. Peter Thorpe had contacted GM Mechanical and BEC Construction, who have responded that they would like a site visit.

The clerk said that she had not managed to follow up the concerns with parking at Broomfield Community Park with Kent County Council yet.

She reported that the Amenities Manager will be arranging the service of the bouncy castle.

Regarding the locking of the Herne Centre when the centre is closed, the main problem will be unlocking it again in the morning in time for the school drop off times. Members agreed to keep the overflow car park closed.

The clerk said that the overgrown vegetation along Canterbury Road should now have been cut back.

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

Draw for 100 Club.

1st: 11, 2nd: 16.

242/23 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis thanked everyone who helped with the Christmas events, and to City Cllrs Howes and Jones for giving a donation towards the party and being Santa at the Fun Day and on the float.

She asked whether someone would be able to put out the Santa Stop signs on Sunday. Cllr Harlin said that he could do that. Cllr Davis wished everyone a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

243/23 Police Matters/Crime report.

No report had been received.

244/23 Warden's Report.

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

No report had been received.

245/23 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh, City Cllr Howes and City Cllr Jones.

County Cllr Marsh.

The clerk said that County Cllr Marsh had sent through the following report:

Apologies to all, I have committed to Chislet Parish Council for tomorrow night after full Council on budget tomorrow all day.

Please note that Herne School had a fantastic Sleeping Beauty Panto and they are now full of the Christmas spirit!

On that note I will brief you on the Budget for KCC next month and in the meantime may I wish everyone a good relaxing Xmas with a safe and prosperous New Year.

City Cllr Jones

City Cllrs Jones and Howes are agreed that Canterbury City Council (CCC) should consider Herne Mill as an heritage asset. They will be asking the city council to support the mill with its future. It would be better if all the 8 mills joined together.

The consultation regarding the proposed increases in parking fees is still open.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that there had been clay tipped onto the Strode Farm development site.

City Cllr Jones will make enquiries regarding whether there is a licence in place for this.

246/23 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Strode Farm Development update meeting on 5th December 2023.

This meeting was attended by Kelly Tonkin (CCC Planning Officer), Alex Hodge (Vistry), Kevin Coleman (Phase 2 Planning), City Cllr Howes, City Cllr Jones, Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk.

The development should hopefully start in January 2024, once the Shared Ownership agreement has been agreed.

Looking to obtain planning permission for later phases in the new year.

The properties will be of mixed tenure, potentially reducing the proportion for private sale, and increasing the proportion of affordable homes. The 30% minimum of affordable homes, as per the S106 agreement, will remain at 70% affordable rent and 30% shared ownership. The affordable housing will be integrated across the site.

The spine road and some of the roads leading off it will be adopted, but the small ancillary roads will not.

Regarding the management company for the estate, every resident will have voting rights. When the developer leaves the site full voting rights will pass to the residents. They will have the power to change the company if they are not satisfied with them.

The first part of the spine road should be completed in Phase A, hopefully within two years and before the 400th occupation as agreed in the planning permission. Ann said it will be needed for the construction of Phase B.

Access to the site will be from the A299/Canterbury Road and Bullockstone Road. Lower Herne Road will be banned for use by construction vehicles. Mitigation measures will be put in place to limit the deposit of mud from construction vehicles on the roads.

A local letter drop will take place notifying neighbouring residents when construction will be starting.

It was agreed to continue with the quarterly updates, with the parish council publishing information via social media and the newsletter.

The Christmas Fun Day went well, helped by the lovely weather. There was a steady stream of people coming through and appeared to be more than last year. Thank you to everyone who helped and to Sue Harlin who made and donated a Christmas cake for the raffle. Thank you to

Roger Sinacola for being Santa.

The Children's Christmas Party was attended by just under 60 children and accompanying adults. Mark from Top Hat Kids did a good job keeping the children entertained. Thank you to everyone who helped and to Lisa Harrison and Dale Corley for preparing some of the food earlier on in the day. Thank you to City Cllr Howes for being Santa and Cllr Blatherwick being the Christmas Elf, and Ian Sargent for bringing the float.

The float will be going out at the weekend. City Cllr Jones will be Santa on Saturday and a resident has volunteered for the Sunday.

The shortlisting for the position of Administration Assistant has taken place.

Wishing everyone a good Christmas.

247/23 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting:

KCC Pension: £1,356.64

Dale Corley (pay): £262.78

Emma Brown (pay): £159.33

Jackie Keen (pay): £566.90

Goody Ales (supplies): £191.76

Supermaids (laundering tablecloths): £172.50

Marie Hackshall (expenses): £109.66

BRB Woodwork (floor): £2,292.30

Stephensons (optics): £73.94

Deposit refunds: £400.00

Rentokil/Initial (clinical waste): £656.40

Inn Confidence (personal licence training): £237.60

Ann Blatherwick (expenses): £61.50

Total: £6,541.31

Payments were ratified.

