

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Herne Centre, St Martin's View, Herne CT6 7AP

Minutes of the council meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at the Herne Centre on Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis (Chairman)

Cllr Wilson (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Binstead

Cllr Collins

Cllr Lambkin

Cllr Maslin

Cllr Moss

Cllr Strong

Cllr White

Michele Nicholson (Clerk/RFO)

City Cllr Paget

County Cllr Mulvihill

177/26 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Davison, and Cllr Hill.

Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

City Cllr Jones.

178/26 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

Cllr Strong raised that he is a trustee of Herne Mill.

179/26 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2026.

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 attended.

180/26 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis thanked Cllr Lin White for producing an excellent newsletter, as she knows how much work goes into producing it.

Members were reminded that the Volunteers Thank You tea is on Sunday 27th September at 3pm, please attend if you can, to show appreciation to all the parish council's volunteers and staff. Any contribution to the buffet, cakes, savouries etc. would be very welcome, please let the Assistant Clerk know.

181/26 To receive reports from County Councillor Mulvihill, and City Councillors Jones and Paget.

County Cllr Mulvihill

County Cllr Mulvihill reported that he had supported many events across his ward during August.

He is arranging a meeting with Stagecoach to discuss bus service improvements. KCC has provided £13 million in funding for bus services that would not otherwise be provided.

Re-surfacing works along the A28 are being completed in staged sections.

KCC is working on providing small cells, low-powered cellular radio access nodes, to improve mobile phone coverage in Canterbury.

The week-long temporary traffic lights scheduled to be in place for the UK Power Network roadworks on Calcott Hill will now only be in place for one day. The signage has been amended to reflect this. The planned Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for Kent and Medway has now been paused by the Government.

City Cllr Paget

City Cllr Paget reported that with the pause of the LGR the Canterbury City Council (CCC) elections scheduled for May 2027 will now be taking place.

CCC has been awarded funding to upgrade three of its children's play areas, including the one in Honeysuckle Way. No date has been given for when the works will be undertaken.

The repairs on the Cherry Orchard children's play area have been scheduled but are waiting for parts.

Continuing with multi agency working to address the anti-social behaviour in Cherry Orchard.

Regarding the proposed Curtis Wood pond works, will provide an update once more information has been received.

A resident has reported that the road sign in St Martin's Road has disappeared.

CCC now has a fully staffed enforcement team. Have asked for more enforcement presence in the parish.

City Cllr Paget thanked the parish council for the new Sarah-Jayne Mulvihill memorial sign by the Cherry Orchard children's play area, and for the lovely unveiling ceremony.

Attended the Strode Park Foundation anniversary event.

Still pursuing O2 regarding an update on the Broomfield mobile phone mast repairs. Had a vague response from O2, which said that repairs had been started but there is little sign of this. Will keep the parish council update once further information has been received.

Attended the Bus Focus Group for the Canterbury District meeting. Spoke with Stagecoach who stated they had no plans to increase the frequency of existing services. Will report any issues received back to the group at the next meeting.

Looking forward to helping with the reinstatement of the wildflower meadow at Broomfield Community Park.

Keen to be involved with the Remembrance Day arrangements.

182/26 To receive reports from the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, including any correspondence.

Both reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Clerk's report:

The Clerk will be on annual leave from 24th September 2026 returning on 12th October 2026.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Government has announced that the LGR of Kent and Medway has been paused pending a review. The Government has not provided any indication of how long this will take but has stated that the local council elections scheduled for May 2027 will now go ahead as planned.

CCC has been asked about how this would affect the new parish ward arrangements for CCC, particularly if the parish elections are delayed until 2028. As it stands, the parish councillors would have been elected to represent one of the two new wards. Will the parish council be required to split the existing parish councillors between the two wards without an election taking place. The proposals are 9 parish councillors for the Herne Village Ward and 4 for the Wantsum Ward. Currently, 10 parish councillors live within the Herne Village Ward and 3 in the Wantsum Ward, although it is unclear whether this would matter.

Community Governance Review (CGR)

The results of the first consultation have been published and circulated.

Regarding Herne & Broomfield parish, the recommendation is that the parish boundary is moved to exclude all the Redrow Development. This would come under the proposed Herne Bay Town Council instead. There would be an impact on the parish council's tax base and precept, however, would not take effect until the financial year 2028/29. Any reduction should be offset by the completion of the Strode Farm Development.

