

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 November 2025 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis (Chairman)

Cllr Austin

Cllr Binstead

Cllr Blatherwick

Cllr Collins

Cllr Hill

Cllr Lambkin

Cllr Maslin

Cllr Strong

Cllr White

Cllr Wilson

Michele Nicholson (Parish Clerk)

178/25 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Checksfield and Cllr Davison. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

City Cllr Jones.

179/25 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

180/25 To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October 2025.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

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

2 present;

1: A member of the public wanted to raise that there have been increasing issues in Streetfield, with school parents and weekend football. People parking inconsiderately across driveways and on double yellow lines. There has been inadequate enforcement so far to deter these issues.

2: Objection to the union flags. A member of the public wanted to object to the Union flags that have been placed around the parish.

181/25 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis reported that there had been a lot of people at the Remembrance Sunday Service. Cllr Wilson did a reading on behalf of the Parish Council at the Church and Cllr Davis laid a wreath on behalf of our residents at the War Memorial. The Herne Centre provided refreshments afterwards and we had lots of people who came. Many people said it was good that it was in the Centre, as it meant families could come.

Cllr Davis said thank you to our team of staff & volunteers, that worked in the kitchen, making sandwiches, and cups of tea, as well as those working at the bar.

The Sum-up Point of Sale equipment has arrived, and staff are trying to resolve access to the account.

Cllr Austin is going to the new David Lloyd Club on Friday 28 November for the opening.

Councillors were reminded that the Christmas Quiz is on 28 November and the Christmas Craft Fair is on Saturday 15th November 10am - 2pm.

Cllr White stated she would be at the craft fair at 10.30am to help.

182/25 To receive reports from County Cllr Mulvihill, City Cllrs Jones and Paget.

County Councillor Mulvihill

Cllr Mulvihill stated that the options for Local Government Reorganisation are now available, the deadline for consultation is the 28th November. KCC favour option 1a, which is a single Unitary Authority covering Kent and Medway with 3 area assemblies.

The windmill repairs are continuing with handover to trusts for each mill, with a continuing 99-year lease.

KCC have put into place their Winter plan for Adult Social Care.

City Cllr Paget

Cllr Paget thanked the Parish Council for the reception at the Herne Centre after the Sunday Remembrance Service.

The South East Water responses to questions asked at the public meeting have been received and sent to Assistant clerk.

Cllr Paget managed to get the air quality monitoring 24/25 data for the parish and has forwarded to Assistant Clerk to send to the councillors. The missing sensor is due to be replaced.

There are three members that have signed up to speed watch, currently waiting for training dates, then they can start.

Canterbury City Council annual parking review deadline for double yellow line requests is 1st December.

Cllr Paget has offered to help with the Santa float.

Cllr Blatherwick asked for clarification of parking enforcement procedures. Cllr Paget has liaised with local Police Officer and parking enforcement, and they are hoping to carry out more visits.

183/25 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk and Cllr Davis met with William Hicks (Director of Place) and Matthew Archer (Head of Corporate Governance), regarding CCC assets, on 17th October 2025.

It was a productive meeting with some useful information provided. Management of several of the assets is covered by district wide contracts making it difficult to isolate the costs for each one. However, this does mean that should the parish council take on any of these assets it would not be tied to any existing contracts.

The draft business cases for the various LGR options have been published. A press release was issued by the Kent Council Leaders explaining the next stages of the process and including details of the business plans put forward. Each council will undergo its own governance process to decide which option it prefers. The preferred business cases will be presented to the Secretary of State on Friday 28th November 2025. Public consultation will take place in the new year prior to a final decision being made by ministers.

The parish council has been receiving increased reports of inconsiderate parking and requests for double yellow lines. Some of the requests are for roads that have had previous requests wholly or partially refused, due to objections submitted during the Joint Transport Board public consultation period. It would be a good idea to publish an article in the next newsletter explaining the request process, including how residents can request double yellow lines directly to Canterbury City Council via its website.

The first regular window clean at the Herne Centre was completed on 10th November 2025. The windows are looking so much better now.

Assistant Clerk's report

The report been circulated prior to the meeting.

Another busy month for the Parish Office. We had another successful Lunch Club in early October serving over 28 meals, and we have 25 meals booked in for tomorrow. Thank you so much to everyone that helps either with vegetable preparation or on the lunch days, without you it just wouldn't be possible. The lunch club is a simple idea but it has brought so much joy to those that attend and I would like to see this continue next year if we consider it viable.

Last Sunday we had an enormous response to offering refreshments after the Remembrance Service. We did all pull together after the date mix up and I think next year if we host in the main hall, it will be a momentous event. Although we will look to do our own planned catering next year. Thank you so much to Jackie, Carol, Michele, Phyllis, Sue, and Barbara for working so hard in the kitchen, and Gill, David and Eliza for working on the bar.

I have completed some more learning outcomes on my CiLCA and hope to have passed the next section by the December council meeting, meaning only one section left - finance. SLCC have given me an extension, so I have nearly 300 days to complete it.

Coming up we have the Christmas Craft Fair, with over 28 stalls and games. Please if you can come down and support, whether this is help running a stall or doing some washing up all effort would be appreciated.

