

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 11th February 2010 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Absent: Cllr Baylis, Cllr Moore and Cllr Whiffen.

024/10 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons. Cllr Baylis, due to weather conditions, Cllr Whiffen who is unwell, Cllr Moore who is away. City Cllr Bissett. Warden Tom Daley who was unable to work a late shift due to the weather and PCSO Suzie Waldie who was unable to get into work due to the snow.

025/10 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. None

026/10 The minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

027/10 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. Southern Water has confirmed that the parish council will not get an invoice for waste water. Cllr Day has investigated holding a football tournament for the 700 years celebration. He told members that the event needed to be registered with the FA and they needed to give permission for any teams registered with them to play. Cllr Day has asked for the forms to be sent to him.

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

028/10 **Chairman's Announcements.** The Chairman announced that the Model Standing Orders had now been published, he asked members for their agreement to have a small group of councillors to look at it before bringing it to full council. This was agreed. Cllrs Davis, Blatherwick, Jones and Day will go through it with the clerk. Cllr Day also reported that the charges in School Lane Car Park will only apply between 8am and 6pm.

029/10 **Warden's Report. None**

030/10 **Police Matters/Crime report.** The crime figures show that all crime is down for the past month. PC Bev HORAN and PCSO Suzie Wadie have carried out Community Engagement in the area recently, asking people what or if they have any problems in their area. The main one that people have mentioned is speeding along School Lane at all times of the day. They are planning on being in the area to conduct speed checks to see if we can combat the problem.

Suzie is also planning on holding another Police Surgery soon for people to discuss their issues with her.

031/10 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh reported that the new bus shelter, with a seat, has been installed in Canterbury Road. The resurfacing of School Lane has been put on hold as he is asking for it to be regraded rather than resurfaced. The salt bin issue is in hand and he hopes to be able to get two new salt bins for the parish. The issue of the bridge at Blacksole Farm is ongoing. KCC is doing its best to prevent the developer from changing the bridge to traffic lights and getting out of the original 106 agreement. This area is very dangerous for pedestrians. He has organised a grant of £600 for Little Acorns to go towards better security. He will be having discussions soon with regard to hospital car parking and there is to be some redevelopment at Kent & Canterbury hospital to give more parking.

City Cllr Sonnex reported a large pane of glass being thrown into her back garden, and although reported to the police did not get the promised visit from the PCSO. When she inquired as to why this had not happened she was told the original report had not been logged. The perch has been installed in the bus shelter in School Lane. Cllr Sonnex told members that she had been unable to attend the Development Control meeting and she was disappointed that the application for the development at the Nursery site at Eddington had been passed. There were quite a few street lights out in Herne and she would report these.

City Cllr Vickery Jones told members that he felt the developer had never had any intention of installing the footbridge at Blacksole as they had not even contacted Network Rail to discuss it. Ward Councillors will robustly fight any application for a variation. He had reported parking on the zig zags in Canterbury Road at weekends and CCC Parking attendants had been out and issued several tickets. He also told members that he was disappointed that the parish council had objected to the installation of yellow lines at the top of Millview Road.

- 032/10 Planning and Highways.** To receive the report on Planning meetings held on 14th January and 4th February 2010. This was received. A copy has been sent to all members. Cllr Blatherwick attended the development Control meeting to speak against the planning application for The Nursery site at Eddington. Unfortunately permission was granted. Cllr Blatherwick told members there were huge concerns regarding the parking for this new development. County Cllr Marsh told members that he was always willing to help on the Highways issues of any of the larger planning applications. A request has been received for a salt bin in the turning head in Woodrow Chase.

033/10 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. NALC Quality Council £117.50 and Land Registry £20. These were ratified.

The schedule of payments presented at the meeting was approved. The clerk went through the bank reconciliation and earmarked reserves a copy of which was given to each member.

