

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

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

- 050/10** To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons for absence. Cllr Baylis who has family visiting, Cllr Sargent who is with his aunt who is unwell. Cllr Vickery Jones may be late. City Cllr Sonnex. County Cllr Marsh who is at another meeting.
- 051/10** To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda.
- 052/10** The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2010 were approved as a correct record.
- 053/10** To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The Quality Council application has been submitted and the result should be announced about mid April. A response has been submitted regarding CCC's Core Policy Consultation. Cllr Moore asked who was dealing with the NALC awards; this is Cllr Davis and the clerk.

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
5 residents attended the meeting

- 054/10** **Chairman's Announcements.** The chairman reminded members that the Annual Parish meeting was on 25th March at Kent Enterprise House starting at 7-30pm. The chairman reported that there were no residents at the surgery the previous Saturday. An invite to the Deanery had been received, Cllr Jones had volunteered to attend and members approved this.
- 055/10** **Warden's Report.** Tom reported that things had been reasonably quiet, he had attended meeting of various groups in the parish. There was to be a mock traffic accident in School Lane car park on 16th March at 2pm. Herne Junior School are involved in this.
- 056/10** **Police Matters/Crime report.** PCSO's Suzie Waldie & Matt Hand attended. Suzie reported that criminal damage incidents had increased in the last month and house to house inquiries had been carried out in connection with these. There were several vehicle crimes in the Broomfield area on 23rd & 24th Feb which appear to be related. There were no reported burglaries. Community Engagement had been ongoing 151 people had been asked about any problems in the area out of these 51 said none, others highlighted parking issues and speeding.
- 057/10** **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** City Cllr Sonnex supplied a written report as follows: There was a post sticking out towards the highway belonging to a property in Canterbury Rd at Herne Common. Due to the extreme weather the post continued to protrude towards the road potentially causing a hazard to cyclists, as there was no footpath at that point. The clerk was asked if she could get Tom Daley to visit the site.
The parking issues in and around Norton Avenue continue and Tom has provided a presence, which may go some way to alleviating the problem.
The bus shelter provided by County Cllr Alan Marsh has been welcomed. However, it has been brought to attention that KCC have not provided the concrete strip under the seat. KCC are aware of this and hope to provide it in the near future.
There has been a parked car in School Lane causing disruption at school drop off/collection points. It is parked about a foot from the kerb on the opposite side to most vehicles and large vehicles are struggling to go through the gap. The car is technically not causing an obstruction and is taxed and insured and has not been reported stolen, so there is nothing that can be done about it.
The dog poo bin at the junction of Pigeon Lane and Mill Lane was not just

overflowing but there was a large pile of plastic bags that had been dumped on the ground as the bin was so full, this was reported to Serco. This seems to be a district wide problem.

Potholes. Some KCC workers are doing a valiant effort in repairing as many as they can with varying success. Some have been repaired properly but other repairs have failed almost immediately. She welcomes the resurfacing of School Lane but would hope that no agency comes along and digs it up again in the near future!

There has been a neighbour complain of rubbish and litter in Rye Walk. This seems to be on the increase there are a number of younger people renting properties rather than owner-occupiers. Serco has agreed to do a sweep in the area as soon as it can.

She has concerns regarding the removal of the traffic islands at the Plough roundabout. It is understood that Stagecoach requested this due to the increase in the size of vehicles as they were struggling to get round the bend, she is concerned that vehicles will no longer appreciate it is a roundabout and accidents will occur. Highways will monitor the situation and revisit this should it become a real safety issue.

058/10 Planning and Highways. To receive the report on Planning meeting held on 2nd March 2010. All members had received a copy of the draft minutes of the meeting. No questions were raised on this meeting, report was accepted. Cllr Davis asked about the area on the corner of Sondes Close, after much discussion it was decided to locate the details of the registered owner and then contact Highways to see if they would be prepared to clean the area up. She also reported two recent traffic accidents; one in Bullockstone Road and one at the Canterbury Road, Bullockstone Road junction and asked what progress had been made on the review of problems in this area.

