

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

Present:

Cllr Davis (Chairman)
Cllr Austin
Cllr Binstead
Cllr Blatherwick
Cllr Checksfield
Cllr Collins
Cllr Davison
Cllr Lambkin
Cllr Maslin
Cllr Strong
Cllr White
Jo McCann (Assistant Clerk)

161/25 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Wilson. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.
City Cllr Jones.

162/25 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

163/25 To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 14th August 2025.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

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

No members of the public were present.

164/25 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis reported that the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) official opening took place on 19th August, and the large dead tree overhanging the highway at Home Farm has been felled. The thank you tea is on Sunday and there was a request for volunteers to help and provide food. The Remembrance Service at St Martins takes place on Sunday 9th November. Alan Marsh has arranged with KCC Highways for the road closures for this year. In the past Alan has paid for the bugler, refreshments at the Smugglers Inn and a wreath. To hold this event at the Smugglers would be £300 for the refreshments and £25 for the bugler for the last post. The Assistant Clerk had suggested that the refreshments should be provided at the Herne Centre, a local caterer was approached for prices. This was agreed by all the Councillors that it should be held at the Herne Centre with a budget for food set at £200, and the bugler to be paid by the Parish also. This has already been booked for next year in the main hall.

165/25 To receive reports from County Cllr Mulvihill, City Cllrs Jones and Paget.

County Councillor Mulvihill

The streetlamp that was removed near St Martins Church due to a road traffic collision is going to be replaced with the same style light as the one that was damaged and is on order. The road safety mirror is in progress, and KCC are waiting for completed paperwork from St Martins Church then it can be fitted.
Herne Mill is not being sold off. KCC are putting the mill into a trust. All outstanding works

and repairs will be completed before being donated to communities to run. All future maintenance and repairs will be funded through grants. KCC will remain the insurer for the mills. Cllr Davis asked if Cllr Mulvihill would have grants available for much needed equipment for the Herne Centre.

City Cllr Paget

Works have begun in Curtis Wood, with works only happening every Tuesday. Cllr Paget had one member of the public complain that the works were not publicised, but they are now in contact with the officer from CCC.

Southeast Water are holding a public meeting in Whitstable about the summer water issues that affected Whitstable, Herne and Herne Bay. The meeting is on 15th October at 7pm at the Whitstable School. Tickets are free and available from Eventbrite, but you must register otherwise you cannot attend. Cllr Paget will be attending the meeting to represent the Parish.

Cllr Austin suggested that the Herne Centre should be a distribution point for water for people in emergencies in the parish.

Cllr Davis asked Cllr Paget to find out if there are plans for a reservoir and if there was where would it be sited.

Cllr Paget reported that the consultation period for CCC local plan closes 21st October. There are two sites in Herne and Broomfield. Home Farm at the junction of Lower Herne and Bullockstone Road, and the caravan site at Bullockstone Farm, both sites will generate about 250 houses in total. There is also another site identified on Bullockstone Road near the animal reserve in Greenhill. Cllr Davis stated that the Parish Council had not been made aware of the consultation and is unsure if the residents of Bullockstone Road know about the sites being put forward, also whether CCC would extend the consultation period to give the Parish Council time to make residents aware. Cllr Blatherwick voiced disappointment that the Parish Council were not aware or involved. Cllr Paget stated that she would feedback this to CCC. Cllr Davison asked if we could have some new readings from the Air Quality monitors in the village as we haven't had any analysis since 2023.

166/25 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The clerk has returned after being on annual leave in September and the Assistant Clerk being on extended sick leave returning on the 2nd October. Thank you to the Amenities Manager, Cllr Davis and Cllr White with monitoring the parish office, bank accounts and clerk mobile phone. The Clerk, Cllr Davis and the Assistant Clerk, attended the CCC Parish & Community Representatives Engagement meeting regarding the Local Government Reorganisation on 23rd September 2025. The slides and feedback have been circulated to members. The date of the next meeting with William Hicks (Director of Place), regarding CCC assets, has been changed to 17th October 2025.

Assistant Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

In September the Council held a quiz night, with the next one booked in for the 17th October. These are well attended, with lots of positive feedback.

On 5th October was the Scarecrow Trail in association with Herne Book Share. The route had 30 scarecrows made by a mixture of groups and individuals that were scattered throughout

Herne and Broomfield. In total 74 trail maps were sold at £5 each and raised over £200 from kitchen sales. An art exhibition ran at the same time and again was well attended.

The thank you tea is being held on Sunday 12th October, Cllr Davis was thanked for her help in organising the event, and volunteers were requested to help set up and clear away.

The Assistant Clerk updated everyone on CiLCA progress, completing another unit in the past month.

The Herne Centre hosted lunch club again on the 8th October which was attended by 27 people, this was well received by residents, many who came alone.

167/25 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting.

Circulated prior to the meeting, printed and approved.

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

Cllr Maslin asked when the external windowsills may be painted, and volunteered that he may be able to help, as well as donating some tablecloths to the Herne Centre.

Cllr Blatherwick asked if the Safe and Sound bill was to do with the heating. This was separate to the new heating and was to install the software onto the computers.

The payments were approved.

To report on income received.