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

Payments were approved.

To report on income received:

Bookings: £1,606.25

Newsletter adverts: £172.80

Bar takings: £496.22

VAT refund: £934.27

St Martins (Fun Day): £742.20

Total: £3,951.74

248/23 To agree the budget and approve the precept request for 2024/25.

The proposed budget had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The clerk reported that CCC had amended the Tax Base figure for 2024/25 that had previously been issued. There had been a slight increase, but this would not affect the precept figure.

She explained that it had been difficult to set the income and expenditure figures for the Herne Centre as there was not much information on which to base the figures.

Members all agreed to make a precept request of £199,920.00 to CCC. **Action: clerk.**

249/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 16th November 2023.

The minutes were received.

250/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 17th November 2023.

The minutes were received.

251/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 23rd November 2023.

The minutes were received.

252/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Herne Centre Committee meeting held on 30th November 2023.

The minutes were received.

253/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 7th December 2023 and discuss any matters arising, and other planning and highways issues.

The minutes were received.

Cllr Davis reported that the condition of the first half of Braggs Lane is terrible with potholes and flooding. The clerk to report to KCC Highways. City Cllr Jones will report to County Cllr Baker.

Action: clerk and City Cllr Jones.

254/23 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Davis thanked everyone involved with the planting of 30 Silver Birch trees for the Living Henge at Broomfield Community Park. In particular Cllr Davison, former parish councillors Andy Harvey and Liz White for helping to set out the position of the trees on Friday 1st December 2023. Also, Cllr Checksfield and her husband Alan who have looked after the tree nursery and dug the trees out on 3rd December 2023, ready for planting. Other volunteers included Cllr White and her husband Lance, Robert Riley, Nigel Summersby, Tim Hill, Mark White and Lex, Keith Bothwell, and Katie Watson and Sam.

Cllr Davis said that she had responded to more planning applications to fell tree.

Cllr Checksfield asked whether any work should be done to the flower tubs at the entrances to the parish. This would be left until the spring. The clerk to invoice the sponsors of the boxes. **Action: clerk.**

255/23 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

256/23 To discuss Kent County Council's proposals for the future of Herne Mill.

Cllr Davis reported that Monica Blyth of the Friends of the Mill had asked whether there could be a public meeting to gain residents' views on the future of Herne Mill.

After some discussion it was proposed that instead of a public meeting it would be better to have an open afternoon or day. Information and displays would be available on the day, with volunteers from the Friends of the Mill attending to answer questions.

The meeting to be held on 12th January 2024, with final details to be confirmed.

257/23 To discuss Canterbury City Council's proposals to increase the car parking fees and its impact on School Lane Car Park.

Cllr Davis reported that City Cllrs Howes and Jones had suggested organising a petition. The parish council also need local residents to engage with the consultation as individuals.

City Cllr Jones suggested using Facebook to publicise signing the petition. He and City Cllr Howes would then be able to raise their objections with CCC.

Cllr Davis suggested using Survey Monkey, with suitable questions, and contacting the local schools. Cllr Checksfield suggested contacting the church and the dental surgery.

258/23 To report on the Herne Centre.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that the person running the café on a trial basis has said that they cannot carry on. She said that Cllr Davis, the clerk, the Amenities Manager and herself had spoken with another provider but are not sure whether they would be suitable. Perhaps what the parish council would like is not quite as extensive as what has been proposed. Cllr Davis suggested starting small and building it up.

259/23 Update on the applications for a new Administration Assistant (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.

Cllr Davis reported that 4 applications had been received, with 2 candidates shortlisted for interview. Cllrs Davis, Blatherwick and Checksfield recommend that the parish council employ Joanne McCann, who was an excellent candidate.

Members all agreed to employ Joanne McCann.

260/23 Members Reports.

Cllr Harlin reported the increase in dog fouling, including in Herne Bay Cemetery. The sign banning dogs in the cemetery has still not been replaced. The clerk to contact CCC again. Cllr Davis said she would raise the issue on Facebook. **Action: clerk and Cllr Davis.**

Cllr Harlin raised the issue of speeding along the A299 slip road. He has reported this to the police, but has not had much response. Cllr Davis said he should report this to County Cllr Marsh.

Cllr Checksfield asked for an updated committee list please. **Action: clerk.**

Cllr Strong asked whether anything could be done regarding vehicles parking on the grass triangle near Broomfield Pond.

261/23 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 11th January 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.