

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 11th June 2026 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis (Chairman)

Cllr Binstead

Cllr Blatherwick

Cllr Checksfield

Cllr Collins

Cllr Lambkin

Cllr Maslin

Cllr White

Michele Nicholson (Parish Clerk)

Joanne McCann (Assistant Clerk)

110/26 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Davison, Cllr Hill, Cllr Strong, and Cllr Wilson.

Canterbury City Council (CCC) Cllr Jones.

Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

111/26 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

112/26 To confirm the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 14th May 2026.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

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

Two members of the public were present.

They spoke regarding item 122/26 on the agenda, to say they are glad the Parish Council were considering all options.

113/26 Chairman's Announcements.

The Pantaloons are performing at the Herne Centre on Friday night; there are still a few tickets left. There are three people that have come forward for the current Parish Councillor vacancy with interviews next week.

114/26 To receive reports from County Cllr Mulvihill, City Cllr Jones and City Cllr Paget.

County Cllr Mulvihill.

County Cllr Mulvihill reported that in response to the water supply issues with South East Water – KCC are putting together the Kent Resilience Water Partnership. This should bring all stakeholders

together to hold South East Water to account and enhance planning requirements with regards to supply to avoid further issues as we head into the warmer months. The initial water station set up for collection was insufficient for the outage, and County Cllr Mulvihill asked for larger site at Sainsburys Herne Bay and got a second site in Chestfield. KCC has also written to Secretary of State regarding the issues.

A28 Sturry link road project. County Cllr Mulvihill had a site visit alongside Peter Osborne (Cabinet Member of Highways and Transport) showing how the site was progressing and how the scheme is protecting the wildlife habitats. The meeting lasted over 3 ½ hours. There has been one public showing so far and another one scheduled for next week.

On 10th July, KCC are holding a fly tipping conference bringing District Councils and enforcement teams together to build upon what it is being done to ensure more prosecutions and what deterrents could be put in place. County Cllr Mulvihill spoke of a scheme in Hoath where they are installing a monitoring system with a local business free of charge.

Shalloak Landfill site meeting. County Cllr Mulvihill attended on Friday with the cabinet member for Environment. It highlighted that there may be breaches in their licence as far as planning and compliance which are being researched by Officers at KCC. A lot of the waste is from outside of Kent that is being tipped there. The KCC Leader is aware and supporting action. Due to all the issues regarding compliance the Environment Agency may not renew the licence.

The bus stops and pavement are also being replaced at Wildwood.

City Cllr Paget

Wanted to start by thanking the Parish Council for arranging the Community Picnic at Curtis Wood in conjunction with the BioBlitz event, which was well attended.

Regarding the water outage, City Cllr Jones and City Cllr Paget helped by delivering water to residents and arranging additional collection points at St Martins Hall and the Herne Centre.

Communication from South East Water was simply not good enough, taking them 4 days to set up the Herne Centre water distribution hub.

City Cllr Paget said there were ongoing challenges with regards to parking in Herne, which had been raised with the Cabinet member for enforcement. The day of action was useful as Enforcement Officers raised awareness and educated parents.

There was a successful community litter pick 10th May, thank you to all those that helped including Cllr Maslin and Cllr White. The next litter pick is 11th July in Busheyfields Road and Ridgeway Road in the afternoon, with a further one on the 1st August at 9am at the Cherry Orchard.

Lower Herne / Redrow tunnel, there have been many issues. The lighting, which was graffitied over making it dark, City Cllr Paget got the graffiti team to clear it as much as possible. There is also a water leak in the area and the tunnel is covered in graffiti and rubbish. KCC is responsible for the tunnel, so will speak to KCC to make it better for people to walk through.

Cherry Orchard has had a few issues. Dog mess in the bushes and on the grass, an abandoned metal Haras fencing panel left on the path and a broken litterbin. City Cllr Paget has asked for the removal of the fencing and replacement of the litterbin. We are still awaiting the other two litterbins replacing the broken ones from the last year. The zip wire is scheduled for repair, now just awaiting a date, this was vandalised and damaged.

City Cllr Paget reported that residents are not getting enough in terms of frequency or reliability of the 602/3 buses. She wrote to Stagecoach, they have responded saying they have no plans for additional services to plug the gaps, there is a timetable change this week, this may address service issues in the afternoons. They have also submitted a proposal under the Bus Improvement Plan Fund for the 603 bus to get more coverage.

Community speed watch City Cllr Paget is still looking for volunteers. Cllr Wilson has offered his support. If we have a few more then we may have enough to do the training.

115/26 To receive reports from the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, including any correspondence

The reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Clerk

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Cllr Davis and Cllr Blatherwick had an online meeting with Briony Chaplin (KCC Highways Community Engagement Officer (Canterbury)) on 4th June 2026 to review the HIP.

