

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 July 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 Strong

Cllr White

Michele Nicholson (Parish Clerk)

Joanne McCann (Assistant Clerk)

136/26 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Davison and Cllr Hill.

Canterbury City Council (CCC) Cllr Jones.

County Councillor (KCC) Mulvihill

Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

137/26 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

138/26 To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25th June 2026.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record. The Clerk reported that the figures carried forward from 2024/25 still need reviewing, due to the inconsistencies highlighted previously, and the accounts for 2025/26 had not been fully signed off. Therefore, some of the figures may need to be restated. The Clerk will circulate the amended figures, should this be necessary, prior to their submission.

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

139/26 Chairman's Announcements.

Late Parish Councillor Stanley Daley's wife Margaret, sadly passed away on 24th June, Cllr Davis has the funeral arrangements for those wishing to attend. There are also some tickets still available for the quiz night should any councillors want to go.

140/26 To receive reports from County Cllr Mulvihill, City Cllr Jones and City Cllr Paget.

City Cllr Paget

Cllr Paget reported that she had attended a scrutiny committee at the end of June around Community Safety. During the meeting Cllr Paget had talked about the issues we have with parking around the schools in the Parish, and more enforcement is needed to tackle this. She invited the cabinet member for Community Safety – Cllr Connie Nolan, to walk around Streetfield at school drop off time and asked for more sustained enforcement activity, and to issue more tickets rather than just education. Cllr Paget will follow up with Cllr Nolan to see what else can be done. Whilst the cabinet member was in Herne Cllr Paget showed her around Cherry Orchard showing her the issues around antisocial behaviour, the toilets, ball court and zip wire all sustaining damage. She thanked the Parish Council for keeping her in the loop regarding the anti-social behaviour. On the 8th July, Cllr Paget attended a governance meeting at the Guildhall to discuss changes to local planning processes coming in from October. These changes are coming from central government which removes the ability for local councillors to “call in” planning applications for discussion. There is very little information about how this will work, but decisions will be officer driven. Developments of over 150 houses will go direct to the Secretary of State rather than through the scrutiny process of the local councils. Councillors tabled an amendment to write to Secretary of State and raise issues and to obtain more information. Full council is on the 16th July and Cllr Paget will update the Parish Council with any outcomes.

Cllr Paget keeps receiving reports about the 602 and 603 bus being unreliable. Currently Stagecoach has no plans to reinstate a more regular service, but they are attempting timetable changes to try and ease problems.

On Saturday there is a litter pick organised by Cllr Paget and Cllr Jones along Busheyfields Road and into the Ridgeway on the request of residents. She thanked the Parish Council for covering the litter pick with their insurance. The following litter pick is on 1st August at the Cherry Orchard, last time they had to remove glass from the ball court.

Cllr Blatherwick stated that she was concerned that City Councillors will no longer be able to call in planning applications, especially when Government are generally looking at devolving powers more locally, this is very much the opposite. There is also concern regarding the Secretary of State making decisions on developments of over 150 dwellings, especially as the Strode Development – turned down by the City Council, had the Secretary of State overturn the decision and agree for planning consent. Cllr Paget confirmed that a designated officer and Chair of Planning Committee will make all the decisions. Cllr Blatherwick stated that this is very worrying as it will now show a lack of transparency and possible avenues for corruption.

County Cllr Mulvihill.

Report was received and read by Assistant Clerk

As the Kent County Councillor for the division, and Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment, Coastal Regeneration and Public Health, I am pleased to provide this update on recent activity and issues of interest to our local parish councils.

Highways remain a key concern for residents, and works are currently under way on the A299 Thanet Way, which is an important route for local communities, businesses and visitors. I am continuing to monitor progress and any associated disruption and will keep parish councils informed of significant developments affecting journeys and connectivity.

No 7-bus route – Stagecoach have confirmed the route through Broad Oak will be re-established; however, we do not know if it will match the old route as yet. I have spoken to the Highways team to get a meeting arranged with Stagecoach to push to ensure Hoath is included.

The Sturry link road works have run two public engagement sessions, these were both well attended by residents, and the build is currently running to schedule.

In relation to public health and community safety, I visited Change Grow Live, a drug and alcohol treatment service, where I met with staff and service users and received positive feedback from clients about the quality of support they are receiving. I also visited a similar non-residential service in Margate delivered by The Forward Trust, which provides valuable community-based support to residents affected by substance misuse. These services form an important part of the wider Kent adult drug and alcohol offer.

