

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 9th February 2023 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

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

Not present:

Cllr Hill, Cllr Sargent, and Cllr Wilson.

22/23 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

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

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

None.

24/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2023.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

25/23 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: 49, 2nd: 64.

One present who spoke regarding dog fouling in the parish and speeding. Ravensbourne Avenue, Hillcroft, and Pigeon Lane are particularly bad. There is also the issue of filled poo bags being left behind. The speeding issues were on the A299/Margate Road slip road and Mill Lane. City Cllr Dekker said to raise the speeding issues with Kent County Council (KCC) through County Cllr Marsh, and to approach County & City Cllr Dan Watkins.

Cllr Davison arrived at this point.

26/23 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis thanked everyone for the basket of flowers that she received. She asked for volunteers for the Community Group Day. Cllr Davison offered to help.

27/23 Police Matters/Crime report.

Crimes of note:

- 04/01 – Herne Street – burglary – no items stolen. Property broken into and vandalised
- 23/01 – Woodrow Chase – criminal damage – damage caused to vehicle
- 24/01 – Hunters Forstal Road – dangerous driving – intoxicated
- 25/01 – Strode Park Road – fraud – item delivered. Identity fraud

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- 21/01 – Ford Road – nuisance vehicle – motorbike being driven off-road

Items of good work:

Visible patrolling – Foot and vehicle

Community engagement

Updates of previously reported issues:

- Less thefts from previous months.
- ASB is at a low

28/23 Warden's Report.

Parish Council Report – Lisa Harrison – Community Warden Herne and Broomfield.

I continue with welfare visits. 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, although really pleased with the positive outcomes we have been achieving.

The new Windmill coffee morning on Mondays has been a huge success and we are now averaging out thirty residents per week, plus four dogs. Some of the residents are getting a lot from this and it is quite popular, thanks to the tireless organisation and support of Anne and Sue. We are looking to extend the outside area in the spring/summer, which will be lovely as we will be able to invite some outside agencies in for information as at present there is no room.

The Community Lunch table starts on 7th February 2023, at the Huntsman and Horn Public House. We are going to hold this on the first Tuesday of the month to see how well it is received. We will look at extending this weekly if the group becomes established and we can recruit people to greet each week.

There is a group of residents from Streetfield that meet on a Friday morning for coffee in the Roundel at the Herne Centre. This group reached its maximum this week and it was really great to see the room full.

We have had the usual issues with parking at the Herne Infant School. I have visited it this week and it is quite bad, but there is not really an answer to the issues at present. I have explained to the residents that I am not a parking warden and do not have any enforcement powers. Sometimes having my presence there can escalate situations as residents want me to do something about it. They get quite annoyed if vehicles do not move when asked and I have no powers to make them move. This also gives the drivers a sense of power that no one can touch them.

I have raised concerns about Mill View Road not having a sharp deviation sign, and the dead-end part of the road does not have a dead-end road sign. There are also no white lines at the end of the road. Residents have complained that there have been some recent accidents because of this. The Parish Council Office have reported this.

Take care and keep safe.

29/23 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Cllr Howes (there will be no report from City Cllr Dekker whilst Lord Mayor).

The clerk reported that County Cllr Marsh had said that KCC are finalising the budget.

City Cllr Dekker.

City Cllr Dekker said that Canterbury City Council (CCC) have a meeting on 22nd February 2023 to set the budget.

She had received a letter from the Friends of Broomfield Pond inviting City Cllr Howes and herself to review the works that had been done.

Grant funding of £500.00 from CCC's Opportunity Fund has been awarded to the coffee morning at Herne Mill to buy the outdoor furniture.

Cllr Harvey asked City Cllr Dekker whether the city councillors had to have DBS checks. She replied that it depended on the areas of work they were involved in but did not have to be. If parish councillors wanted a check done CCC would arrange. City Cllr Dekker said she would check whether there would be any costs.