Items discussed included Streetfield school parking, the Broomfield grass triangle, additional signage for Mill Lane, School Lane and the Eddington Interchange, and overgrown vegetation at the junction of Canterbury Road/Curtis Park Road.

Herne Mill, and Parish Council and Friends of Herne Mill meeting held on 9th June 2026

Received the financial information from Kent County Council (KCC) for the financial year 2024/25.

Also had figures from the Friends of Herne Mill (FHM) for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

KCC has set up an online portal where the individual mills can access the information relevant to them, including additional financial information. These figures have been entered into a spreadsheet for comparison, however some of the information is patchy.

FHM have submitted an Expression of Interest.

Discussed some of the details surrounding the parish council taking responsibility of Herne Mill.

Notes have been circulated.

Streetfield school parking day of action held on 10th June 2026

Kent Police and Canterbury City Council (CCC) Parking Enforcement attended for the morning school run, along with the Assistant Clerk and Cllr Jeremy Wilson. Unfortunately, Parking Enforcement attended too late to catch the worst of the traffic. Drivers of illegally parked vehicles were spoken to, as were drivers sitting idling their engines. Most were reasonable; however, one was very abusive.

Photographs of offending vehicles were circulated to both Herne schools, with a request for them to raise this issue with parents again. Both schools have confirmed that they will do this.

The Clerk also reported that Cllr Paget and parking enforcement had returned for the afternoon at Streetfield. More people drove because of the wet weather, and the road did become gridlocked. Enforcement issued 4 parking tickets. There will be two further days of action including 16th June and 19th June. Hunters Forstal Road incidents regarding hit and runs with vehicles being damaged, and speeding, SLOW markings have been requested which will be added to the HIP for discussion.

Assistant Clerk

It has been another busy month in the Parish Office. Summer newsletters have been delivered, thank you Cllr White for another great edition.

Sarah-Jayne memorial sign and the A0 lectern sign for Broomfield Community Park have been ordered, the lead times are around 8 weeks. I have also contacted Sarah-Jayne's parents who are very pleased that we are having this sign made and would like to be involved if we have a formal instillation event. Hopefully this will be before the summer holidays.

On Sunday we held our first Curtis Wood Community Picnic in conjunction with the bioblitz event. We worked in partnership with Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and the Co-op. It was well attended around 50 people, 20 of them children. We had story time, went on a bear hunt, made Stickman and windmills to take home, took part in leaf rubbings, and completed wildlife sheets. Everyone had a good time, and we had some lovely feedback. The bioblitz recorded over 500 sightings of flora, fauna and wildlife.

This Friday we have The Pantaloons coming to the Herne Centre, it would be lovely to see us all supporting this event. We have a 70/30 split on tickets sales in their favour – so very little risk involved for us and a great way to advertise the Herne Centre. To date we have sold 61 tickets which is a great achievement, but we would like to reach sell out at 80 so they come back next year.

We also have the Summer Quiz on 10th July it would be good if we could see a Parish Council table. Thank you to Cllr Strong and Cllr Binstead who attended the last quiz night and can vouch for it being a fun evening.

The Neighbourhood Plan draft questionnaire is complete and awaiting approval at the meeting so it can be sent to print and then hand delivered to residents. We have 2 public consultations, one on the 3rd July at 7pm and one 7th July at 2pm. This will need Councillors to be present to help with the answering of questions and support for the plan process. Please could you let me know which date you can attend. I will be doing a small talk at the beginning to explain what a NHP is and the process. We will complete some information boards and offer free tea and coffee. We have made the questionnaire deliberately more open as Canterbury Council suggested this is best practice to see what people consider the most pressing issues.

This week is also our “Day of Action” at Streetfield and Norton Avenue with CCC and Kent Police, which unfortunately happens to be on the same day as Lunch Club, but this was dictated by the availability of CCC parking wardens.

The Herne Centre is also in need of some general maintenance; we are in the process of obtaining quotes for:

- 1. Sanding and painting the fascia boards.*
- 2. Lifting, filling and replacing sunken paving at rear of the Herne Centre.*
- 3. Re-attaching the canopy, which is coming away from the back wall.*

We will also need to consider if we would want to stain the larch to maintain a colour or to let it silver – some parts are not exposed so their colour will remain darker.

116/26 Finance.

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

Payments were ratified.

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

Payment schedule and bank reconciliation were approved.

To report on any income received; income schedule was supplied.

Income schedule was received.

117/26 To receive the draft minutes of the LGR & Asset Working Group meeting held on 28th May 2026.

The draft minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The draft minutes were received.

118/26 To receive the draft minutes from the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 4th June 2026 and to discuss any points of note, and any other planning and highways issues.

The draft minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The draft minutes were received with one amendment Cllr Wilson and Cllr Checksfield had given their apologies.

