

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 March 2023 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Collins, Cllr Davison, Cllr Hill, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Strong, and Cllr Wilson.

Not present:

Cllr Harvey.

41/23 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Harvey. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.
County Cllr Marsh.

42/23 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

43/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2023.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

44/23 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

Cllr Davis reported that she and Cllr Blatherwick had met with Herne Bay Local History Group (HBLHG) regarding storing the archives. The best place for putting the filing cabinets was identified as the Activity Room. It is hoped that someone from HBLHG will be able to come in once a week, when the room is free, to sort through the archives. They could then be opened to the public for viewing.

Cllrs Davison and Sargent arrived at this point.

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

Draw for 100 Club.

1st: 10, 2nd: 12.

Three members of the public attended and Linda White. None wished to speak.

45/23 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis said that spoof emails had been sent appearing to come from her email account. She said that anyone that had received one should block and delete them.
She reminded members that the Community Groups Day is on Saturday 11th March and hoped that some members will be attending and helping.
She also reminded members that the Annual Parish Meeting is on 30th March 2023 and that volunteers will be needed for serving the refreshments.

46/23 Police Matters/Crime report.

No report was received.

47/23 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 and all the other lovely volunteers that have recently come on board. We also received the £500 funding for our outside furniture from City Cllr Anne Decker, which was swiftly deposited into the parish council bank account. The parish Clerk will be supporting me to order these items this week. This money was greatly received, and our attendees were very excited about this news. The local school was also happy as this may mean they will be able to come and sing in the summer like they used to at the Pop-up Cafe.

The Community Lunch table that is held on the first Tuesday of the month has had a good start. We had 19 residents attend on our first meet up in February 2023. A couple of budding friendships were made so this was a positive start.

I am in the process of organising a couple of litter picking days in the summer, dates and times to follow. I have received quite a few messages from residents wanting to volunteer and support on these days. I would be happy to hear your thoughts on specific areas you feel need clearing, trying to avoid ones that the city council already cover. More details will follow soon.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the Community Day due to unforeseeable circumstances, but I have organised some items for one of the tables and arranged for the Community Warden from Sturry and Hersden Linda Hayes to cover my absence. Apologies.

**48/23 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Cllr Howes (there will be no report from City Cllr Dekker whilst Lord Mayor).
City Cllr Howes.**

The city council have finished their toilet review. The consultation document will go to the new council after the elections.

The Local Plan consultation is under review. He said that the proposed Canterbury highway scheme originally came from KCC Highways and is one of their schemes, not the city council.

The next Cabinet meeting is on 27th March 2023 where they will be looking at the strategic grant applications.

He had had a meeting with the Friends of the Ponds regarding the works that had been done at Broomfield Pond. CCC will be reviewing the current management plan for Goldspots Pond. CCC are undertaking a count of the number of foreign bluebells in Curtis Wood. Depending on the number identified they will be removed if possible.

The Joint Transport Board will be meeting on 14th March 2023 and there are two proposals for the parish on the agenda.

Regarding the problems with school parking and speaking with Cllr Davis he will be applying for funding to staff a walking bus from the Herne Centre.

Following the sudden death of City Cllr Barbara Flack there will be a celebration of her life. Details are yet to be confirmed.

Cllr Davison raised a question about the mobile home that is still sited in Busheyfields Road, as it reduces the visibility on the bend. He replied that the KCC Highways inspectors did not see it as hazard. CCC Enforcement are looking at it again to see if there is anything they can do.

City Cllr Dekker.

She thanked Community Warden Lisa Harrison for her support regarding issues in Mill View Road. There are ongoing issues in Peartree Road.

The head teachers of the local schools are wanting to do some work with some of the local Ukrainian refugees.

The new Dean at Canterbury Cathedral will be conducting a civic service on 2nd May 2023. It would be good to have some representation from parish councils.

49/23 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The clerk thanked Liz Sinacola, the admin assistant, for covering the office whilst she was away.

The Herne Centre has been without heating and hot water for a fortnight, despite two engineers looking at it. Liz Sinacola spent considerable time in the loft today speaking with Samsung. The panels appear to be working properly and they think it is an issue with the Building Management System (BMS), so another engineer is coming tomorrow morning.

Arrangements for the Community Groups Day on 11th March are in hand. 23 groups have confirmed that they will be attending. Help will be needed with setting up and clearing away, and serving the refreshments.

The Annual Parish Meeting is on 30th March. So far, two nominations have been received for the Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award. One is for the young man who regularly litter picks around Herne and Broomfield and the other is for one of the parish council's long-standing volunteers. Help will be needed to serve drinks to those attending.

The Spring newsletter has gone out. Hopefully, most of the residents have received their copy now. The nomination packs for the forthcoming local elections have arrived. All the councillors that intend to stand will need to complete one.

The clerk said that she has started preparing the accounts for the end of the financial year.

50/23 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: £335.55 VAT refund, £500.00 Canterbury City Council (CCC) grant, total £835.55.