059/10 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. None

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. Total £188.48. Bank interest £1.46, VAT refund £187.02

060/10 Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis reported that she had attended a Blean Initiative meeting where they had discussed LiDAR, this is an archaeological survey of Blean Woods using laser light. The Blean notice boards are likely to be sited at either the First & Last pub or the Canterbury Garden Centre. Cllr Davis also reported on the meeting with Jonathon Harding from the Forestry Commission at Broomfield Park. He stated that as a grant had been received towards the planting there could not be another towards the cost of rabbit fencing. Mr Harding advised that some of the trees may recover. He suggested that if the rabbits had their warren in the southern steep bank then a fence could be erected there. He also suggested it would be better and cheaper to put sturdier tree shelters and stakes on those trees that are still alive in the summer, pushing the shelters into the soft earth. Those that have died can be replaced and shelters put on at time of replanting. Deacons will be contacted regarding this.

Cllr Davis told members that she felt that Deacons are responsible for the work on the trees and paths and they should be leant on to carry out the work.

She had received an application for work on trees in Herne Street and was happy with this. Cllr Hobbs reported that the pond was still very full and that the area was neat and tidy due to the volunteers keeping it that way and that the daffodils were at last coming through.

061/10 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The clerk reported to members that George Mavers, a former parish councillor has recently lost his son to cancer. It is hoped that he will still be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to collect his award. A condolence card has been from the parish council.

The clerk reported that she had had a meeting with Ray Aziz from CCC to discuss the CCTV in Cherry Orchard. It is hoped that the cameras will be linked into the main CCTV centre at Canterbury later this year.

A meeting was held on 18th February with the clerk, Cllr Davis and Nigel Turley who represents Funding Buddies. The options for obtaining grants for both the Sunspace and the rabbit fencing at Broomfield were discussed. The funding buddy assigned for

this project is Sue Davis and the grant application process has been started.

Serco has installed the picnic bench, seat, litter bin and dog bag dispenser at the Broomfield Park. There has been some vandalism on the start hill of the BMX track, which has some graffiti; Serco will try to clean it off. The clerk reported that she had met the two new police inspectors based in Herne Bay Inspectors Maxine Lawrence and James Bassant. The clerk reported that she had had a meeting with Richard Tolsen from Streetscene regarding the dog fouling issues.

Peter Vickery-Jones arrived at this point.

- 062/10 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 on the Street Monitors meeting on 23rd February. He told members that the play area in Herne Bay Memorial Park is undergoing refurbishment. There were also details of the changes to the delivery of recycling sacks. Deliveries of 17 sacks will take place 3 times a year. If more sacks are required residents will have to register with the council in order to have 2 packs of sacks delivered. If they want sacks urgently between deliveries there will be £1 delivery charge.

There is a big problem with stray dogs at the moment, with rescue kennels full to capacity. There is no longer funding for the Clean Kent, so this has been disbanded. Serco have a material regeneration facility which sorts recyclable materials collected from litter bins.

Cllr Moore reported that the PACT meeting had gone well and the next one will be held in May. It was moving forward slowly. Cllr Jones asked members if they had any queries on the report for the Parish Forum meeting. There weren't any. Cllr Moore pointed out a typo in the report.

- 063/10 To report on Youth Club** Cllr Taylor reported that they had a new member attend at the last meeting. The committee was looking into only having one youth worker attend in future. The youngsters had requested a BBQ, which will be hosted at Cllr Jones home, as many wanted to cook. The AGM will be held on 20th April.

- 064/10 700 year Anniversary progress with preparations and to clarify exactly where planters are to go and discuss signage. To resolve to approve the Serco quote for the planters and planting of the flower bed, signage etc.** Cllr Blatherwick reported that she had missed the last meeting for the 700 year celebrations. The clerk reported that she had received a quote from Serco but it didn't appear to include the planters, this would need to be checked. The quote was for £5,310. There was much discussion on the cost of this, but it was pointed out that the time frame was getting close to start the work on this. Due to the requirement for permission which could take some time the options were limited. The clerk thought that some of the cost could be obtained from grant funding. It was agreed to ask for additional prices to see if this was a fair quote and funding would be sought, but members resolved to cover the cost as required. Cllr Jones would talk to Canterbury Garden Centre to ask if they would sponsor. The clerk will clarify the details with Serco and also look at ways of reducing the cost. The planters will be sited at the entrance to the village in Herne with another on the green by the pond in Broomfield.

