

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Herne Centre, St Martin's View, Herne CT6 7AP

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at the Herne Centre on Thursday 13th April 2023 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Collins, Cllr Davis, Cllr Davison, Cllr Harlin, Cllr Hill, Cllr Saunders, Cllr White, and Cllr Wilson.

Not present:

Cllr Strong.

80/23 Election of Chairman, signing of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Davis was elected Chairman and signed the Acceptance of Office.

81/23 Election of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Wilson was elected Vice Chairman.

82/23 To appoint Committees (As per amended sheet circulated):

Finance & Resources Committee

Environment & Leisure Committee

Planning & Highways Committee

Community Centre Committee

Staffing Committee

The committees were appointed as per circulated sheet.

83/23 To appoint representatives to:

KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) Canterbury Area Committee

Cllr White and Cllr Wilson were elected as representatives.

Friends of Broomfield & Herne Ponds

Allotment Society

Wilder Blean Project

The representatives were elected as per circulated sheet.

To appoint:

Tree Warden & Pond Warden

Newsletter Editor

Press & Social Media

Website management

Were elected as per circulated sheet.

84/23 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Strong. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

City Cllr Howes and County Cllr Marsh.

85/23 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

86/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2023.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

87/23 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: 22, 2nd: 7.

One member of the public was present.

88/23 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis said that she was delighted to welcome Kay Heyward to the meeting to receive her Parish Council Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community. She thanked Kay for all her hard work volunteering within the parish. Cllr Davis presented her with a certificate and gift.

Cllr Davis reminded members that they needed to complete and return their Election Expenses Forms as soon as possible.

Cllr Davis thanked everyone for their help with the Coronation events.

89/23 Police Matters/Crime report.

The clerk reported that PCSO Brandon Raines had left and would not be replaced. She does not know who will be providing a report in the future.

The clerk was asked to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the replacement of the PCSO and who would be the new point of contact.

90/23 Warden's Report.

Lisa Harrison – Community Warden Herne and Broomfield.

I have been busy visiting and supporting both old and new community groups, using these groups 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.

The Community Connector roles have come to an end within the warden service and these roles have now been incorporated into the warden role. So, wardens will also offer up to 12-week support programmes for residents who want to be more engaged within their communities, supporting them to join clubs etc.

I have been supporting some residents with setting up Neighbourhood Watch, but I would love to hear from any more residents who are interested in setting up schemes in their road. This is about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to reduce crime. They are community initiatives owned and run by members, i.e., neighbours, but supported by the police.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes can cut crime and the opportunities for crime, help and reassure those who live in the area, and encourage neighbourliness and closer communities. Please contact me if you would like to start one in your road.

I supported the Teddy Bear Zip Wire in April, and this was a lovely day.

I spent a day targeting Lower Herne Road, as there had been an increased number of calls regarding Rogue Traders in that area. I Knocked on every door in Lower Herne Road to discuss ways residents can safeguard themselves against these individuals. All vulnerable residents that lived alone were left with a sign to put on their door.

Kent County Council (KCC) Highways have filled some of the potholes in Margate Road and Mill View. Dave from Highways and I did some of them together as I visited the roads to point out some issues and got him to agree to fill the potholes on the spot with me. Bless him...

Unfortunately, PCSO Brandon Rains left the police force to join the Immigration Service this week and due to the limited PCSO numbers I do not think we will get another one. We will eventually have a named officer for the area once the new way of working comes into force with the police. The new officers are currently undergoing their training.

I am on holiday as from today until the end of May 2023.

Cllr Davison thanked Lisa for advertising the Coronation events.

91/23 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh, City Cllr Howes and City Cllr Jones.

City Cllr Jones.

He thanked the parish council for putting on the Coronation events.

He also thanked Andy Harvey and Ian Sargent for all the work they did as parish councillors. City Cllr Jones and City Cllr Howes are hoping to run monthly surgeries for residents, along with the parish council.

The overnight road closures along Canterbury Road have not had too much impact on traffic.

92/23 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The Coronation events on 6th May 2023 were a great success. Thank you to Cllrs Davis and Davison for the work they put in with organising them. The live viewing and buffet lunch was attended by about 50 people, and thankfully, there were no technical hitches. Tickets for the Barn Dance sold out, with nearly 100 people attending. It was a wonderful event and lots of fun. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day, with the setting up and decorating of the centre, providing and serving the food and drink, clearing up, and with whatever else was needed. The feedback that has been received so far has been great, with the request to hold another barn dance in the future. The income from the Barn Dance, before expenses, was £1,272.35 (Bar £491.60, Food £111.00, Raffle £210.20, Heads & Tails game £32.05, Tickets £427.50)

Have successfully completed a Food Hygiene & Safety Level 2 course. The certificate is valid for three years.

Strode Farm Development update meeting on 10th May 2023. This meeting was attended by Andrew Gambrill (Canterbury City Council (CCC)), Kevin Coleman (Planning consultant), Antony Iren (Countryside), Cllr Ann Blatherwick, and the clerk.

Phase A properties have had some minor design changes, with smaller windows, reduced roof height, and some car ports removed.

No affordable housing will be provided in Phase A due to the cost of putting in the infrastructure. It will be added to the other phases, with some sited in Phase A when the Local Centre, situated in the centre of Phase A, is built during Phase C. The designs for the affordable housing will be the same as for the other properties and will be a mix of flats and houses.

The errors in the Design & Access Statement will be amended.

One of the vehicular accesses onto Lower Herne Road (Phase B) has been removed. Others will be looked at each phase.

Not looking to change the adoption of the roads. Roads would have to be redesigned to fulfil KCC Highways specifications.

Suggestions were requested for the provision in the local centre. Ann said that the parish council suggested small local businesses providing a service; hairdressers etc., and a dual function social place; bakery and café.

Aiming to be on site end of June/beginning July, with new junction and roads completed first. They are not sure about completing the whole of the spine road initially, depends on finances. Some properties will be piled but will try to limit the disruption to residents and will be notifying neighbouring properties of the works that are being done.

93/23 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting: £60.00 to M Gunton for the remainder of the invoice for the Barn Dance caller.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied: Payments were approved.

To report on income received, included in the bank reconciliation: CCC Precept £191,363.00, HBAS (water) £470.43, HBAS (rent) £800.00, Barn Dance tickets £200.00, Misc. £19.00, Total £192,852.43.

The final Internal Audit report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The clerk said that there was nothing to report from this.

94/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Herne Centre Committee meeting held on 20th April 2023.

The draft minutes were received.

95/23 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 2nd May 2023.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that several residents raised concerns regarding a large hole in Canterbury Road by the Curious Cat Public House. Vehicles driving over it are causing the neighbouring properties to shake. The clerk will contact KCC Highways again.

Cllr Davis said that the repairs made to the road in Braggs Lane are breaking again and are deeper than before. She also said that access to Braggs Lane with the road closure is difficult. The clerk was asked to raise this with Ben Cuddihee (KCC Highways).

Cllr Blatherwick said that the concerns regarding the Strode Farm development had been raised at the meeting with CCC Planning and Countryside.

96/23 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Davison said that it appeared that someone had been doing tree works near the theatre in Strode Park. She was concerned as it is now the bird nesting season.

Cllr Collins reported that the works to the Willow trees at Broomfield Pond have been put on hold.

97/23 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

98/23 To discuss the costs of repairing the disabled toilet taps.

The clerk said that it has not been possible to find the relevant paperwork to claim replacement cartridges for the taps under warranty. Therefore, it will be necessary to buy them. The cost will be around £300.00. Members agreed to buy the replacements.

99/23 To discuss the quotes for repairing the heating system.

The first two parts of the quotes had been circulated prior to the meeting. The clerk went through the remaining two parts of the quotes that had now been received.

After some discussion members agreed to accept the quotes for the repairs to the heating system and two of the recommended works, but not the installation of an auto water fill system. The acceptance is subject to whether Cllr Hill can find another contractor to provide quotes for the works.

The clerk and admin assistant explained that it had proved very difficult to find another contractor. Samsung had suggested three contractors, including the one that is currently used. The other two were contacted but would not attend site.

Members requested that the clerk obtains a quote for a maintenance agreement from the current contractor. This should include an annual check of the water pressure in the system and manual fill, if necessary.

100/23 To discuss the Garden Safari on 11th June 2023.

Cllr Davis said that there were a good number of gardens, including some new ones coming forward. There will be a meeting tomorrow evening for those opening their gardens. Members will be needed to help on the day at Herne Mill. Cllr White will be designing the programmes. Cllr Wilson said that he could complete the risk assessments and deliver the bunting etc. Cllr Checksfield and her husband will put out and collect the signs.

101/23 To discuss the Herne Centre contract (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 proposal from West Faversham Community Association, and the options and figures the Herne Centre Committee had considered had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Blatherwick gave a brief background to the current management contract.

There was much discussion regarding these, including the recommendations of the committee. A vote was taken with 9 members agreeing to the recommendations and 1 abstention. Members asked for more detailed information on a few points before a final decision is taken.

102/23 Members Reports.

Cllr Davison said that the Herne & Broomfield Local History Group will be having its birthday party on 6th June at Herne Mill at 6.00pm.

Cllr Wilson reported that someone had contacted him regarding the sign at the children's play park in Cherry Orchard. The clerk said that she had received an email too. She said that the sign should have been replaced when Canenco took over from Serco for its maintenance. She will contact CCC.

Cllr Harlin reported that one of the No Dogs Allowed signs to Herne Bay Cemetery had been cut off and he had taken it to the parish office. The clerk to check what the rule is.

103/23 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 8th June 2023.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.