Cllr Davis reported that she had applied to Awards for All for a grant of £4,900.00 towards the costs of the Coronation events on 6th May 2023. These are: live streaming the Coronation service, a community lunch, and barn dance in the evening. After some discussion it was agreed that if the grant funding was not available that mugs for the children are not bought, that a just a caller is used for the dance, and the budget for providing food is increased to £500.00. As the events are proposed to be free it was suggested that a refundable deposit is taken to prevent people claiming tickets and not turning up.

A proposal was made to set a budget of up to £3,000.00. Members approved this budget.

51/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2023.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick said that the only contentious application was proposed back land development in Mill Lane. This is against CCC's own guidelines, however, previous applications for back land development in Mill Lane have been granted, so a precedent has been set. Members have raised objections.

Cllr Davis said that she had spoken to City Cllr Howes regarding setting up a walking bus from the Herne Centre. City Cllr Howes said that there may be funding available to pay someone to lead the bus. Members agreed to support the setting up of the bus, but staffing it is the issue. Cllr Blatherwick said that this was why this has not progressed to date.

52/23 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Davison reported that Cllr Davis, the clerk, and herself had met with Lyndsay Wayman-Rook, Plan Tree Partnership Officer at Kent County Council (KCC). This was regarding the KCC Members Tree Scheme grant.

The areas looked at were:

- Cherry Orchard playing field – looking to replace some hedgerow with native species, planting a small avenue of larger trees near the changing rooms, adding a few berried trees along the

northern side, and planting some young cherry trees in between the existing older cherry trees at the top of the field.

- It was also noted that the fence around the Parish Council's wildlife area had been cut. It was suggested that prickly hedge trees were planted, after the fence is mended.
- Cardens Field, Canterbury Road – plant some trees in the field near the footway boundary.
- Margate Road - plant two new trees to replace the two cherry trees planted by Broomfield Women's Institute in 1977 for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, species to be chosen to avoid the overhead telegraph lines.
- The triangle of land by Broomfield Pond - plant some standard trees to stop the parking.
- Broomfield Community Park – looked at the site of the proposed living hedge. There may be the possibility of more planting elsewhere.
- Allotment tree nursery.

The amount of planting that is done will be dependent on the amount of grant funding available. Lyndsay also said she would send information regarding other grants that are available for tree planting.

53/23 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

54/23 To discuss the co-option of a new councillor.

Cllr Davis reported that the chairs of the committees had interviewed Linda White and they recommended that members accept her co-option to the parish council. This was proposed and members agreed.

Linda White was welcomed to the council.

55/23 To consider having a defibrillator sited somewhere in Broomfield.

Cllr Strong said that some residents had spoken to him about the lack of a defibrillator in Broomfield, especially with the Community Park, BMX Track, and allotments. He suggested whether one could be sited outside the Huntsman and Horn Public House. He said that grant funding is available from the Lions Club to purchase one.

Cllr Davis said that there is one at Broomfield URC Church on the wall. She said that the parish council need to know where all the defibrillators are and whether they are maintained. Cllr Checksfield suggested putting this information in the next newsletter, and Cllr Davison suggested putting it up in the parish noticeboards and at the Community Park

City Cllr Dekker said to contact Rebecca Honey, Fundraising Manager at the British Heart Foundation form possible funding.

56/23 To discuss the water bill for the allotments.

The clerk explained that the bill for the last 6 months was £570.43, which is considerably more than usual. This is paid by the parish council and reimbursed by the Allotment Society. As the parish council had used the allotment water supply to water the hedging at the Community Park during the dry spell, they had been asked whether they would contribute to the bill. Cllr Strong confirmed that there are no leaks, as the supply has now been switched off for the winter and the water meter reading has not changed. The Allotment Society will monitor the usage over the summer to see how much is used by the allotment holders. After some discussion it was agreed that the parish council should contribute to cover the cost of watering the hedging. It was proposed that parish council contribute £100.00 to the bill. The proposal was agreed.

57/23 To discuss the renewal of the ground's maintenance contract for Broomfield Community Park.

The clerk reported that the quote for next year was £6,182.32. This was an increase of £907.90, which is roughly 17%. Members felt that this was a big increase and requested that the clerk see if this is negotiable. They would also like additional quotes.

Cllr Sargent said that the verges along the entrance road had not been cut. The clerk will check this.

58/23 Members Reports.

Cllr Davison said that tree thinning at Goldspots Pond, Curtis Wood, was more than had been agreed with CCC. She is making enquiries about it.

Cllr Strong said that first hedges and then trees had been planted in one of the fields as part of the BRIS works. The farmer was unaware of this and had not asked for them, and they have now been removed.

Cllr Sargent said that a lot of mud has been left on the road in Lower Herne Road. He did not know whether some of the BRIS vehicles were using the road again. The clerk will contact Ben Cuddihee at KCC Highways. There is also an issue with vehicles parking by the triangle in Lower Herne Road. The clerk will speak to Community Warden Lisa Harrison.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that one of the streetlights in Albion Lane is not working. The clerk will report.

59/23 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 13th April 2023.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.