

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 14th August 2025 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis (Chairman)

Cllr Austin

Cllr Checksfield

Cllr Collins

Cllr Maslin

Cllr Strong

Cllr White

Michele Nicholson (Clerk/RFO)

147/25 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Davison, Cllr Hill, Cllr Lambkin, and Cllr Wilson.

Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

County Cllr Mulvihill.

148/25 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

149/25 To confirm the minutes of the council meeting held on 10th July 2025.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

150/25 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

Former Kent County Council (KCC) Councillor Alan Marsh has managed to make arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. He will make contact again nearer the time to finalise the details.

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

No members of the public were present.

151/25 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis invited members to attend the official opening of the new Multi Use Games Area, in Cherry Orchard Playing Field, next Tuesday, 19th August 2025 at 10.30am. Invitations have been sent to the Lord Mayor and our City Councillors. It would be good if members could attend. The Parish Council has sponsored the free Football Training sessions for the last 17 years. Tea and cake will be served in the Herne Centre afterwards.

152/25 To receive reports from County Cllr Mulvihill, City Cllrs Jones and Paget.

County Cllr Mulvihill

The clerk read the following report sent by County Cllr Mulvihill.

It's been a busy few weeks for myself, with site visits to Strode Park and Herne Mill. It was a pleasure to meet staff from Strode Park and discuss the challenges they face. These will be taken back to the officers within adult social care. As you can imagine the biggest challenges include finances and staffing, with concerns over the new employment bill being brought in by central government.

When I visited Herne Mill it was great to receive such a warm welcome, and to see the dedication and passion from the volunteers. Throughout my visit we discussed the LGR (Local Government Reorganisation). The tour of the mill and its history made it such an educational visit and I'm really grateful to Ray who explained everything to me.

The mill in Herne is a true asset, and the protection of it is something I will fight for. It was pleasing to learn that the top box is due for refurbishment later this year. As for Kent County Council (KCC),

I'm in conversation with Cllr Chamberlain as to what we can do as local members to protect this asset from the previous administration's plans.

I also met with St Martin's Church with regards to road safety at the mini roundabout outside the church/School Lane, with the restricted view if you approach the roundabout from School Lane. The church are in agreement to have a mirror placed opposite so that traffic from School Lane has clearer visibility, and there are two potential options I am looking into to try and secure the funds to do this.

Throughout Sturry I am aware of various issues regarding South East Water, especially with regards to reduced water pressure and in some instances no water. If any residents within Herne and Broomfield have had issues I would urge you to contact me directly.

LGR – It has now been released that the leader at KCC Cllr Linden Kemkaran, her officers and bigger team have now built a proposal and business plan to submit to central government. KCC's preferred option for LGR is a single unitary council covering Kent and Medway to include three Area Assemblies. Having only received this today I hope to be able to further update you shortly.

Whilst I apologise for not being able to make tonight, due to being delayed at Sessions House, I do hope to attend the next meeting. Once again, any issues that arise that I may be able to assist with please do drop me an email.

City Cllr Jones

Aware of some of the accident black spots in Herne, such as the junction of Canterbury Road/Busheyfields Road and crossing Canterbury Road in the vicinity of Wildwood.

The dip in the new A299 slip road at the Eddington Interchange roundabout has been repaired.

The Herne village flower bed is looking very good.

City Cllr Paget

The broken drain cover in Lower Herne Road has now been repaired.

There will be a walk around meeting at Curtis Wood Park on 6th September 2025, 9.30am to 11.00am, regarding the new Curtis Wood Park management plan.

153/25 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The admin assistant signed her updated contract on 1st August 2025 and is now Assistant Clerk. This was anticipated following her successful completion of the Introduction to Local Council Administration qualification.

Herne Centre maintenance:

- the works on the heating system have been completed.
- decorating completed.
- hall floors started.

Attended the online KALC Contract Management for Asset Transfers Training on 31st July 2025.

Attended an online CCC FOI request meeting with William Hicks (Director of Place) on 11th August 2025, regarding CCC assets.

Have begun a dialogue with CCC regarding possible asset transfers. William Hicks will contact the relevant officers regarding the information requested and the FOI request has been withdrawn. Another meeting has been arranged for 26th September 2025 at 2.30pm.

The Assistant Clerk will be on annual leave from 13th August until 18th August 2025. Will then be on sick leave from 20th August 2025.

The Clerk will be on annual leave from 5th September until 21st September 2025. Office cover will be needed. The Amenities Manager will clerk the council meeting on 11th September 2025.

Unless there is anything urgent to discuss the agenda will be limited to the regular monthly items. The minutes for the Planning & Highways Committee (P&H) meeting can be completed on the Clerk's return. However, it will be necessary for someone to enter the P&H comments on the CCC Planning Portal. All the payments can be entered onto the bank on the Clerk's return. Cllr Davis will be able to monitor the bank accounts and send balances to the Amenities Manager. The Clerk's laptop will be left in the Parish Office, but someone will need to have the Clerk's mobile phone.

Cllr White agreed to have the Clerk's mobile telephone. **Action: clerk and Cllr White.**

The Clerk to ask Cllr Blatherwick and Cllr Wilson regarding entering the P&H comments on the CCC Planning Portal. **Action: clerk.**

Cllr Davis congratulated the Assistant Clerk on passing Unit 2 (Law & Procedures) of the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification.

154/25 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting.

Margate Independent Foodbank (Autumn Fair stall refund): £10.00

Supermaids (tablecloth laundering): £174.15

Nicola Caley (indemnity refund): £100.00

Natural Gas Services (heating repairs): £11,278.00

The Change Organisation (laptop for assistant clerk): £708.00

J Arichchandiran (cash credited twice at Herne Post Office): £2,000.00

M Robinson (indemnity refund): £100.00

Total: £14,370.15

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

The payments were approved.

To report on income received.

Sum Up machine card payments received: £5,370.05

Bookings: £5,469.00

Herne Centre Cash: £7,100.00

Events: £140.00

Total £18,079.05

155/25 To receive the minutes of the Kent Resilience Plan Group meeting on 6th August 2025.

The minutes were received.

Cllr Davis asked about the risks regarding polling stations. The Clerk replied that the risks would be low.

Cllr Austin agreed to join the working group.

156/25 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 7th August 2025 and to discuss any matters arising, and other planning and highways issues.

The minutes were received.

Members made no comments.

157/25 To receive reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

No reports were received.

158/25 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Davis reported that KCC had not responded regarding the dead trees at Home Farm that overhang Canterbury Road.

159/25 To discuss the transfer of assets with respect to the Local Government Reorganisation.

Meeting with CCC on 26th September 2025 at 2.30pm. Attending will be Cllr Davis, the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, William Hicks (Director of Place) and Matthew Archer (Head of Corporate Governance).

Cllr Davis reported that she had attended various Kent Association of Local Councils training regarding Devolution, LGR, and the transfer of assets.

Cllr Davis reported that Broomfield Pond has been registered as an Asset of Community Value.

160/25 To discuss next steps regarding the outstanding items from the transfer of the Herne Centre contract.

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

This item is regarding the items that have been listed as damaged or missing from the Herne Centre following at the termination of the contract with West Faversham Community Association (WFCA).

WFCA had managed the Herne Centre on behalf of the parish council from 2018 to the end of October 2024. The contract stated that damaged or missing items should be replaced by WFCA. After some discussion members agreed to pursue reimbursement for all the damaged and missing items. **Action: clerk.**

161/25 Members Reports.

Cllr Checksfield reported she was pleased that the water leak in Broomfield Road was repaired very quickly.

Cllr Strong made members aware that the lease for the allotments was halfway through. Nothing needed to be done yet.

Cllr White reported that the first draft of the newsletter should be ready by the weekend. The opening of the MUGA would be included. **Action: Cllr White.**

Cllr White reported that a plot holder had volunteered to clear the allotment tree nursery.

Members agreed to the planting of the hawthorns around the allotment site. **Action: Cllr White.**

Cllr Austin reported that My Community Voice Kent has highlighted various policing initiatives that are proving to be very effective. He hoped that they would continue.

162/25 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 11th September 2025.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.