

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at Herne Mill, Wootton Room, on Thursday 12 August 2010 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Day, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Baylis, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Jones, Cllr Parker, Cllr Moore, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Davis, Cllr Whiffen, Cllr Brealy and Cllr Vickery Jones who will be late.

Absent: Cllr Sargent.

- 175/10** To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Sargent who is working as it is harvest time. Cllr Sonnex who has infected legs due to an insect bites. Written report supplied.
- 176/10** To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda.
- 177/10** To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 8th July 2010 and 20th July 2010.
- 178/10** To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The survey that was agreed at the meeting on 20th July has been done. The report arrived this morning and there are some minor contamination problems, but nothing too onerous.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. (ANYTHING ELSE AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION)

Members of the public to identify themselves, state their name and address

None present

- 179/10** **Chairman's Announcements.** Carnival will be on Saturday 14th August and the Fun day is on 22nd August. A request was made for empty cans for the can can game.
- 180/10** **Warden's Report.** Tom told members that due to his being on annual leave for two weeks there wasn't a lot to report. He had worked with the PCSO regarding the fires in Strode Park and CCC will be providing the mobile CCTV cameras to help with this problem. The underpass project will be completed in September.
- 181/10** **Police Matters/Crime report.** PCSO Suzie Waldie reported that since the last meeting there has been:
- 0 reports vehicle crime.
 - 2 reports of burglary, they do not appear to be connected and the offender has been arrested and dealt with for one of them.
 - 4 reports of criminal damage.

These are all lower than this time last year.

Regular patrols have been carried out in Strode Park after several reports of nuisance youths. Since the regular patrols have been carried out Police have received no further calls about nuisance youths causing damage. Patrols will continue to be carried out.

There have been no further reports to people attempting to camp on Curtis Wood Park Road since the new signs have been put up and regular patrols have been carried out by Police and the Community Warden.

Thursday 19th August the Herne Bay Neighbourhood Team is going to be in School Lane car park between 4-6pm and along Margate Road between 7-9pm.

To deal with issues raised by residents so far and we are inviting people to come and speak to us about any issues. (Cllr Brealy arrived at this point)

Cllr Davis reported that she had seen two places where there had been fires at Curtis Wood in the last month. She had removed the rubbish and the burnt wood. PC Bev Horan told members that she would be leaving on 15th September as she is relocating to Lincolnshire.

- 182/10** **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh reported that more responsibility on Health was to be passed to GP's and this should stop the current post code lottery system. The Local Authority would be responsible for overseeing the delivery of health care across the County. The Healthwatch system that has been trialled in Kent will now go country wide. A Healthwatch England will be formed.

School Lane resurfacing is scheduled to start on 23rd August and it is hoped that the water leaks will be repaired before then. County Cllr Marsh commented on the state of the concrete road Millview and said he hoped that this could be dealt with at some time in the near future. White lining has been carried out in the area and a large amount of potholes have been filled. Liaison officer Richard Dixon has moved to west Kent leaving the Canterbury area without a dedicated officer. In October Alan is bringing a senior manager from KCC to the parish council meeting, to show her what a pro active parish council is like. Alan brought along a map in order for members to decide the first two locations for the interactive speed signs. These were chosen as the south entrance to Herne, near Curtis Wood Park Road and the junction of Margate Road and Broomfield Road. Cllr Brealy spoke to County Cllr Marsh about the ragwort on the Old Thanet Way. County Cllr Marsh asked if a letter could be requested from NFU pointing out the problems with not removing ragwort.

City Cllr Sonnex submitted a written report

Stagecoach has been notified of the road closures in August for the resurfacing work. Stagecoach has identified provisional diversions and they are waiting to be confirmed.

Kent Highways were contacted regarding having the vegetation cut down inside the crash barrier opposite Enterprise House on the off slip towards Herne Bay. After several visits by Highways following some difficulty identifying the area, the vegetation was cut down.

The bridge that spans the Thanet Way in Bullockstone Rd adjacent to Lower Herne Rd, verging on the edge of the Parish, two large stretches of the safety pedestrian mesh has been removed. One piece was lying on the ground and could have been thrown over the bridge onto a passing vehicle. She contacted Highways and a temporary repair has been carried out.

