

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 8 July 2010 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Day, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Davis, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Brealy, Cllr Vickery Jones, Cllr Moore, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Jones, Cllr Parker and Cllr Baylis.

Absent: Cllr Whiffen

149/10 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Whiffen (away) Cllr Blatherwick may be late. Reasons for absence accepted.

150/10 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda.

151/10 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2010. Cllr Taylor asked for 141/10 to be amended as the youngsters were difficult because they did not go to the park. Cllr Moore asked for his report to be amended to include the post and hole in Canterbury Road and litter bin for bus stop.

152/10 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. Cllr Moore reported the pavement in Herne had not been repaired.

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

4 members of the public attended one spoke on enforcement issues, one about lighting on the footbridge over A299 and one about resurfacing of the A299.

Tessa O'Sullivan reported on the Housing Needs Survey. 3320 Surveys were sent out and 215 returned a response rate of 7%. There were 37 households seeking housing, 22 families, 5 couples and 10 single people, therefore a mix of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties would be required. Most of those would prefer rent or shared ownership. 153 comments were received and 53% of those supported development for local people. Tessa confirmed that shared ownership properties could not be sold on the open market and had to go to someone with a local connection. A 2nd survey would be undertaken to check the level of need. Following this the process would be, looking for possible land and talking to CCC Housing Strategy Officer. Planners would be contacted for their views on possible sites and then land owners would be contacted.

Cllr Day thanked Tessa for an excellently presented report. (Full report is on parish council web site)

3 residents spoke one complained about the parish council reporting issues to CCC enforcement and the other two spoke on the lack of lighting on the footbridge over the Thanet Way at Eddington and tarmac noise levels.

Cllr Blatherwick arrived at this point

153/10 **Chairman's Announcements.** The Brain storming session has been scheduled for 24th July. Sue Davis has suggested that everyone attending the session should have 5 new ideas for the future or things that could be stopped. Cllrs Blatherwick and Taylor will not be able to attend. Cllr Brealy and Cllr Sargent will if they are not harvesting.

154/10 **Warden's Report.** Written report as Tom Daley is on holiday. The underpass project has had to be postponed, the reason for this is largely due to his misunderstanding of the very large amount of red tape involved in setting up such a project. He is now in possession of the necessary articles that need addressing. He is working towards a completion date for the new school term in September. He is as keen as ever to complete and look forward to seeing his project finalised.

Graffiti is still a problem; however the parish council has now purchased some anti graffiti wipes and these are being used to combat the problem, where possible. The wipes are very good at removing damage on metal or plastic surfaces. However Serco are still going to have to be deployed where graffiti is present on wood or concrete surfaces.

In conclusion, things are on the whole are quiet, however Strode Park has suffered a

couple of recent fires. The police are aware and dealing with this. Cllr Davis told members she understood this to be primary school age children. On Tuesday the 29th June, staff reported that they had found wooden planks with spikes left behind parked cars. The obvious intention was to burst the car's tyres. This has been reported this to the local police.

155/10 Police Matters/Crime report.

PCSO Suzie Waldie-Temple reported that since the last meeting there has been:

- 1 report of theft of motor vehicle, which has now been returned back to its owner.
- 2 reports of burglary, where a purse was stolen from one and jewellery from another, both happened on different days and investigations are ongoing
- 9 reports of criminal damage.

These are lower than this time last year.

There has been an increase in reports to Strode Park; they have recently had 3 fires. One of which destroyed the green room last month and the most recent on Tuesday at 7pm where the fire brigade were called to the new stage cover alight and a table and chair was also burnt. Witnesses reported seeing several youths they believed to be aged between 10-12 years old, still wearing their school uniform, in the grounds at the time of the fire starting. She is trying to arrange with the fire brigade to visit the schools before they break up for summer holidays to speak about fire safety and consequences of starting fires. Regular patrols are being sent out by police to try to deter people from being on the grounds without permission.

Community Engagements issues raised in the area: Out of 147 people asked:

105 had no issues in their area and 42 reported parking and speeding issues across the whole area.

