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 8th October 2026 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:
Cllr Davis (Chairman)
Cllr Wilson (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Binstead
Cllr Blatherwick
Cllr Checksfield
Cllr Collins
Cllr Davison
Cllr Hill
Cllr Lambkin
Cllr Maslin
Cllr Moss
Cllr Strong
Cllr White
Michele Nicholson (Clerk/RFO)

City Cllr Paget

194/26 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.
City Cllr Jones.

195/26 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.

196/26 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2026.
The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

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

Public were present but chose not to speak

197/26 Chairman's Announcements.
Members were reminded that the Herne Centre is hosting refreshments on Remembrance Sunday 8th November. They were asked to help prepare, serve and or clear away. The Chair also thanked the Assistant Clerk for her hard work whilst the Clerk has been away.

198/26 To receive reports from County Councillor Mulvihill, and City Councillors Jones and Paget.

City Cllr Paget
Cllr Paget advised members that in October works will be happening at Curtis Wood. If any residents have any questions, please direct them to Cllr Paget and she will pass them on.
Cllr Lambkin reported that the missing dead hedge uprights had been located and had been used by children to make a den at the end of the woodland. These are now collected and stacked behind the dead hedge to be put back in by CCC.
Cllr Paget reported she had heard mixed reports regarding the mobile phone mast on whether it is working or not. O2 have been difficult to gain information from but if residents are still having issues to let her know.

There is a public footpath closure at Lower Herne Development for 6 months, Herne Bay High has sent out information to inform students and parents. Cllr Blatherwick pointed out that on the notice it mentions a diversion so Cllr Paget will update with more information if there is one in place.
Cllr Paget reported that Stage 2 of Canterbury City Councils Governance Review has started. There are several events in the next two weeks to find out about the proposals. In Herne and Broomfield Parish there is a boundary change, making Redrow part of the suggested Herne Bay Town Council. Responses to the consultation are required by the 17th December, it was agreed that the Parish Council will draft a response to the consultation. Cllr Blatherwick reported that lots of people unaware of the change of governance and don't understand it. Cllr Paget stated that there had been a letter drop to those affected and nothing has been decided they are just gathering people's views.
On Monday there is a briefing for planning enforcement with CCC for Parish Councils which is an online event.
Cllr Paget also reported that a remembrance wreath has arrived for her and Cllr Jones to lay at the memorial service. She has also volunteered to help at the centre afterwards.

199/26 To receive a report from the Assistant Clerk, including any correspondence.
Report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Assistant Clerk's report:
We held a meeting at the end of September, with Vistry, developers at Lower Herne Village (Strode Farm); also present was City Cllr Paget and CCC Planning Officer. Vistry explained that they are considering the logistics of opening the spine road earlier and possibly during the next phase. It was agreed that, at some point, the spine road will need to be opened to accommodate both construction traffic and through traffic. The possibility of bringing the opening of the spine road forward is therefore being considered. They are hoping to give us an update in December. Vistry currently have 100 occupied properties, with 132 (all of phase A) due to be occupied by March.
Phase C and D are due to start January 2027. 50/50 split between affordable and open market. Agar Avenue has now been closed, and they are reinstating the streetlight and moving bus stop back to its original location.
In September we held a Macmillan Coffee morning which raised £452.87 – (£277 of which was cash the rest directly gifted to the coffee morning online page). Thursdays are usually a generally quiet day for the café, but we saw lots of people many of whom had not used the café before, café sales were £59.50 which is higher than normal. Thank you to those that attended or donated cakes.
The same day we had a working party at Broomfield Community Park – this was due to availability of Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership who bring some of their volunteers. This was a successful day which saw over 22 volunteers planting yellow rattle and a wildflower seed mix. We hope to see the fruit of their labours in the spring. We appreciate this will be a long process or years rather than months so there will be opportunities for more working days to clear the thatch. Thank you to Cllr White, Cllr Wilson and City Councillor Paget for your help.
We held our annual thank you tea which was attended by around 70 people. We had a talk from Kent and Sussex air ambulance which was very interesting and well received. I have already emailed about Councillor attendance and hope next year we could see more support for this event as it is extremely busy. Thank you to Cllr Davis for your help and baking items, and Cllr Strong for the cake.
We held our Barn Dance on the 2nd October which sold out months in advance. There was a lot of positive feedback, and we took £1126 on the bar, £132 on the raffle, £90.50 in chips sales and £880 on tickets. Without the bar and after deductions gave us a total profit of £802.50.
We held our annual Scarecrow Trail on Sunday 4th October which this year had over 30 scarecrows. Alongside we ran a colouring competition. This was very popular and we had to photocopy more booklets as we sold out of the 100 printed. In total we sold 116 maps at £5 each,

took over £200 in the café which was run from the bar, so with the donation of half the maps sales to Herne Book Share we made £485 profit. There is already interest for next year.
Coming up this month we have the Curtis Wood Bioblitz on Saturday 17th October 10am – 12pm. This is being run by Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, I will attend with some nature sheets for the children but otherwise we are not looking to hold any Parish event, as we have already had a busy month.
Works on Curtis Wood are due to be started within the next month. There have been issues with people entering the wood and stealing the uprights from the fencing and cutting down other wood which we presume are for use at home. We have informed CCC and posted on social media asking for people to be vigilant.
PC Melia will be leaving the Parish to join Neighbourhood Task Force at the end of the month; we wish to thank him for all he has achieved and look forward to welcoming his two replacements.
On Sunday 8th November is Remembrance Sunday which will involve refreshments being held at the Herne Centre after the service in the Church. We are planning on catering for this ourselves and would be glad of any donations towards the buffet. Please let me know if you can donate cake or savoury items.
The Assistant Clerk also reported that we have been asked for further information regarding Strode Park if we want to put it forward as an ACV.

