

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Herne Centre, St Martins View, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7AP

Tel: 01227 742700

Minutes of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council Environment & Leisure Committee held at the Herne Centre, on Thursday 19th February 2026 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Maslin (Chairman)

Cllr Austin

Cllr Davis

Cllr Davison

Cllr Wilson

Corrina Collins (Footpath Warden)

Michele Nicholson (Parish Clerk)

001/26 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

No apologies were received.

002/26 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

None

003/26 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2025.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

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

To allow members of the public to speak about items on the agenda.

No members of the public were present.

004/26 To approve the Terms of Reference for the Environment and Leisure Committee

The Terms of Reference for the Environment & Leisure Committee were approved following some amendments. **Action: Clerk**

005/26 To receive a report from the Clerk, including any correspondence.

There was nothing to report.

006/26 To discuss upcoming events for 2026:

7th March – Community Groups Day:

The Clerk reported that 22 groups had confirmed that they would be attending. Volunteers will be needed on the day.

7th June – Garden Safari:

The Clerk reported that 8 to 10 gardens had confirmed that they would be opening.

A meeting for those that are opening their garden has been scheduled for 17th March 2026.

007/26 To discuss the 30th Anniversary of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that a 30th Anniversary event has been scheduled for 10th May 2026, 2.30 - 5.00pm. A band called The Breeze has been booked and there will be a buffet.

This will be a ticketed event, with tickets priced at £10.00 per person.

Invites have already been sent to Sir Roger Gale (MP), County Cllr Mark Mulvihill, City Cllrs Robert Jones and Grace Paget, and current parish councillors.

Invites to be sent to the headteachers of Herne Infant and Junior Schools, Rev. Chris Carnaby-Denyer (St. Martin's Church), former parish councillors and former clerk. Cllr Davis will send the Clerk a list of former parish councillors. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Davis.**

Cllr Davis will produce a history of the parish council. **Action: Cllr Davis.**

Members agreed to have a news article published in the local newspaper.

008/26 To discuss the improvements at Broomfield Community Park:

- **update on works to repair the fencing and steps.**

The Clerk reported that the works to repair the fencing and steps is due to begin soon.

- **to discuss the information to be published on the information boards.**

The Clerk reported that the proposal was to install three information boards, one by the entrance with local points of interest, one by the living hedge with details of the wildlife, and one by the wildflower meadow with details of the plants.

After some discussion members agreed to proceed with purchasing just the A0 size information board, to be sited by the entrance. It was agreed to wait to see how this worked before purchasing the other information boards. **Action: Clerk.**

The Clerk was asked to contact Canterbury City Council (CCC) to see where they purchase their information boards. **Action: Clerk.**

- **to discuss where to site bug and bird boxes.**

Members agreed to defer a decision for now.

The Clerk reported that Kent County Council (KCC) had mapped out the proposals for the benches and information boards. A copy of the map was presented to members. KCC was happy with the proposals but was waiting on confirmation from Steve Darling (KCC Monitoring Officer) before finalising.

Members requested that some of the benches be re-sited. A site visit to be arranged to agree.

Action: Clerk and E&L.

The Clerk reported that KCC has responded regarding the rabbit issues. They have stated that as the occupier of the site the parish council has the right to deal with the rabbit issues itself. KCC only ask that they are provided with the details of what is planned and when it is to take place.

009/26 Update on the removal of the gym equipment in Cherry Orchard Playing Field and the installation of the bench.

The Clerk reported that the bench had been ordered and it was due to be delivered soon.

CCC would be removing the gym equipment within the month.

Members requested that the Clerk contact CCC regarding the sign for the Sarah-Jayne Memorial Play Area, to ask whether the parish council would be permitted to provide a more suitable memorial sign. **Action: Clerk.**

010/26 To discuss the Santa Float:

- **to review how things operated and discuss any improvements that could be made.**

Cllr Maslin reported that everything went well, with many people coming out to meet the Santa Float. The Redrow estate was busy, with lots of families resident there.

The regular Facebook updates worked well keeping people informed of where the float was. Members agreed that more elves were needed on the float.

- **to discuss undertaking necessary maintenance.**

The float requires maintenance, which ideally should be undertaken in the summer.

A working party will need to be formed, which Tim Blatherwick will hopefully co-ordinate. Corrina Collins, and Cllrs Austin, Davison, Maslin and Wilson volunteered to be part of the working party. **Action: Clerk.**

011/26 To discuss any environmental issues.

Cllr Davison reported that she had been surveying bats and toads. She has started a bat surveying course. Cllr Austin said that the information recorded on the Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group data base needed more input of data. He will circulate the data he has received to members. Cllr Davis reported that a member of Kent Bat Group would be holding a talk at the Herne Centre on 31st March 2026.

Cllr Austin reported that the air quality monitoring data produced by CCC was hard to interpret.

Corrina Collins reported that the litter left by the football teams using Cherry Orchard playing field had increased again. An increase in dog fouling across the parish is another issue. There has been graffiti and discarded aerosol cans left in the underpass between the Redrow estate and Strode Farm development. The Clerk was asked to contact City Cllrs Robert Jones and Grace Paget regarding the football littering. **Action: Clerk.**

Corrina Collins reported inconsiderate parking in Mill View Road. At weekends vehicles are parking on the bend at the top and during the week they are parked at the bottom. The vehicles cause an obstruction and reduce visibility.

012/26 Members reports.

No reports received.

013/26 The next meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee will be on 23rd April 2026.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm