

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 13th February 2025 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis (Chairman)

Cllr Wilson (Vice-chairman)

Cllr Binstead

Cllr Blatherwick

Cllr Checksfield

Cllr Collins

Cllr Davison

Cllr Maslin

Cllr Strong

Cllr White

Michele Nicholson (Clerk/RFO)

016/25 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Hill. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

017/25 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

018/25 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2025.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

019/25 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

The clerk reported that Canterbury City Council (CCC) has agreed to reduce the parking charges for School Lane Car Park, effective from 1st April 2025.

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

Four members of the public were present.

One member of the public spoke. They thanked the parish council for providing a noticeboard for the Redrow Estate. They asked whether a meeting could be held to enable the public to meet the candidates standing in the CCC by-election. City Cllr Jones said that due to being in the pre-election period (purdah) the parish council would be unable to arrange a meeting, but the candidates could organise something themselves. County Cllr Marsh agreed with City Cllr Jones. Cllr Davis said the parish council would check this. **Action: clerk.**

020/25 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis reminded members that the CCC by-election would be taking place on 6th March 2025.

021/25 Police Matters/Crime report. Circulated prior to meeting if received.

No report had been received prior to the meeting.

022/25 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh and City Cllr Jones.

County Cllr Marsh

County Cllr Marsh spoke regarding the English Devolution White Paper.

He reported that Kent County Council (KCC) had not been included in the Priority Programme, for devolution to a Mayoral Strategic Authority. This means that the scheduled May 2025 elections would take place as expected. Any future devolution proposals could take at least 18 months.

He reported that KCC had agreed its revenue budget for 2025/26, with an increase in its share of council tax of 4.99%. This equates to an annual increase of £80.37 for a Band D property. KCC is

in a better financial position for the next financial year.

City Cllr Jones

City Cllr Jones said that as the clerk had reported, the parking charges for School Lane Car Park would be reduced from 1st April 2025. He has asked that the agreed higher weekend rate be reduced to the lower weekday rate from that date.

023/25 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. Circulated prior to meeting.

The tree planting at Cherry Orchard has required amending due to utility services in the area. A site visit has been arranged with Rebecca Booth (CCC) and Anna Ritchie (KCC), on 25th February 2025, to discuss alternative sites. The trees are scheduled to be delivered on 18th February 2025.

A lot of information is being sent out by the various local government associations regarding devolution. This will be shared with members and residents as appropriate.

The admin assistant is producing risk assessments and agreements for all Herne Centre and parish council volunteers.

Strode Farm development update meeting on 11th February 2025

- Site traffic now accessing site from the roundabouts. The temporary access will remain in use for new residents and the show homes, until the building behind is completed and the new route is safe to use. The first residents are due to move in this month.
- Works to the traffic lights and road surfaces will be reviewed as part of the completion of the new road junction. This should be completed soon.
- Phase B was sold on to another house builder, Dandara, and plans have been submitted to CCC. Vistry have submitted plans for Phases C & D. The access for Phase B is yet to be agreed between Vistry and Dandara.
- The remainder of the relief road is underway, with the bulk of construction anticipated to be completed by the autumn. This is needed to enable construction vehicles access to the phases. The relief road could be fully open in 2026/27.
- Cllr Blatherwick raised some questions about fencing and visitor parking. The response was that new fencing would be erected within the site, alongside existing boundaries. More visitor parking spaces would be available as some of the other spaces would be unallocated resident spaces, therefore available to everyone.

024/25 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting.

Indemnity refund: £100.00

Ian Sargent (Santa Float): £50.00

SLCC (Admin Assistant SLCC membership): £202.00

Tim Marsh (Toilet flush repairs): £297.00

Total: £649.00

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

Payments were approved.

To report on income received.

Bookings: £4,015.10

HMRC (VAT refund): £1,017.77

Event tickets: £230.00

Newsletter adverts: £1,944.00

Card sales (Sum Up): £3,351.76

Total: £10,558.63

025/25 To receive the draft minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 16th January 2025.

The draft minutes were received.

Members made no comments.

026/25 To receive the draft minutes of the Herne Centre Committee meeting held on 23rd January 2025 and to discuss any matters arising.

The draft minutes were received.

Members made no comments.

027/25 To receive the draft minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 30th January 2025.

The draft minutes were received.

Members made no comments.

028/25 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 6th February 2025 and to discuss any matters arising, and other planning and highways issues.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that questions were raised regarding fencing and the allocation of visitor parking on the Strode Farm development. These questions were answered at the Strode Farm development update meeting.