- 065/10 To resolve to visit Schools to raise awareness on how Parish Councils work.** It was resolved to contact Herne Bay High and the Infant and Junior Schools to ask permission to speak to pupils.

- 066/10 To resolve to increase the clerks hours by an additional two hours per week.** After much discussion it was resolved to increase the clerk's hours to 37 per week. The clerk will carry out some work from home therefore the office hours will not increase. **To resolve to supply a lap top computer for the office.** A quote of £465 plus VAT had been received and it was resolved to purchase a lap top.

- 067/10 To discuss the lease and the progress of the Allotments and to resolve to allow the chairman and vice chairman to sign the lease and agreement when ready. To resolve spraying and ploughing of field if required before handing over to Allotment Society, and for the planning application to be submitted.** Members all had a copy of the report on the allotment meeting. It was resolved that when ready the lease and agreement would be signed. It was resolved that Cllr Brealy would spray and plough the field as and when required, before it was handed over to the Allotment Society.

- 068/10 To resolve to supply recycling bags to residents from April FOC or for a small fee. The cost to pc would be £1 per pack.** Members have had a copy of the Parish Forum meeting at which the recycling issue was discussed. The clerk reported that after hearing from Helen Bennington about the proposed changes she had asked if it was going to be possible for the parish council to continue distributing the sacks. It has been made clear that the changes now won't come in until June and that members are still discussing this matter. However should the system go ahead the only way a parish council can distribute sacks is if they get them from Serco and pay £1 per pack of 17, apparently this is to cover the cost of delivery. When asked if they could be collected the answer was no, it was delivery only. The resolution to provide sacks at the parish office fell.
- 069/10 To discuss further the 'Awayday' brainstorming session for members.** Cllr Davis has suggested that 22nd May would be a good day and that the Wootton Room and Sue Davis were both available on that day. This was agreed.
- 070/10 To resolve that all conditions allowing the use of the Power of Well Being have been met, enabling the council to use the Power. Eligibility to use the power will last from 11th March 2010 until the day before the Annual Council Meeting following the next ordinary election in 2011.** This was resolved.
- 071/10 To propose items for the next agenda.** Standing Orders and Parking around schools.
- 072/10 Member's Reports:** Cllr Blatherwick asked what was happening with the football tournament. Cllr Day has got the forms from the FA and Cllr Moore is going to sort out dates. There will be an Under 9's and Under 12's. Cllr Blatherwick reported that the water on the footpath near the school had been a problem during the freezing weather and that she had received a report of a dog in a cage in Vinten Close. Both had been passed to the clerk. The clerk reported that the water issue had been passed to Highways and that the beat officer had investigated the dog issue and was happy that no action was required. Cllr Davis reported that, due to misinformation received. The new charges in the car park as stated in the newsletter should be £1 for all day and not 80p. This has been changed on the web site. Cllr Hobbs reported that she had attended the Herne Bay in Bloom meeting. Over £100 had been raised at a fund raising cake sale. The committee is also going to take in the underpass as part of Herne Bay in Bloom and photographs of the area have been taken. The launch day is on 23rd March at midday at King's Hall and all are welcome.
- Cllr Vickery Jones stated that he does not want to give his design for the village signs to other companies for them to quote. Cllr Jones told members that he had reported some fly tipping and Serco had responded very quickly.
- Cllr Parker suggested the schools could be asked to design the flower bed in the village. Cllr Blatherwick didn't think there was enough time.
- Cllr Moore asked why he wasn't described as a Councillor in the parish newsletter article on the village green application Cllr Day explained that he was at the Public Inquiry in a private capacity not representing the council.
- 073/10 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 8th April 2010 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.**

Meeting closed 9-50pm