30/23 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk had a virtual meeting with Andrew Gambrill (CCC) and Alexander Hodge (Countryside Partnerships) on 26th January 2023 regarding an update on the Strode Farm development.

They are looking to be on site between May and August 2023 to begin Phase A. No decision has been taken regarding whether the spine road is completed in full in Phase A or built in stages. The affordable housing will be spread more over the whole development. Barring the spine road, Phase A roads will be private and not adopted by KCC. Adoption of the roads will be looked at on a phase-by-phase basis. Looking at the proposed vehicular access onto Lower Herne Road, one might be needed. The commercial part of the development is likely to be commercial on the ground floor and residential above. Suggestions for use included café/coffee shop, hairdressers, bakery, farm shop, local/independent businesses. The clerk was unable to attend the CCC Polling ID briefing, however the presentation slides have been sent out. The approved photo ID includes passport, driving licence, older persons bus pass, and blue badge. Those that do not have an approved form of photo ID can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (gov.uk). The admin assistant had her hours increased to 30 per week, beginning on 23rd January 2023. Her SLCC membership is £189.00 and the cost for the iLCA will be £120.00 (excl. VAT). The clerk will be on annual leave from 13th until 17th February 2023.

31/23 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 £345.60, 100 Club fees £24.00, total £369.60.

The Internal Audit report had previously been circulated. A typing error of November 2021 was noted as it should read November 2022. The report highlighted that the resolution adopting the budget should have been accompanied by a resolution setting out the precept amount. Cllr Davis proposed that a resolution be made to approve the precept request of £191,363.00. Members approved the resolution of a precept request of £191,393.00.

32/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Herne Centre Committee meeting held on 19th January 2023.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick said that some costs need to be presented to West Faversham Community Association (WFCA).

Cllr Davis will put a consultation in the next newsletter requesting feedback on the Herne Centre.

Cllr Harvey will set up a Google poll.

33/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 12th January 2023.

The draft minutes were received.

34/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 7th February 2023 and discuss other planning and highways issues.

Cllr Blatherwick thanked the admin assistant for clerking the meeting in the clerk's absence.

One of the applications was for 62 solar panels. The Planning and Highways Committee had questioned why 62 solar panels were needed for a domestic supply.

The application for 15 Mill View Road that has been refused by CCC has gone to appeal.

35/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 8th February 2023.

The issue of commercial dog walkers using the Community Park had been discussed. Cllr Strong reported that the issue of commercial dog walkers had been raised at the Kent Association of Local Councils training he had attended. The advice had been to have something in place to cover the council. This could be a policy and/or signage on council land. Cllr Davis asked about looking into the possibility of having a bylaw to prevent commercial dog walkers. After some discussion it was

agreed to put up improved signage to highlight people being responsible for their dogs. City Cllr Dekker suggested that the clerk send a suggested sign to herself and City Cllr Howes, and they will ask CCC officers regarding the wording.

The clerk asked for volunteers for the Community Fun Day working party. Cllr Davison and Strong volunteered.

36/23 To discuss whether councillors should have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The clerk reported that some members had asked whether all members and the office staff should have a DBS check. There was much discussion, with some members feeling that this would be necessary for some of the events, for example the children's party and the float. Cllr Checksfield questioned whether this was necessary as the DBS check only gives what is disclosed.

It was suggested that it would be good for some members to have a DBS check and that it would be voluntary.

37/23 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

38/23 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Checksfield reported that she had resigned as chair of the Friends of Broomfield Pond. At their AGM questions were raised concerning parking on the grass triangle between Broomfield Road and Ford Road. There had also been a request for the parish council to consider adopting the Friends of Broomfield Pond garden area, called Ponder's Patch. Cllr Blatherwick thanked Cllr Checksfield for all her hard work.

Cllr Davison reported that CCC had been doing some work on Goldspots Pond.

Cllr Davis said that hopefully the tree planting will happen soon.

39/23 Members Reports.

Cllr Saunders reported that Cllr Davis had been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for her community and voluntary work. Members congratulated her.

40/23 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 9th March 2023.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.