At the end of the month we have our Quiz Night, we only have 2 tables left so if you want to make up a Parish table you will need to get in quick! These have proved hugely popular and we intend to continue with them next year but offering them 4 times a year rather than almost monthly as they take a lot of work.

We have approached Places for People for sponsorship for the Children's Christmas Party and are awaiting a response. They have bought 104 properties at the Lower Herne Development to offer shared ownership accommodation as well as low-income housing,

The Clerk and I met with Vistry last week and have agreed a site for the new noticeboard by the pedestrian crossing which should be opposite the shops in Lower Herne Development so in a prominent place. Vistry are going to sponsor the noticeboard, as well as hopefully three planters. The houses and flats are being occupied and currently there are 44 occupied dwellings (a mixture of houses and flats) already.

Thank you to Linda White for the Winter newsletter this has gone out quickly and we have already had 50 spaces booked for the children's party.

I also want to bring to the Parish Councils attention that last weekend there were 2 copper thefts from electricity sub stations in our Parish, one at Curtis Wood and one at Broomfield. This has been ongoing for a number of months. I have emailed UK Power networks as they are only securing the substations with a padlock, so we need to look at something that is more of a deterrent. I will update council once I have had a response.

184/25 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting; payment schedule supplied.

Gingerbreads (buffet): £199.00

Supermaids (tablecloths): £70.20

Total: £269.20

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

These were approved.

To report on income received.

Booking fees: £3,923.47

Events: £200.00

Canterbury City Council (CFF) - £6,558.00

Sum Up (card payment income) - £4965.32

Total: £15,646.79

185/25 To receive the draft minutes of the LGR & Asset Working Group meeting held on 8th October 2025 and to discuss any points of note.

The minutes were received.

186/25 To receive the minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 16th October 2025 and to discuss any points of note.

The minutes were received.

Cllr Maslin asked what the current situation was regarding the Santa float. Tim Blatherwick will coordinate retrieving the float and repairs.

Cllr Austin has written to Kent Councillor Paul Chamberlain regarding the flooding at Redrow.

187/25 To receive draft minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee Meeting held on 23rd October 2025 and to discuss any points of note.

The minutes were received.

Members made no comments.

188/25 To receive draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 6th November 2025 and to discuss any points of note, and any other planning and highways issues.

The minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that there had been lots of tree applications recently. 10 Ridgeway Road planning is also still ongoing and not resolved.

Cllr Austin voiced concerns that the Strode Farm development will have on local school places. At the Redrow Residents meeting stated that land had been outlined for a school but not sure what is happening. Cllr Blatherwick stated that there was a lack of school places across the Parish. Cllr Mulvihill will raise with KCC but the allocation is down to type and number of homes sold.

Cllr Blatherwick and Cllr Austin attended the KCC Highways meeting, including tunnel maintenance and cross channel machines.

189/25 To receive reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

190/25 To receive information regarding any environmental issues, including reports from the Tree and Pond Warden.

Cllr Davis did an online course by Kent Wildlife Trust on 6th November, regarding Local Wildlife Sites. Cllr Davis is having her meadow assessed and asked whether the Parish would like to have Broomfield Community Park assessed.

Following the request from a resident, Cllr Davis also asked if the Parish Council would consider being a butterfly friendly council, with Broomfield Community Park, Cherry Orchard and allotments in the Parish. Cllr Austin stated that it would be a good idea to have wildlife corridors and engage with local schools, Redrow and housing developments.

Councillors agreed to investigate this further and take to Environment and Leisure Committee.

Cllr Davis reported that KCC asked whether we needed any more replacement trees for the Community Park. It was agreed to wait until the hemlock is under control.

191/25 To discuss removing the cleaning cupboard in the Herne Centre kitchen and the purchase of a larder freezer.

The clerk had circulated a report, and Cllr Davis had circulated some information prior to the meeting.

It was agreed to progress with the purchase of the Polar C code 085 freezer which is now £745.99 excluding vat. (£895.19 including vat).

Cllr Mulvihill can approve a grant of up to £750.00.

To remove the cupboard and sink we had a quote of £200 and if approved this can be done 19th November. The removal of the cupboard and purchase of a new freezer was agreed.

192/25 To discuss the purchase of a laptop and docking station for the Amenities Assistant, and the upgrading of IT protection for all machines.

Report circulated prior to meeting. Approved. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

193/25 To discuss the future management of Herne Mill. This is in response to the latest update from Kent County Council.

Friends of Herne Mill are finding out the day to day running costs. Each mill will be in trust and on a 99-year lease. Cllr Davis asked for more information before a decision can be made. KCC will insure the mills.

194/25 To approve the Herne & Broomfield Parish Council Grant Awarding Policy and Grant Application Form.

Not circulated prior to meeting so postponed until next Council meeting.

195/25 To receive any reports from parish council members.

Cllr Austin had attended a Redrow residents meeting to review comments from Redrow and Quinn Estates. Now following intervention by MP Roger Gale they now appear to be getting answers. There are no national standards for the underpass, and they have asked KCC Public Rights of Way team about the maintenance of the underpass. Southern Water are not concerned about Plenty Brook, and the swales regarding flooding. Quinn Estates and Redrow have not asked for the estate drainage to be adopted.

Cllr White stated that she helped with lunch on Wednesday.

Cllr Wilson said he was happy to do the reading at the church.

196/25 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 11th December 2025.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.