The Chair brought forward agenda item 207/26, To review the draft bid for Herne Mill, which was considered at this point in the meeting.

207/26 To review the draft bid for Herne Mill.
The report was sent to Members before the meeting.
The Assistant Clerk added that FOHM suggested adding to the "working windmill" paragraph to state "all associated services including electrics, fire alarm, lightening conductor etc." Fencing also needs replacing with the boundary with Windmill Road as it has rotted. FOHM has also suggested adding the visitor numbers and projection into the bid. The condition report has been carried out by KCC and the report is awaited.
Cllr Davis asked if the electorate number quoted included the Redrow estate. She also suggested that other clubs use the windmill in their logo's so we could include them in the plan. SPAB is quoted in the report and would need explanation as to what it was.
All members approved the current draft report but agreed no decision could be made without more financial information. They also agreed submitting a bid for £1 only at this stage.
The Assistant Clerk advised that there is a conference on Sustaining Community Mills on Upminster on 21st November, FOHM have no one available to attend currently.
Members were keen to see more information regarding finances and what the arrangements would be regarding room hire etc.
Cllr Strong stated that when KCC have done all the work required then we shouldn't have any major repair bills for a few years.
Cllr Davis suggested a small meeting of councillors to discuss before then meeting with FOHM. Need the meeting within the next few weeks. **Action: Clerk**

200/26 Finance:

- **To ratify any payments made since the last meeting; payment schedule supplied.**
  All approved.
- **To approve the payments presented at this meeting; payment schedule and bank reconciliation supplied.**
  Payment schedule and bank reconciliation approved.
- **To report on any income received; income schedule supplied.**
  Income schedule was received.

201/26 To receive the draft minutes from the Herne Centre Committee meeting held on the 24th September 2026 and to discuss any points of note.
The draft minutes were received.

202/26 To receive the draft minutes from the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 30th September 2026 and to discuss any points of note, and any other planning and highways issues.
The draft minutes were received. Cllr Moss reported that she was attending CCC Planning to speak about the proposed data centre. Cllr Wilson advised that he was attending the data centre site meeting on 9/10.

203/26 To receive reports from Council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.
No reports were received.

204/26 To receive information regarding any environmental issues, including reports from the Tree & Pond Wardens.
The Assistant Clerk reported that there is a Bioblitz Day at Curtis Wood on 17th October at 10am.
Cllr Collins reported the Friends of the Ponds had a task day coming up.
Cllr White reported that the wildflower meadow planting is completed.

205/26 To discuss and approve children's Halloween party. –
The Assistant clerk reported that as the Centre was quiet during October half term it had been suggested to run a small children's party for 30 children, on 30th October, charging £2.50 each to cover costs. Our bouncy castle will be used, with a few games and a fancy-dress competition. All parents would need to remain on site from 10am – 11.30am. Cllr White agreed to help. It was also agreed for one casual to assist due to number of children. This was agreed by members.
Action: Assistant Clerk and Cllr White

206/26 To discuss increasing the credit limit for the parish council credit card account.
A report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed by Members to increase the limit to £6000 due to payments required for bar supplies and the payment period being up to 55 days after the purchase. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

208/26 To discuss report for the possibility of protection for the air source heat pumps.
A report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that just an extra CCTV sign would go up to advertise there is CCTV at this time. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

209/26 To discuss report on Christmas Lunch Club.
A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The lunch club price was agreed at £15.00 or £16.00 if the meat cost was higher. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

210/26 To discuss possible claim from West Faversham.
Members agreed that we would submit a claim to the small claims court for the larger more expensive items that were broken or lost during West Faversham's agreement period. Cllr Davis stated that she wanted the process to be underway before the next meeting. **Action Assistant Clerk**

211/26 To discuss a donation to Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance.
Members agreed to give the KSSX Air Ambulance a £100 donation for their talk they gave during the thank you tea. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

212/26 To receive any reports from Parish Council members.
Cllr Strong suggested that it would be a benefit for the parish to have an Emergency Bleed Cabinet. The Assistant Clerk found the approximate cost of a cabinet to be £350, but the

dressings would need changing every 2/3 years. Members agreed to purchasing a Emergency Bleed Cabinet to be sighted next to the defibrillator.
Cllr White advised she is currently compiling the winter newsletter so required all news and stories. Cllr Maslin was asked to be the focus on the councillor for the winter edition.
Cllr Blatherwick thanked Cllr Collins and Cllr Lambkin for all the work they have done on the garden at the Herne Centre.

213/26 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 12th November 2026.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.