156/10 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.

County Cllr Marsh again told members to be prepared for more responsibility to be handed to parish councils. He informed members that there was a new minister for delegation. He also stated that the Regional Spatial Strategy had been abolished and that the proposed number of houses to be provided would be set by CCC and would be in the region of 6600. He stated garden development was finished and that there may be a number of changes to schools, with some becoming academies. The change in laws also meant that travellers would be treated the same as anyone else when it came to planning law. Cllr Blatherwick asked what was going to happen to schools now the funding had been seriously reduced. County Cllr Marsh told members that funding for schools came from central government and KCC used that to run the schools.

City Cllr Sonnex read a report from City Cllr Bissett. She stated that she had been pleased to support the planning application for the day nursery in Broomfield. She has requested white lines at the junction of Mill Lane and Millview Rd and she has requested double yellow lines on the corner of Millview Rd and Strode Park Road. She had also attended a meeting with other councillors and the developer to discuss the bridge at Blacksole. Mr Parish has received £500 from KCC to arrange a bus to attend Wootton Bassett.

City Cllr Sonnex told members that the buses had been stopped from going along Windmill Road due to 3 buses sustaining tyre damage. They had started again on Monday. She had discussed the issue of the listed cottages in Hunters Forstal Rd and the Conservation officer had reached the conclusion that the works were permitted development. The next Development Control meeting has been split over 2 meetings. The Joint Transport Board meeting had approved several of the proposed yellow lines, amended some and dismissed some.

B & Q's are selling green wheelie bins which Serco will not empty.

157/10 Planning and Highways matters.

To receive planning minutes of meeting held on 17th June. All members to receive a copy. Cllr Blatherwick reported on the Development Control meeting that she had attended with the clerk. She had spoken on both Hunters Forstal Road and the proposed nursery site at Broomfield. Hunters Forstal Road was passed and the nursery site was also approved despite the officer's recommendation to refuse on highways issues. All 3 ward councillors supported the application. She also attended the Inspectors hearing for 36 Broomfield Road. This application has now been dismissed. There was a site visit by the inspector to 70 Mill

Lane, the outcome is awaited.

Report on meeting with schools re parking. The meeting was attended by Sylvia Wilson, Quentin Roper, Carolyn Binnie (Chair of governors both schools), County Cllr Alan Marsh, City & Parish Cllr Peter Vickery Jones, City Cllr Sharron Sonnex and Parish Clerk, Monica Blyth.

It was evident right from the start that neither head teacher was prepared to lose any school land just for parking for a couple of hours a day. Monica said that she thought the parish council would support them on that issue. The clerk was asked what sort of complaints she received and how often. She responded that it was mostly inconsiderate parking, i.e. across people's driveways and the often abusive responses when asked to move. Sylvia pointed out that sometime the abuse was two way and some of the residents were abusive. The amount of complaints that the clerk had received was varied, but not excessive. The warden and police have dealt with issues in Streetfield on several occasions this year. The clerk told the meeting that the parish council had requested a single yellow line at least one side of Streetfield which would constitute a no parking area at certain times of the day, probably 8-9am and 2-30 to 3-30pm. This would stop the congestion problems at school times at the junction, while still enabling the residents to park outside their homes the rest of the time.

County Cllr Marsh stated that if the schools were unwilling to give up any of their land then the option of a snake, was no longer an option. Both head teachers had researched figures for the number of pupils living within walking distance. Approx 70% of children attending the infants lived within a mile of the school, approx 80% of Junior School pupils lived within a two mile radius of the school. Carolyn stated that when you move near a school you expect traffic problems to occur during drop off and pick up times. Both schools would continue to encourage parents to walk their children to school where possible, especially for the children's health as well as to reduce the number of vehicles. Both Carolyn and Sylvia thought that more parents were driving as they then went from school to work. It was agreed that Monica would report any parking complaints back to both schools when she received any and that the schools would keep encouraging parents to not only walk but also to be more courteous to residents.