Card payments: £3910.72

Booking fees: £5568.73

Allotment rent: £800.00

Herne Centre cash: £457.35

PC Events cash: £3735.00

Quiz: £110.00

Craft Fair: £105.00

Total: £14,686.80

Cllr Davis reported that another small table had been added to the order of tables from March. The updated quote is £2538.07 including VAT. There is also an addition of a chair to replace a damaged one.

168/25 To receive the draft minutes of the Herne Centre Committee meeting held on 21st August 2025 and to discuss any matters arising.

The minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick raised concerns about holes in the brick work for the new pipes and the security of the heat pumps. The Assistant Clerk stated that Natural Gas Services are returning to check it is working and these issues will be raised when they return.

Cllr Davis asked whether the schematics, maintenance schedules and warranties had been received yet. The Assistant Clerk informed the Council that they are in the loft next to the BMS. Also discussed was the need for new equipment for the Herne Centre, and this will be added to the Herne Centre agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Mulvihill confirmed that there are grants available to apply for the purchase of equipment. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

169/25 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 4th September and 2nd October 2025 and to discuss any matters arising, and other planning and highways issues.

The minutes were received.

Cllr Davis highlighted CCC New Local Plan which identifies Home Farm (200 houses) and Bullockstone Farm Caravan site (50 houses). The consultation runs from 9th September to the

21st October. There was then a discussion as Councillors were unaware of the Local Plan. Cllr Paget stated that she thought the Parish Council were aware, but she would ask CCC if we could extend the deadline for the consultation response to give us time to collate everyone's views.

Cllr Blatherwick highlighted a planning application which involved a 2-bedroom bungalow being turned into a 4-bedroom house. This is becoming more prevalent and would result in the loss of the smaller property from the housing market.

170/25 To receive reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

The Parish Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Cllr Davis have attended several online meetings on Local Government Reorganisation organised by NALC and KALC, and with CCC at the Guildhall. We have another meeting with CCC on the 17th October regarding our Freedom of Information Request regarding assets.

Cllr Austin and Cllr Maslin attended a Design Strategy Workshop. There is a consultation going on for the whole of East Kent, developing a design code for developers to follow in the future. They discussed transport arrangements, footpaths, housing amongst other things. There is another session 11th November. There was a big discussion about what enforcement action could be taken against developers who do not comply with their planning promises.

Cllr Austin, Cllr Maslin, Cllr Davis, and Cllr Strong attended the Local Government Reorganisation and Asset Working Group on 8th October. Cllr Austin reported that they went through terms of reference and what the groups scope would be. There was also a discussion of the need for a Neighbourhood plan and new aims and objectives for the Council. Input is required from CCC about any additional assets the Parish may acquire and what is included with those assets, such as outstanding contracts. Future meetings will be as and when required.

Cllr Davison attended a parochial meeting to discuss donations to local families for Christmas.

171/25 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

It was reported that the Broomfield Pond group are looking at having dead trees removed from the pond area. Cllr Collins stated that they would need permission to do this as it is in a conservation area.

172/25 To discuss the quotes received to provide regular cleaning of the Herne Centre windows.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Members agreed to accept the quote of £1050 per annum for a bimonthly clean. There was a discussion about the solar panel cleaning and at this time the Council does not wish to have these cleaned.

Action: Assistant Clerk.

173/25 To discuss the quotes received regarding replacing the photocopier.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Members agreed to accept the quote for the lease of a new Sharp photocopier, as the current photocopier is too old to obtain replacement parts if it was to break down.

Action: Assistant Clerk

174/25 To discuss a response to the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Consultation.

Cllr Davis asked if as a Parish Council if we wanted to respond. It was agreed that the Parish Council would approach Chestfield and asked how they produced their plan to see if we could have assistance to create our own.

Action: Assistant Clerk

175/25 To discuss the parking issues at the Herne Centre.

Cllr Davis reported that there is an ongoing issue with our neighbours and parents using the car park preventing staff and centre users being able to use it, especially in the mornings and at weekends. There was then a discussion about car parking issues. It was agreed that the

top gate of the car park would be closed with signage for staff parking only, and the gate would be closed when the centre closes at night and locked. It was also agreed the signage be reviewed in the car park and the speed highlighted to try and slow drivers down. The gate would be closed from a date in November that will be advertised in the newsletter and via a letter drop to the neighbouring properties. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

176/25 Members Reports.

Cllr Checksfield asked if there was an update on the new planters, the Assistant Clerk stated that they would review and report back.

Cllr White stated the next newsletter is currently being compiled.

Cllr Blatherwick stated she was concerned about the idea of shortening the route and only doing one night for Santa's float, as it is something we do for the community, and it is well received by the children. There was then a discussion. Mr Blatherwick has offered to be the Float Manager and help organise the float and carry out repairs. It was decided to discuss this further at the Environment and Leisure meeting the following week.

Cllr Davison wanted to thank Cllr Mulvihill for finding out about the lamp being replaced in the village. There has also been an increase of complaints about the speed and size of lorries travelling through the village recently. Cllr Mulvihill stated that he was aware and that KCC are looking at a lorry watch scheme and a possible weight restriction.

177/25 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 13th November

Meeting closed at 9.07pm.