To report on income received. Total received £42.95: Advert £41.21 and Bank Interest £1.21

To receive report from Finance & Resources meeting held on 28th Jan 2010. A copy has been sent to all members. This was received.

The clerk reported that a panel had been damaged on the ball court. A new panel will cost £118. The contractor has been asked to carry out the work. This was approved.

- 034/10 Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis has helped a local resident source grant funding for hedging. She told members that she thought due to the rabbit problem it will be too late to plant the tree for former vice-chairman, Stanley Dailey this season. She suggested that this should now be done in the autumn. This was agreed. She had dealt with 2 applications to remove willow trees; she had suggested pollarding or replacing the trees if removed. There are tree works being carried out at Bear Cottage in Herne Street.

Friends of the Ponds are working with CCC to seek Lottery funding for Curtis Wood Park management plan work and additional tools for the Friends who are holding their AGM on 16th February.

035/10 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The jury service went well but it was somewhat hectic trying to keep on top of things in the office as well as the time spent in court.

Amanda Sparkes is leaving CCC, she is well known in her post of Rural Development Officer. She has taken on the post of parish clerk for Chestfield.

The clerk reported that she had received a couple of responses to the 2nd leaflet distributed in Curtis Wood Park Road, one thanked the parish council for consulting, the other resident expressed their disappointment in the result.

The meeting for the Garden Safari went well about 20 residents turned up on the night and are, as ever, very enthusiastic. At present 19 gardens will be open. These include the Schools and St Martin's Church and 2 new ones and 2 who have opened previously but not for a couple of years.

Following refreshments the meeting started with introductions, and then the choosing of the charity. The chosen Charity for this year is Help the Heroes and there was a request that next year it will be Kent Air Ambulance. Details of those who had opened previously were updated and then comments were taken on last year's Safari. Everyone agreed that the longer opening time was appreciated. Due to the inclusion of the Schools and Church it was agreed that this year's event would run from 10am to 5pm.

The meeting then discussed which gardens would like to do refreshments, plants etc

and also those who would have a toilet available. Cllr Davis reminded everyone that if they were giving profits to another charity from their sales then that had to be well advertised. This was to ensure that attendees were not misled.

There was some discussion on advertising the event and the problems that arose last year re the banners and signs. It was agreed to suggest to parish council that signs similar to those for the Fun Day are purchased and these could be placed on private land. Flyers would also be appreciated.

Report on SLCC meeting held on 9th February 2010 at Sevenoaks

There was a lot of discussion on Highways issues following the recent bad weather. It appears some areas don't have such a good relationship with either their KCC Liaison officers or their County Councillors as Herne & Broomfield. There were many complaints about not being able to provide salt bins and the fact that there was a points system which no one could find details of very easily. There were also complaints about the level of gritting etc especially in the more rural areas. Lilliana, Sturry PC clerk, Linda, Chestfield PC clerk and our clerk all stated that the service during the poor weather had been good and that the roads were well gritted and salt bins filled when empty. There were now lots of potholes but these were being dealt with quickly once reported. Many places had suffered from the salt being stolen from the bins and one parish reported that the whole bin complete with its stock of salt had gone. There was a report on the training partnership and work on this is ongoing with KALC. At the SLCC Executive meeting in January, Rodney Williamson from KALC told members that reminders were sent out to parish councils when they were due to reaccredit for their Quality Council. Several members stated that the reminders were not arriving until several weeks after the date for re-accreditation. KALC would be asked to send out reminders about 3 months before, in future. The KALC AGM will be held on 13th November and will start at the earlier time of 10am. There were discussions on how to increase attendance. There had been a suggestion from The Standards Boards Annual Assembly that parishes should either be asked to contribute or alternatively be charged for processing complaints about parish members. Maidstone DC state the cost of an investigation is about £5,000. Districts are having trouble funding the cost of their Standards Boards. KALC is to strongly resist any charge to parish councils.