Local direction signage on the Broomfield flyover coming from the Harvester is virtually obliterated by trees, a request has been made for this be cut back as routine maintenance.

Since the removal of the traffic islands at the Plough, cars are parking virtually on the roundabout junction. This may need to be monitored.

The second phase of the renovation of Broomfield Church Hall has gone ahead. It is now an oasis of white cladding. A vast improvement on its previous drab condition.

- 183/10 Planning and Highways matters.** To receive planning minutes of meetings held on 22 July and 5th August. Cllr Blatherwick mentioned the two results of appeal hearings which were both dismissed, 70 Mill Lane and 36 Broomfield Road. CCC had refused the 2nd application for 36 Broomfield Road. Cllr Blatherwick will attend the Development Control meeting on 17th August regarding the changes for the Nursery site at Eddington. She wishes to highlight the parking issues. Cllr Day proposed that the Planning & Highways committee should deal with licensing applications. This was resolved and will be added to the terms of reference.

184/10 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Pantaloons £65.97 for hire of costumes.
To resolve the approval of payments presented at this meeting; to approve bank reconciliation and earmarked reserves as supplied. These were approved.

To report on income received. No report

To receive minutes of the Finance & Resources meeting and report on this meeting held on 2nd August and to resolve to apply for a bank charge card. Cllr Jones reported that at the meeting expenditure against budget and earmarked reserves were looked at and discussed.

- 185/10 Tree & Pond Warden's Report** Cllr Davis reported that CCC had applied for a grant to hold events in Curtis Wood. Events for children, a bat evening and interpretation leaflets were being proposed. Cllr Davis requested that the leaflets go in with the newsletters. It was agreed to ask the volunteers if they would be willing to distribute. Thanks to County Cllr Marsh, a grant of £200 had been secured for the reprinting of the Blean Walk leaflets. Cllr Hobbs reported that she had signed up a new member as a result of the leaflets that had been distributed. (Cllr Vickery Jones arrived at this point)

- 186/10 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.** It has been a very busy month with the fun day organisation, as well as various meetings.
- There have been a couple of issues that have needed attention. One of the gates on the ball court has had the self closing hinge damaged and the gate at the Community Park was hanging off and Serco have put it back but it needs a new bolt which they will do. Cllr Peter Vickery Jones was thanked for replacing the hinges and locks on the notice board in Curtis Wood Park Road, so it is again useable. The notice board in Cherry Orchard has been damaged by cigarettes. Someone had tried to set light to the contents. Tom removed all the papers from the notice board, but the front has now gone missing. The clerk is looking into getting a replacement front, the likely cost of this will be about £125.
- The newsletters have gone out for delivery. Cllr Davis was thanked for getting it ready for the printers. Thanks to the councillors who have delivered extra ones this time, due to some of the normal deliverers being on holiday etc.
- The Lady Mayoress is holding a Garden Party & Strawberry Tea at Strode Park on Saturday from 2-4pm.
- Mrs Batchelor has confirmed that at present they are not interested in selling any land.
- KALC Finance Conference to be held on 25th September. Three members of the Finance Committee asked to attend.
- Email & card from the vicar, Elaine Richardson, thanking everyone for getting involved in the 700 year celebration.
- Letter from Co-op Community fund they are not giving a grant towards the flower bed.
- 187/10 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), and any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** Cllr Hobbs reported on the last KALC meeting. The speaker was John Gilbey leader of the Council. He spoke about the changes to come and the budget cuts. He also stated there would be more power devolved to Town & Parish councils. Other things discussed at the meeting were the new CEO at Manston airport and that there was going to be a consultation as to whether councillors should have a test of competence. This would include how many hours a week they spend on council work.
- Cllr Blatherwick reported on the Parish Plan Group meeting on 10th August to discuss the update and questionnaire. It is hoped that a mock up of the Update will be ready for the next meeting for members to comment on. The group will have a stall at the fun day which will be similar to the one that they had at the fete in July. They discussed the land issues and were pleased that the parish council was going to pick up from where they had left off. Cllr Davis is going to continue to get the necessary information that is still required, on behalf of the parish council. Members were reminded that this information was highly confidential. Additional funding towards the cost of the update was also discussed.
- 188/10 To report on Youth Club and intentions for Fun Day.** The Street Art team would be attending again this year, paid for by the youth club.
- 189/10 To report on Brainstorming session.** The report from Sue Davis had only been received earlier in the day. The clerk will circulate a copy to all members before the next meeting. Cllr Day explained that one thing all members who attended thought would be a good idea was a parish council road show. A venue would be booked and residents who lived in the vicinity would be able to go along and talk to parish council members about any issue or concern they might have. There would always be a minimum of two councillors in attendance. It would be necessary to leaflet residents to inform them that the road show was coming. There were lots of ideas put forward on the day and it was a very good experience, which Cllr Day hoped would be repeated.
- 190/10 To report on the allotment lease.** The clerk reported more problems with the lease. She has received confirmation from Holy Cross PCC that they cannot legally hold land, therefore the ownership is with the Diocesan. This complicates matters further. Their solicitors are London based. In principle they are happy to proceed but it is going to be slow. The clerk reported that she is pushing them to move it forward a matter of urgency but is also concerned about the cost and who will pay the fees of