I recently represented Kent County Council in France in support of the UNESCO application for the Kent GeoParks. During the visit, I met with the assessors and set out the potential benefits that GeoPark status could bring to Kent, including increased tourism, stronger cross-Channel links with our neighbours, and health and wellbeing gains through greater engagement with our natural environment.

Supporting safe and positive local activities for families and young people remains a priority. I have agreed £1,200 from my Members' Grant to help fund the outdoor picnic and cinema event in Sturry Park and have arranged for an event medical team to attend free of charge. This will help ensure the event is delivered safely and in line with recognised good practice following The Purple Guide for events. I have also provided grant funding to support football coaching sessions in Herne, giving children and young people additional opportunities for healthy activity and community engagement.

On local infrastructure, I was pleased that the sewage leak on Sturry Hill was attended to within 45 minutes of my involvement and was upgraded to a priority 1 case. Southern Water subsequently provided a report outlining the cause of the leak and the steps taken to resolve the issue, which helps ensure accountability and learning for future incidents.

Kent County Council has also maintained a strong presence at the County Show in Detling, with a number of stalls giving residents the opportunity to engage directly with services such as Trading Standards and other council teams. This has provided a useful forum for residents to ask questions, understand more about the support available, and share their views on local concerns and priorities.

As always if there is anything I can assist with either from the Parish Council or residents, please do get in touch.

141/26 To receive reports from the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, including any correspondence

The reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Clerk

The response to the CCC Community Governance Review was submitted on 24th June 2026. CCC has acknowledged it has been received and will be included for consideration.

South East Water has been more proactive during the recent hot weather, setting up water stations and delivering water. So far these have not been needed. The water leak in School Lane has been reported several times, but South East Water says it is surface water. This has been ongoing for at least a year now and needs to be resolved.

Still chasing KCC regarding the Cultivation Licence for the Broomfield grass triangle. I will keep pursuing this until we get a response.

There has been an increase in Antisocial Behaviour in the parish, particularly around the Cherry Orchard Playing Field. CCC is now closing the public toilets at 3.00pm due to continued vandalism and will be installing anti-climb paint or roll bars on the changing rooms to deter youngsters climbing on the roof. There are CCTV cameras on site, but these have not been operational for many years. The police are aware too and will try and patrol the area as much as is feasible.

Assistant Clerk

We have started receiving the initial questionnaires back that have all been hand delivered to the Parish. As a result, we have had some promising volunteers come forward that are interested in forming a steering group for the NHP. We have also had 2 public meetings with a total of approximately 50 people attending.

The Pantaloons were a huge success; we sold approximately 65 tickets. Those who came had a wonderful time – and we also had some people who had never been to the Herne Centre before. The event made nearly £500 in profit and was great fun. They have also shown an interest in returning next year.

In June we ran a few days of action in Streetfield, Norton Avenue and School Lane. This resulted in 16 parking tickets being issued as well as advice given. Norton Avenue was a lot quieter with Streetfield being the main issue. There were questions from the wardens regarding the current parking signage. It is a Controlled Zone – with signage – which means there is no vehicles that should be parked on the road between the times. This is then confused by the double yellows and single yellow lines. This can be reviewed at the next parking meeting.

Greenbarnes have advised the Sarah Jayne Memorial sign and lectern board for the Community Park are due to be delivered the last week of July.

I would also like to thank County Cllr Mulvihill for supporting our summer initiative. He has generously offered £1,930 to fund a free weekly summer club for children during the school holidays.

142/26 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.

143/26 To receive the draft minutes from the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 2nd July 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.

Cllr Blatherwick wanted to add, that the Planning Committee had objected to a planning application on the new Strode Farm development where they wanted to change some of the business allocation into residential, this was because it would mean that there would be less facilities for residents.

144/26 To receive reports from Council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

The Assistant Clerk had attended part of the online seminar with KCC regarding Transport and Highways, slides will be circulated once received. Cllr Lambkin attended a seminar in Deal about speeding which was very interesting, and the most powerful deterrent was the speed vans but there are only 4 available in the County.

145/26 To receive information regarding any environmental issues, including reports from the Tree & Pond Wardens.

The next pond clean is in September and Cllr Davis reported that there was one planning application for tree work that was listed in the planning minutes.

146/26 To discuss the co-option of a new Parish Councillor.