It was announced that the new Standing Orders had at last been published. SLCC were going to promote Clerks Professional Development, to encourage more clerks and councils to continue training.

Bullying of clerks was on the increase and it was stated that sometimes this is due to misunderstandings and that clerks should contact HR as soon as there are any problems and not wait until it has become a big issue. Lilliana also recommended all councils adopt a Dignity at Work Policy and that members needed to understand the clerk's role and responsibilities.

The idea was put forward regarding insurance for parish councils to cover medium and long term sickness; this would pay for a locum clerk. This idea will be put to SLCC Executive and also NALC.

As you will have seen from the E & L report the cost of rabbit fencing for Broomfield Community Park is more than expected and other quotes are being sought. The clerk suggested that perhaps smaller areas could be fenced initially. The saga of the flower bed, outside the Butchers Arms, goes on and there has been a suggestion that we try and fund it through the KCC Member grant. It is, apparently a long drawn out process to get permission to plant and place a sign on it.

The date for the Annual Parish meeting is 25th March at Kent Enterprise House, Eddington at 7-30pm. Members were asked to suggest a dynamic speaker.

Canterbury & District Parish Forum meeting will be held at Herne Mill on 27th February at 10am.

The Quality Council application is ready and will be delivered on 25th February. There has been a request to use the BMX track in July by Folkestone Academy Olympics Week. This was approved.

KALC has sent out details of the next Planning Information Day, no one wished to attend as it appeared to be repeating previous sessions.

attended due to the weather. It was agreed that there will be another workshop to cover things like insurance, oil consortiums etc. This is aimed mainly at Village Hall committees. Amanda Sparkes will liaise with Jenny Bradbury on this. With regard to electricity costs clerks will be asked to submit their usage for the previous year and their meter numbers. This information will be collated and put to the Lazer Energy Group to see if a more competitive price could be obtained for the supply of gas and electricity. A Reserves Policy template had been sent out to the Village Halls it was suggested that this might be of use to parish councils as well. Amanda will continue with the Parish Working Group until it finishes in July. Parishes have been asked to obtain quotes from the three contractors listed for grass cutting etc and send the details to Amanda. The hope is that if one company looks to be above the rest she can then contact them on behalf of all the parishes needing work to negotiate a better price. The next meeting will be at the end of April.

Cllr Moore, who was absent, submitted an email report on PACT. He said the meeting was well attended considering the weather and they are progressing slowly but surely. They have started to formulate a working committee. They had a short but effective meeting and kept the 3 priorities of Dog Fouling, Anti Social Behaviour and Highways issues. Cllr Taylor told members that she had left before the meeting finished but she was not aware of any proposal for a working committee, she also said that the meeting was not well attended there were only 5 committee members there.

037/10 To report on Youth Club. Cllr Taylor reported that there weren't any youth workers at the last meeting due to the weather conditions. The youngsters have chosen some new equipment for the club.

038/10 To discuss Councillors Training, and entering the council for the NALC awards. Cllr Day reported that he had been looking at what training is available for members and he thought that the SLCC Working with Your Council was a very good starting point. He suggested that this training should be available to any member who wished to do it. This was approved and members also approved Cllr Day starting the course. It was resolved that the parish council would enter two classes in the NALC awards, Council of the Year and Clerk of the Year. Cllr Davis was asked to take this forward.

039/10 Nominations for Parish Council Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community. Two names were put forward but Cllr Davis withdrew her nomination in favour of the nomination for George Mavers by Cllr Vickery Jones.

040/10 To receive report from Environment & Leisure meeting. A copy has been sent to all members. This was received and members approved the request for a budget of £300 for advertising the Garden Safari.