Cllr Blatherwick commented that parking allocation was insufficient on many new developments.

Cllr Checksfield asked for clarification regarding allocated and unallocated parking. Cllr Blatherwick replied that a certain number of spaces are allocated to each property, dependent on the number of bedrooms the property has, some are allocated for visitor parking, and the remainder are unallocated and free to be used by residents and visitors.

Cllr Davis spoke regarding the HIP meeting. Cllr Blatherwick said that she had raised the concerns regarding the A291 speed limit. The response had been that reducing the speed limit could raise unexpected consequences. One of these would be the removal of the gateway sign into Herne Village. Cllr Davison said that the traffic along Canterbury Road does need to slow down.

Cllr Blatherwick said that the addition of speed and slow roundels on the roadway should help. It would be better to consider what options would be available to reduce the speed of the road once the Herne Relief Road was completed.

Cllr Davison reported that vegetation was growing through the surface of the footpath that runs along Canterbury Road. The clerk said that she would report this. **Action: clerk.**

029/25 To receive reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

Cllr White said that she would be attending the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Canterbury Area meeting on 17th February 2025.

030/25 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Davis asked for volunteers to help with the planting of the trees in Cherry Orchard. She proposed planting on a weekday, as there might be football matches taking place at the weekend. After a short discussion members agreed to plant the trees on a suitable Tuesday or Thursday following the site meeting. Cllrs Checksfield, Maslin and White volunteered to help with the planting. **Action: Cllrs Checksfield, Davis, Maslin and White.**

031/25 To resolve that the parish council meets the criteria for the General Power of Competence: that two thirds of the members are elected, and the clerk holds a recognised qualification.

The clerk had circulated a copy of the Local Government Association information regarding the General Power of Competence.

All the members resolved that the parish council did meet the criteria for the General Power of Competence: that two thirds of the members were elected, and the clerk holds a recognised qualification. The clerk holds a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

032/25 To discuss the quotes to replace the signage at Broomfield Community Park.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Members raised some questions regarding the two quotes received.

Members asked for some reviews of the two companies and questioned whether any local sign companies had been contacted to provide a quote.

The clerk replied that she would ask the admin assistant to obtain the information asked for.

Members agreed in principle to accept the cheapest quote of £522.63 (excl. VAT) for the three signs, subject to the above questions being answered satisfactorily. **Action: clerk.**

033/25 Update on the request from Kent County Council and Medway Council to be included in the government Devolution Priority Programme and the government decision to refuse their application.

Cllr Davis reported that she had attended the KALC Chair's Networking Forum on 27th January 2025.

Much of the discussion was focused on devolution. It is likely that many more parish councils will be formed to enhance grass roots democracy. KALC are recommending that parish councils consider their resilience regarding taking responsibility for any assets, such as green spaces, car parks etc., that may be devolved/transferred across to them. If no authority wants to take responsibility for these assets, there is a high chance that these assets will be lost. If invited to do so, KALC could attend Annual Parish Meetings to provide progress updates.

Cllr Davis, Cllr Wilson and the clerk will be attending the CCC Parish Engagement meeting on 11th March 2025. This meeting will consider devolution, local government reorganisation and how it might affect parish councils. Following this meeting, Cllr Davis suggested setting up a working group to review the assets in the parish, to consider which ones could potentially be lost, whether the parish council could take responsibility for any of these assets and how that could be achieved. KCC has responsibility for monitoring the former landfill site at Broomfield, which is leased to the parish council for Broomfield Community Park/BMX Track. KCC also has responsibility for a small portion of Common Land around Broomfield Pond. CCC is responsible for Cherry Orchard, Curtis Wood Park, the cemetery, and School Lane Car Park, among other things. There was some discussion among members regarding requesting other assets to be added to the CCC Community Asset Register. Members agreed that School Lane Car Park and the Butchers Arms be put forward for inclusion in the register. **Action: Cllr Davis and clerk.**

034/25 Members Reports.

Cllr White reported that the new Herne Centre website had been set up and made public.

Also, the first draft of the next Herne & Broomfield Community News newsletter had been produced. **Action: Cllr White.**

Cllr Strong reported that he had received a complaint regarding Pigeon Lane. Where the recent cable works have been undertaken ditches have been created. The clerk said that this would be reported. **Action: clerk.**

035/25 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 13th March 2025.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.