The Clerk reported that there had been three applicants for the position, all three were interviewed, of the two shortlisted one lived within the Parish, Members agreed to recommend this candidate to the Parish Council for co-option. Michelle Moss was agreed and co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

147/26 To discuss the Community Governance Review and Parish Boundary

The Clerk reported that she had submitted the Parish Council's response, including recommending a boundary change to include all of Redrow and a small Orbit housing development on the old golf driving range site. This consultation closed on Sunday, and the Parish Council are awaiting the result.

148/26 To update progress of Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

The Assistant Clerk reported that around 110 responses had been received so far a mix of online and paper. All being recorded online so it is easier for analysis. Currently many of the likes are around community feel, dislikes around traffic and potholes. There are concerns about more development and lack of infrastructure. Over half of respondents are over the age 65. Cherry Orchard is scoring highest on assets, followed by Curtis Wood Park and Curtis Wood, Broomfield Community Park, School Lane CP and then Savernake Park.

Currently 72% would consider an increase in precept for the Council to acquire Cherry Orchard, 65% for Curtis Wood Park. 58% do not want an increase in precept for Savernake Park, and 53% do not want to pay an increase in precept for School Lane car park

94% of respondents are in favour of acquiring Herne Mill, with 98% happy with mill to have more events.

Comments about Herne mill cite it as iconic, important to our heritage, and defining landmark. So far 17 people have come forward to be on the Neighbourhood Plan steering group.

149/26 To discuss and approve the allocation of the National Lottery Grant.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that we would contact Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership about doing one day at Broomfield Community Park initially with a working party to clear the scrub from the meadow and spread seed. This should re-establish the meadow. It was agreed for CoR to carry out a spot treatment of hemlock with chemical now, and for the seed to be purchased ready for sowing, with us hiring a scarifier to prepare the ground if required. The total cost of £1670 plus VAT. It was agreed for one meandering path in the middle to assist CoR with the hemlock treatment.

It was agreed to order the five recycled plastic benches with one recycled picnic bench from Kedal at a cost of £1990 plus VAT, all to be sunk and fitted by Kim Melton at a cost of £200 per bench.

The information boards, bug hotels, and bird boxes would be considered later in the year once the meadow restoration has commenced.

150/26 To discuss and approve quote for Broomfield Community Park annual grass cutting.

A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that CoR would continue to provide grass cutting at £4950 plus VAT for the year, and two additional hemlock cuts at £1100 plus VAT each. These would remain separately billed so we can review the hemlock growth going forward as this should become less each year.

151/26 To discuss and approve once a week free summer sports sessions for children.

A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed to proceed with the Summer Sports Session as detailed in the report, by Sports Connect at a cost £1960.

152/26 To discuss MUGA repairs and possibility of CCTV.

A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed for Trevor May to proceed with the repairs as they installed the fencing last year. Cllr Blatherwick asked if we could find out if splays could be added to the fencing to prevent the climbing; the Assistant Clerk will contact Trevor May and see if this is a possibility. It was agreed to review CCTV when we have full costs and a reply from Canterbury City Council about its installation. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

153/26 To approve the following policies;

All policies were circulated prior to the meeting.

- **Public Participation policy**

This was agreed

- **Lone Working policy**

Cllr Davis suggested an amendment regarding the safe word so this was not published on the website – it was agreed to redact it from the public copy.

- **Remote meetings policy**

Cllr Davis reported a grammatical error, the policy was agreed with the amendment.

154/26 To receive any reports from Parish Council members.

Cllr White stated that we are approaching the next edition of the newsletter and we need to think of articles we will want included. Cllr White suggested that the Council may wish to consider adopting an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, given the increasing use of AI to produce posters and other promotional materials which is not being well received with some members of the public. It was agreed that Cllr White would review examples of AI policies and report back to the Council with recommendations.

Cllr Strong reported the overgrown hedges by Broomfield Post Office – the Assistant Clerk confirmed that these had already been reported to KCC.

Cllr Maslin asked if there was anything we could do further regarding the water leak in School Lane – it was suggested if County Councillor Mulvihill would be able to progress repairs as South East Water continue to deny there being a leak. Cllr Maslin also reported that in Lower Herne Road we are receiving more reports of heavy good vehicles so could we reinstate the lorry watch scheme which he is happy to do. It was agreed to reinstate to see if there are more lorries using the road. Cllr Blatherwick stated that the second water leak in Albion Lane has now been fixed and she also thanked Cllr Maslin for starting work on the Herne Centre windowsills.

Action: Cllr White and Cllr Maslin

155/26 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 4th September 2026.

Meeting closed at 8.53pm.