041/10 To discuss the Allotments and contingency plans for the future. The clerk suggested that members needed to discuss what costs they are prepared to cover initially before the Allotment Society is properly up and running. It was agreed that the legal costs of the lease and the cost of submitting the planning application would be met by the parish council. The length of the agreement with the Association was discussed and it was agreed that this would be 25 years. The payment to Association was discussed and it was agreed that £2,500 would be transferred to them to help kick start the work and that the balance would be paid as and when necessary as the work progressed. The clerk reported problems with the lease, as a new solicitor needed to be found. It was also agreed that whatever the cost of the 'peppercorn rent' was it would have to be paid in full by the Society.

042/10 To discuss policy reviews and Self Insurance. The policies and Terms of Reference should be regularly reviewed, but as the New Standing Orders had been published it was agreed to wait until these had been examined before deciding how often and when policies and Terms of Reference would be reviewed.

Self insurance for the MUGA was discussed. The clerk explained that the parish council has never insured the ball court structure. If covered for £65,000 it would cost an extra £293.48 pa and any claims would have a £250 excess. The clerk pointed out that the only damage had been recently and that it had worked out cheaper than the cost of insurance. It was agreed that the parish council would continue to self insure and any damage would be paid from the maintenance fund.

043/10 To report on Parish Council Surgery. Cllr Day reported that the surgery had gone well and that he and Cllr Jones had five residents attend. Two had come to say thank you for the support the parish council had given with regard to the planning

application for 82-84 Hunters Forstal Road. Two others reported Highways issues. They also talked about things generally in the parish. Cllr Day had also received a letter from residents in School Lane thanking the clerk for all her hard work in getting sandbags and also sorting out the water leak in Mill Lane.

044/10 To discuss Weblog Cllr Davis explained to members that there was a facility to put details of things that have happened in the parish, which might be of interest to the residents, an on-line journal. She requested members send her anything they think might be appropriate.

045/10 To discuss report on CCC Core Policy Strategy. The clerk has supplied all members with a report on the Core Strategy to enable them to comment, it has been suggested that Cllrs Day and Blatherwick along with the clerk form a response. This was agreed. Cllr Davis did point out that Herne & Broomfield were not mentioned in the villages anywhere in the document. Cllr Vickery Jones told members that it was important to include the wish for a Community Centre in the Local Development Plan.

046/10 To discuss further the 'Awayday' brainstorming session for members. This item was carried forward from the last meeting. Cllr Davis told members that she had only been able to find people who hosted corporate events and these were expensive. Sue Davis had offered to carry out the session for £30 per hour. Cllr Davis declared an interest and did not take part in any further discussion. Members agreed to take this forward and Sue Davis would be asked to provide some suitable dates.

047/10 To propose items for the next agenda. 700 Years Anniversary and Going in to Schools to talk to youngsters about How Parish Councils Work. In order to raise awareness.

048/10 Member's Reports Cllr Moore submitted a written report asking about the outcome of the leaflet distribution in Curtis Wood area, this had been carried out before Christmas, and he also thought the new bus shelter was excellent.

Cllr Hobbs had received a complaint about bonfires, on checking, she has found out that no action can be taken. She attended a Herne Bay in Bloom meeting and reported that due to the economic climate Canterbury City Council would not be able to give much financial support this year. Advertising of the event had been looked at and agreed that the event would not be advertised in the Daily Doings this year. They had 8 planters which Herne & Broomfield could borrow and some round barrels. They had also found some troughs. The official launch is on 23rd March at the Kings Hall and was open to everyone.

Cllr Davis said the parish had been offered a trough by a local resident and another had offered to repair it. She suggested a good location would be outside the old forge in Herne. She had arranged a meeting with Funding Buddies to discuss the Sunspace and rabbit fencing and was also having a meeting with someone from forestry Commission about rabbit fencing at Broomfield Park. Former Parish Cllr Doris Weston was in Elliot House now. Cllr Davis has prepared a quiz sheet for the Garden Safari. There is a Parish Plan meeting on 12th February.

Cllr Jones told members that fly tipping was a problem at the moment and to please report any incidents.

049/10 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be on 11th March 2010 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting Closed at 9-45pm