There will be a second public consultation where residents will be able to comment on the recommendations put forward. The residents of the Redrow Development may respond differently to the recommendations.

National Pay Scales

The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services has agreed a 3.3% increase in the pay rates and allowances applicable from 1st April 2026 until 31st March 2027.

The increase will apply to the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Herne Centre Manager, and Herne Centre Deputy Manager, as they are all on the national pay scales, and will be backdated from 1st April 2026.

The Clerk added that CCC had clarified the position regarding the CCC elections and the new parish warding arrangements. The new warding arrangements would take effect at the next parish council elections, deferred until May 2028, and will not affect the CCC elections next year.

The Clerk said that a report had been received from Conor O'Riley regarding the landscaping maintenance at Broomfield Community Park. A small dent has been made regarding the hemlock. Whilst spraying is effective, constant cutting yields better results as it prevents the hemlock flowering and seeding. Should be able to cut the wildflower meadow before the reseeding takes place on 24th September 2026.

Assistant Clerk's report:

Thank you to those that came to the dedication ceremony at Cherry Orchard. Sarah-Jayne's family were very touched by the new sign, and that Sarah-Jayne will continue to be remembered. The Lord Mayor gave a nice speech, and we had a small reception afterwards at the Herne Centre.

The Barn Dance is operating a waiting list as we are sold out. This has been very successful considering we are still a few weeks away. We also have the Scarecrow Trail the same weekend on the 4th October – we are in need of some more entries so please let us know if you are taking part. The closing date is currently 9th September so please let me know by Friday if you would like to take part, as we have to arrange the maps asap.

We have just had our September quiz night, thank you to Cllr Strong for attending. This was quieter than usual but still made around £350 profit after deductions (not including the bar takings of £364.50). We seem to have a lot of volunteers and residents that are on holiday in September – even our lunch club is quiet with only 21 people instead of the usual 32 – so we will have to take it into account next year and maybe have a 2-month break.

We are still awaiting a meeting with Vistry after their shock announcement of not completing the spine road until 2030. They have already now closed Ager Avenue and will be reinstating the streetlight and moving the bus stop with works due to happen in October.

There has also been a successful outcome, thank you to the support of County Cllr Mulvihill, in securing changes to the traffic light works on Calcott Hill. The works have now been reduced to a single day and scheduled outside normal commuting times. Originally planned to take place over a week, this change will make a significant difference to residents who rely on this route to commute.

The MUGA has been repaired and is currently in a good condition. The sports clubs were well attended, although we had a few “no shows”, so next year I believe we should charge a small amount to ensure attendance. But overall, it was a big success.

We have our MacMillan Coffee Morning on Thursday 24th September – any donations of baked goods would be welcome. Even better if you could support the event, it runs 9am – 1pm.

We also have the working day at Broomfield Community Park on the same day. Unfortunately, it must be a weekday as it is being run by Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, and they have a group that comes along to carry out the work. We have had Cllr Wilson, Cllr White, City Cllr Paget and Corrina Collins volunteer to help and a possible from Cllr Binstead. 10am start please, let me know if you are going along.

The Local Government Reorganisation Asset Working Group shortlisted eight applicants for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group at its meeting last week. The shortlisted applicants have now been invited to meet with a panel of Councillors for an informal chat, with the aim of establishing a working group of 6–8 members. We had an excellent response, with 51 people initially registering an interest. Of the 13 people who responded when contacted, three subsequently withdrew, leaving 10 applications to consider.

Thank you Tea – we currently just have three Parish Councillors attending. This is very disappointing – this is a lot of work and is a great time to say thank you to our volunteers that help throughout the year. We have 70 attendees this year, and Michele is on leave for this date. Please can you attend if possible and bring a donation of food – please let us know what you intend to bring.

Events coming up:

Thursday 24th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning
Thursday 24th September – Broomfield Wildflower Meadow
Sunday 27th September – Thank you tea
Friday 2nd October – Barn Dance
Sunday 4th October – Scarecrow Trail
Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday
Saturday 14th November – Christmas Craft Fair
Friday 4th December – Christmas Quiz
Saturday 13th December – Children’s Christmas Party
Saturday 19th – Sunday 20th December – Santa Float

183/26 Finance.

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

£1,008.00 Mazars LLP: external audit 24/25 not paid.

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.