Cllr Vickery Jones and Sonnex agreed that it would be wise to continue to monitor the situation and to implement the yellow line to see if this helped. CCC would need to strictly enforce this. The clerk suggested that the schools could ask parents why they chose to drive their children to school. Mr Roper and Mrs Wilson agreed to do this.

Highways The clerk told members that Walkers who were the contractors for KHS were doing an excellent job repairing the potholes.

158/10

Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. EDF £105.36, electricity for ball-court. This was approved.

To resolve the approval of payments presented at this meeting; to approve bank reconciliation and earmarked reserves as supplied. These were resolved.

To report on income received. Football Tournament £100, Bank Interest £1.04, Garden Safari £2,613.95, Fun Day £120, Flower bed sponsors £275 and adverts £500.41 giving a total of £3,610.40 for June.

Audit report. The external auditor did not have any comments and the accounts have been approved. The internal auditor spoke to the clerk about the end of year problems with the figures for earmarked and general reserves and suggested that the company who run the package were contacted to see if this matter could be resolved. The clerk had spoken to the company and had been told the amendment to the programme should be in place by the autumn.

To agree to purchase Energy Monitors for community use. Deferred to next meeting.

To approve a donation towards the cost of the updated parish plan, of £500. This was approved.

The clerk reported that she had received a request from CCC for a contribution towards the installation of Broad band for the CCTV, for £500. She had provisionally agreed this figure and hoped council approved. This will get the CCTV online and CCC will take over the maintenance and ongoing costs. This was approved.

- 159/10 Tree & Pond Warden's Report** Cllr Davis reported that the Friends of the Ponds had managed to get a grant for £10,000. This money will go towards improvements in Curtis Wood. There is an issue with the pond in Curtis Wood which it is thought may be contaminated and the Environment agency will be asked to check it. There had recently been a fire in East Blean woods behind Wildwood. It was not known if it had been started deliberately. Cllr Hobbs thanked the parish council for printing the leaflets for Friends of the Pond.
- 160/10 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.** Members have all received a copy of the garden safari report. A profit of £2,553 being raised. Some of the gardeners did exceptionally well with their sales on the day, as well. The thank you BBQ is to be held on 11th September. The clerk had also supplied a copy of the report on the KCC pension forum.
- The tubs and flower bed are now planted and the final result is excellent with lots of positive feedback from residents. The balance between the donations received and the final invoice is £2166. The clerk asked for confirmation that this amount was to be deducted from the Community & Amenity fund. Members agreed this. The clerk has thanked Serco for all their hard work and help, resolving some of the issues that arose. Serco have also put the horse trough in situ and the Horticultural Society has planted it up and will maintain it.
- 161/10 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), and any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** Cllr Jones reported that he and Cllr Taylor had attended the Street Monitors meeting. It was reported that CCC had so far received between 4,000 and 5,000 requests for additional recycle sacks and that the question of the quality had been raised. It is hoped that this issue has now been resolved. Cllr Jones and the clerk had attended the Parish Forum meeting which discussed the overall success of the group. Amanda Sparkes will put together a power point presentation for RAMP and several of the group members will speak on the group's success, including Cllr Jones. Group members agreed that the group should continue to meet when necessary and there will be another meeting in September to evaluate CCC member's response to the presentation.
- 162/10 To report on Youth Club** Cllr Taylor reported that the last meeting of the youth club will be on 14th July and there will then be a break until September.
- 163/10 Report on the Football Tournament and Fete.** Cllr Moore gave a report on tournament. He told members that the day had been very successful even though much of it was done last minute. There were minor issues on the day but they had been resolved. He had received emails from 2 teams congratulating him on the event. There were no matches for the Under 9's and Under 10's due to lack of entries. There were 2 trophies and some medals left over. The event finished at about 3pm. Cllr Moore thanked all those involved for their help especially Michael Pew who had done a great deal of work. He asked that if members wished to run the event again next year, could it go on the next agenda. It was agreed that this would be dealt with by Environment & Leisure committee. Cllr Day congratulated Cllr Moore and Michael on a very enjoyable day. Cllr Day stated that he was disappointed that the programme thanked the parish council for covering the cost of the event, when it was a parish council event. The clerk reported that there had been an income of £137 towards the cost of the event. The fete held on 4th July as the finale to the church's 700 year celebrations was a huge success. The parish council and Parish Plan group shared a pitch and it was a good opportunity for members to talk to residents and get their views and also for the parish plan group to demonstrate what had been achieved since the publication of the plan. Although asked for ideas for the future there weren't any apart from complaints about overgrown footpaths and blocked ditches, which were passed to the clerk! Cllr Hobbs sold nearly all of the quiz sheets resulting in a total of £157 being raised from the quiz. There is a £25 prize to come off that amount. The event was very well attended and the displays in the main ring were entertaining. The clerk has managed to get the agreement of the scout leader to borrow the tug of war rope for use on the fun day. There is also a possibility that we may be able to have the police dog display. Although a long day, with the right amount of help both setting up, during and taking down, it was not too onerous. The