the London solicitors. All the information has been passed to the parish council solicitor.

191/10 To discuss purchasing on line storage for the computer. The clerk reported that she has tested the Live drive system and there have been one or two problems, she is trying to resolve these before paying to use the system permanently. It was resolved that if the clerk was happy this system would be used for backing up the office computer.

192/10 To agree to purchase Energy Monitors for community use. Cllr Davis reported that she had been successful in getting a grant for £500 to cover the cost of the energy monitors from KCC Community Climate Change Challenge Fund. Kent Energy Centre will help with setting up an efficient way for residents to log usage etc. It was resolved to purchase 10 monitors.

193/10 To discuss planting up the flower bed in Herne for the winter etc. The clerk has spoken to Nick Harrison from Serco re the replanting of the flower bed using the crocus bulbs from Rotary and planting up with later flowering plants the cost would be about £300, details to be confirmed. Once established they would not need much watering. The main thing initially would be the weeding, which they would probably need to carry out by Serco. The clerk has spoken with Tracy Flowers who was going to check with KHS that they are happy for the parish council to continue with the planting. Somewhat surprisingly she got an instant reply confirming they were happy with the arrangement. The clerk reported she would try and negotiate the cost of weeding etc with both Serco and Highways. Cllr Brealy explained that Rotary were using purple crocus to highlight the eradication of childhood diseases in other countries due to vaccination. The children's fingers were dipped in purple dye following vaccination. They were willing to donate 2,000 crocus bulbs.

194/10 Vote of thanks to Parish Plan Group. Cllr Day told members that at the Extra Ordinary meeting he had forgotten to thank the parish plan group for all their hard work locating a possible site for the proposed Community Hall. He would like to ask members for their support in offering a vote of thanks to the group. This was unanimous.

195/10 To discuss the response to the Consultation on Referendums to veto excessive council tax. All members have received a copy of this consultation. After much discussion it was agreed that Cllr Day and the clerk would submit a response to the consultation. All members agreed that the suggestion of a referendum for an increase in precept, especially as the limits over which this would be required, were not known, was ridiculous and could be very expensive to both parishes and City Council.

196/10 To propose items for the next agenda. PC Road-show

197/10 Member's Reports. Cllr Vickery Jones told members that he had a meeting with the developers re Blacksole bridge on Monday.

Cllr Davis said a resident had asked about where they could recycle VHS tapes. Cllr Parker said NCH take them.

Cllr Jones said that the potholes were being filled and they were doing a great job.

Cllr Parker told members there was a new resident close to where he lived who was happy to supply new posts for the green in Lower Herne Rd and also replace the trees that have died.

Cllr Moore apologised for missing the extra ordinary meeting.

198/10 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 9th September 2010 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed at 9-55pm