184/26 To receive the draft minutes from the Herne Centre Committee meeting held on the 23rd July 2026 and to discuss any points of note.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Lambkin reported that topsoil was needed to backfill gaps in the Herne Centre garden. Cllr Strong said he would be able to get topsoil from the Eddington Lane Allotments, as they often have some for sale. **Action: Cllrs Lambkin and Strong.**

185/26 To receive the draft minutes from the LGR Asset Working Group meeting held on 3rd September 2026 and to discuss any points of note.

Cllr Maslin reported that the working group would still be proceeding with the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Informal interviews to find suitable people to join the NP Working Group are to be arranged.

Action: LGR Asset Working Group.

186/26 To discuss the recommendations of the LGR Asset Working Group regarding the parish council taking responsibility for Herne Mill.

Cllr Maslin reported that the recommendation from the working group was that the parish council take on responsibility for Herne Mill. However, the group agreed that the parish council needed to be cautious as extra costs may be incurred in the short term.

Cllr Davis said there would be grant funding available for some of the costs.

Cllr Strong reported that he would be attending a Friends of Herne Mill trustee meeting on Sunday. He will ask about the Friends financial position and arrange a meeting between the Friends and the parish council. **Action: Cllr Strong.**

Members agreed to proceed with putting together a business plan for submission to KCC. More financial information would need to be provided before making a definitive decision regarding taking responsibility of the mill. The business plan can be submitted without any obligation to do this.

Action: Clerk.

187/26 To receive reports from Council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

No reports were received.

188/26 To receive information regarding any environmental issues, including reports from the Tree & Pond Wardens.

Cllr Collins reported the Friends of the Ponds had a task day coming up.

Cllr Davis reported that the owner of the overgrown hedge in Broomfield Road had arranged for it to be cut. They had been served with a KCC Highways Vegetation Notice.

189/26 To discuss the quotes to repair the surface of the BMX Track.

The Clerk reported that Broomfield Bikers BMX Club had sent a report regarding the repairs that are needed for Broomfield BMX track but had not provided any quotes yet.

The details are:

Access road: re-surfacing and drainage.

Car park: scraping back, surfacing and topping up.

Start gate access hill: re-surfacing.

Start gate: existing gate requires welding again and is reaching the end of its life, with new one required shortly. (Suggestion is club pays for the new ram lifting mechanism, lights, and essentially makes it go up and down, as only the club makes use of that. The parish council or grants to pay for the physical gate itself as everyone makes use of that and it's from misuse that it has become damaged)

Start hill: lanes 1 and 8 require cutting out, edging and re-laid with tarmac.

Track surface: re-surfaced due to damage from motorbikes and e-bikes.

Berms: re-tarmac.

190/26 To discuss purchasing another commercial larder fridge to replace one of the existing domestic fridge/freezers.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Davis explained that with the purchase of the commercial larder freezer, the freezer section of the fridge/freezer for cafe use was no longer needed, however, additional fridge space was. The Herne

Centre Committee had proposed replacing the fridge/freezer with another commercial larder fridge, to match the freezer. The fridge recommended was a Polar 400 litre, with a 2-year warranty, which is more energy efficient than the previous model. Two quotes have been obtained, one for £659.98 and the other for £519.99, both excluding VAT. Both companies will price match, deliver free, and unpack and position, therefore, the fridge can be ordered from either one.

Members approved purchasing another commercial larder fridge at the best price available.

Members agreed to try selling the unwanted fridge/freezer. **Action: Herne Centre Manager and Clerk.**

191/26 To approve the following policies:

Dignity At Work

Equality and Diversity

Councillor Employee Relations

Sickness and Sick Pay

The policies had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk apologised for not checking all the policies prior to circulating them and had not realised the Dignity At Work had not been finished. This would be on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Members approved the Equality and Diversity, Councillor Employee Relations, and Sickness and Sick Pay policies.

192/26 To receive any reports from Parish Council members.

Cllr Maslin reported that South East Water was undertaking repairs in School Lane where they had recently completed a repair.

Cllr White reported that the latest newsletter had been printed and was being distributed. She said that Dan Dan's Nursery in Broomfield had closed and there had been reports that some of the parents due to have children start there had not been notified of this.

Cllr Strong reported that there had been two more accidents at the junction of Broomfield Road and Ford Road due to vehicles parking on the grass triangle. The Clerk to contact KCC again regarding the Cultivation Licence. **Action: Clerk.**

193/26 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 8th October 2026.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.