clerk thanked to all those who helped out on the day.

164/10 To report on the allotment lease. No further progress

165/10 To report on meeting with Deacon Landscape re Community Park. The meeting was constructive and all the issues were raised regarding the need for additional and remedial works.

It was agreed that additional drainage would be put in place in the vicinity of the main gate into the BMX track. The hemlock would be spot sprayed. There would be some new planting near the boundary with the field next to SE Water reservoir site, to see how this fared during the summer months and the rest of the replacement planting would take place in the autumn. It was agreed not to clear the areas around the roots of the new planting as this would make it more difficult for the rabbits to dig up. The areas would be trimmed but left longer to try and protect the roots of the plants. The path that is suffering from water run-off near the wild flower meadow will be tarmaced. The bare patches on the mown areas will be improved. Areas around the car park will also be high cut and planted with cells.

The gate at the entrance from the fields will be replaced and welded into position to stop it being removed. The raised tarmac just inside the main gate will be levelled and the growth on the berms of the BMX track will be sprayed off. They will trim the path from the field entrance.

166/10 To discuss purchasing an electronic signature and on line storage for the computer. The issue of the electronic signature had been resolved without any cost. Cllr Parker asked that the council be cautious about on line storage as some systems can be hacked into. He will investigate and report back to full council at the next meeting with recommendations for a way forward.

167/10 To discuss replacing the notice board in Curtis Wood Park Rd. The clerk reported that one side of the notice board was no longer accessible and as it was wooden and warped could not be repaired. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

168/10 To propose items for the next agenda. The Energy Monitors, online storage and winter planting of flower bed.

169/10 To set a budget for planting the trough and flower bed over the winter months. The Clerk reported that the Horticultural & Rose Society were willing to plant the trough up for the winter. The clerk was asked to get idea of the cost and report back at the next meeting.

170/10 Member's Reports. Cllr Parker reported that the streetlight outside his house was not working, and that the CCTV cameras at the Community Park had not yet been repaired. Cllr Sargent reported that he had been asked for double yellow lines on the corner of Albion Lane and Forgefields, Cllr Blatherwick thought they were already in place. Cllr Jones reported that HB Town Partners were sponsoring Pip the Clown and Wilbee's were sponsoring St John's Ambulance at the Fun Day. Cllr Blatherwick asked how the carnival float was coming along. Cllr Vickery Jones hopes to make a start soon. Cllr Davis told members that suggestions for the brainstorming session can be as wacky. Cllr Hobbs reported on the HB in Bloom and that they had planted up a lot of troughs and planters in Herne Bay. All the money had come from donations and sponsorship and this year's event had not been funded by CCC. There had been difficulties obtaining the necessary permissions and some were very last minute. She had nominated several hanging baskets and front gardens for the Gardening competition and was pleased to announce that there were 13 either 1st, 2nd or 3rd place winners in the parish out of the 14 categories. Cllr Brealy reported that there was a large quantity of ragwort around Curtis Wood pond.

171/10 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be on 12th August 2010 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed 9.55pm