The Clerk mentioned that KCC were unable to install the concealed entrance sign for Orchard Row as it is a non-prescribed sign, and the speeding issues in Hunters Forstal Road are being investigated by Jennie Watson from KCC highways.

Cllr Blatherwick stated that worryingly Strode Farm development have changed their energy strategy. Originally, they were fitting all new properties with an air source heat pump (ASHP) and solar panels – now they are only fitting ASHP and being sold as “Solar ready”. The Parish Council have raised the issue with CCC Planning as the site will have no gas, they can only use electric. By having solar panels they would see a 61% reduction in grid usage, therefore making it much more affordable for those living there. They have no alternative for heating as no gas, and they are going back on what was agreed in their planning permission.

Cllr Davis received a report of hedges at Home Farm being overgrown and obstructing the footpath on Canterbury Road, this is especially dangerous at night with no lighting. The Assistant Clerk confirmed it has been reported to KCC.

119/26 To receive reports from Council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

Cllr Wilson had attended the KALC meeting and had circulated the minutes and slides. Cllr Davis stated that it would be beneficial for an additional councillor to attend. No one was forthcoming.

120/26 To receive information regarding any environmental issues, including reports from the Tree & Pond Wardens.

Cllr Davis reported that she attended the Bioblitz on Sunday at Curtis Wood and recorded over 60 different species. The Assistant Clerk reported the dead hedge within the wood had supports removed and had collapsed in places, this is being looked at again by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership. Cllr Davis also stated the hedge overhanging the footpath in Broomfield Road will be cut back once the birds have fledged, the owner has been unwell otherwise this would have been done earlier.

121/26 To receive and approve the recommendations of the LGR & Asset Working Group:

- **Proposed Neighbourhood Plan**

The questionnaire had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Members approved the questionnaire and if possible, to use Malcolm White's drawing of the windmill for the front cover. Cllr Checksfield suggested asking Broomfield Delmergate to be a drop off for completed questionnaires. Members also approved the two public consultation meetings at the Herne Centre on the 3rd July and 7th July.

- **Canterbury City Council Community Governance Review**

There was a discussion regarding several options of boundary changes. This included the inclusion of all the Redrow development within Herne and Broomfield, which all Members agreed would be the best option. This is because part of Redrow is already in Herne and Broomfield, and for community cohesion it would make more sense to include all the development in one Parish. The existing boundary of the Plenty Brook cuts the estate and The Hub sports complex in half as well as the new buildings being built off Parkwood Road next to Herne Place. The Clerk will reply to the review with the Parish Councils decision. **Action: Clerk**

122/26 To discuss the outcomes of the parish council and Friends of Herne Mill meeting held on 9th June 2026 regarding the divestment of Herne Mill by Kent County Council.

The Clerk reported that we will need to get quotes for insurance with cover of £1.5million to £2million. KCC's figures are patchy but do provide a reasonable estimate of costs, and the spreadsheet that has been created by the Clerk was made available to members showing costs. The Clerk stated that we need to factor in annually costs for maintenance and annual inspections by the Millwright etc. The Facilities Management Costs will not apply to the Parish Council – which would be a saving of between £2,000.00 and £2,500.00 per year. The Clerk is currently requesting quotations to replace the fire alarm system, many parts of which are now obsolete. Cllr Checksfield wanted to know why the Mill system was not kept up to date, the Clerk informed Members maintenance to the system had been carried out to keep it working but this would need replacement now. City Cllr Muvihill stated that he would speak to officers to see if KCC could contribute any money towards a new system. Cllr Maslin confirmed that there had been no fire safety check since 2019, and one would need doing to ensure that we know the Mill is safe.

123/26 To approve the quotes to replace and purchase additional parish planters.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

All members agreed to the long recycled plastic planters from Earth Anchors as long as a water reservoir can be installed to cut down on maintenance. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

124/26 To discuss and approve the allocation of the National Lottery Grant

Assistant Clerk is still obtaining quotes so this will be discussed at the next meeting.

125/26 To approve the Health & Safety Policy.

The policy had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Members approved the Health & Safety Policy.

126/26 To receive any reports from Parish Council members.

Cllr Maslin stated that he had attended the litter pick at Cherry Orchard organised by City Cllr Paget, and a lot of residents stated that they were grateful for the new litterbin outside the cemetery. Cllr Checksfield stated that she had visited the living henge at the Broomfield Community Park and a few of the trees were surrounded by weeds, and that she was happy to tidy them up when she was next there. Cllr Checksfield also stated some of the other trees are not looking in a good condition. Cllr Blatherwick thanked Cllr Collins and Cllr Lambkin for all their hard work in the Herne Centre garden as it is looking lovely. Cllr Binstead asked if we could consider running a litter pick station at Cherry Orchard so that people can litter pick whilst their children play. All members agreed to trial it and see if it was successful. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

127/26 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 9th July 2026.

Meeting closed at 8.56pm.