

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

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

- 222/10 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Baylis who is visiting family. Cllr Vickery Jones will be late due to attending another meeting and Cllr Jones who has a business meeting and will be late. City councillors Sonnex and Bissett have also sent apologies.
- 223/10 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda.
- 224/10 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2010.
- 225/10 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The monitor in the office has been repaired. Serco will plant some pink tulips in the flower bed at no extra cost. Cllr Moore asked for the issue of the cost of copying the accounts could be put on the next agenda.

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

Two Present neither spoke

- 226/10 **Chairman's Announcements.** The Chairman showed members the certificate he had received following the successful completion of his Working with Your Council course.
- 227/10 **Warden's Report.** None
- 228/10 **Police Matters/Crime report.** PCSO Sue Radcliffe reported that there had been less crime this year in comparison with the same time last year, in which 24 crimes were reported. There had been 1 stolen vehicle this was later recovered, 1 burglary; the offender has been caught and 6 criminal damage reports. There have not been any reports of problems in Strode Park and some campers had been advised that they could not camp in Curtis Wood. There are people in vans collecting scrap metal some have been reported going through skips etc. If anyone sees people doing this or has someone knocking on their door Sue asked if they would report it to the Neighbourhood team with a vehicle registration number. With Halloween approaching she told members there were signs available for people to put up saying they did not want anyone knocking on their door. There had been speed checks carried out in the area but no one had been stopped.
Cllr Parker reported to Sue that youngsters on BMX bikes were again using Strode and the pictures were on U Tube.
The clerk reported that the PC who has replaced Bev Horan is Andy Powell, however he is not the dedicated beat officer for the parish, as the system has changed and there is no longer an officer allocated to this area, and he has now been moved to Canterbury for 3 months.
The clerk has had a meeting with the PC Powell, and with the PCSO Sue Radcliffe, who has replaced Suzie Waldie; there have also been discussions with PCSO supervisor Rachel Harvey regarding a problem raised by a resident. A complaint was received regarding ongoing criminal damage and anti social behaviour in Holborn Close; this is now being dealt with by the police and KCC warden.
- 229/10 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh apologised for missing the last meeting but he had been attending a meeting Maidstone Hospital to try and stop them closing the Maternity Unit, he hoped they had been successful. The pantomime this year is Aladdin at the Granville Theatre on 14, 15, 16 Dec. The Remembrance Sunday service is on 14th November and all the necessary permissions are in place for the road closure etc. He was pleased with the end result of the resurfacing of School Lane and Mill Lane and that he was having a meeting on 20th October to discuss the leak in School Lane and the road surface in Millview Road. He was also looking at slightly widening the Canterbury Road slip road. He was also meeting with Infatil to discuss the proposal for

night flights at Manston airport. He said the number of flights had been exaggerated by the press. The clerk asked about the new salt bins that were promised for Margate Road and Hunters Chase as she had received an email saying they would not now be provided. County Cllr Marsh asked for the email to be forwarded to him.

City Cllr Bissett asked the clerk to report that she is pleased with the road repairs but would like to see Millview Road re-surfaced.

City Cllr Sonnex has sent a written report as follows. There have been street lighting issues in Canterbury Rd. These have now been resolved.

The new double yellow lines in the Parish are now in force and for best part are preventing previous parking problems.

She has also reported the 'dip' in the road on the Thanet Way slip road London bound between Margate Rd and Mill Lane. Ralph Simpson from Highways is going to investigate its cause and determine if it requires remedial works as recently it appears to be getting worse. Reference No. 17807039. (Cllr Jones arrived at this point.)

230/10 Planning and Highways matters. To receive planning minutes of meeting held on 23rd September and take questions. All members had received a copy of the draft minutes, there were no questions.

231/10 Finance

The Auditor reported that all the accounts were in order when he carried out the last quarterly audit. He reminded members that the issue of self insurance should be looked at annually as well as the fidelity guarantee.

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 approved.

To report on income received. Total £539.16. Newsletter advertising £490.20, Bank Interest £1.71, Fun Day £40.25, £2 Garden Safari donation, £5 parish plan sales.

To report on Finance meeting and discuss and set the budget for 2011-12. All members had been given a copy of the budget approved by the Finance Committee and the proposals were approved. The precept for 2011-12 will be £88,528. The increase is due to the fact that the budget for 2010-11 was subsidised by taking £10,000 from general reserves in order to keep the precept lower. Cllr Moore asked for the increase in precept to be quoted as a percentage in future. He also asked about one set of budget figures which seemed be missing from the web site, Cllr Davis reported that there was a problem with the web site at the moment things kept dropping off.

Members discussed a donation for Victim Support and agreed £50 they also discussed the tree lights in Herne and agreed a donation of £300 towards the cost of repairing and getting the lights into position on the yew tree. These will be paid from S137.

232/10 Tree & Pond Warden's Report Cllr Davis reported that there was a pollution problem with Goldspots Pond at Curtis Wood. The Environment Agency has taken samples and found raised levels of ammonia and phosphates. Residents have been advised not to allow dogs into the pond as it could be a health hazard. A task day was held at Broomfield Pond on 10th October and was well attended. There 5 new members who came along. Cllr Hobbs reported that the new people who had attended voiced concerns over the cars using the road in front of Pond cottages. Cllr Blatherwick told members that it was a public highway and vehicles could not be prevented from using it, unless it was stopped up but this would mean residents would be responsible for the upkeep.

233/10 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. The clerk reported that she had attended an SLCC training day on 7th October. The main focus was funding and how difficult it will be in the future for parish councils to obtain grant money, especially lottery funding unless they partner up with a voluntary organisation. This will raise all sorts of issues if work is to be carried out on land or equipment owned by say the parish council, leases may be necessary also who will retain ownership and be responsible for maintenance etc. and whether the VAT can be reclaimed. Lottery money is going to be severely restricted until after the Olympics in 2012.

Martyn Riley KCC's external funding officer went through the process involved with grant applications. He told everyone that most funders now operated a two stage process and that their priorities had changed. He felt that the current government were not committed to grant funding. There is more of a chance of obtaining lottery funding if you have not had much previously and it looked like Awards for All would no longer give funding to parish councils

after December this year. He stated that there were going to be trained Community Engagement Officers who would go out to all areas. He did say that he understood that Heritage and Sport lottery funding would remain unchanged. He spoke about European money, this is particularly difficult to access and extremely beurocratic. He spoke of the importance of good bid writing and having a critical friend to read through the bid before submission. Most funders are looking for value for money and the more people that benefit from a project the better. His advice was not to submit applications at the very last minute; they should be in at least two days before the closing date.

Nigel Turley from ARCK spoke on the Funding Buddies system they run. He supported what had been said by Martin and added that it was important to be able to show that residents wanted a project and that there was a need. The best way of doing this was through a parish plan. The Funding Buddies is funded by the lottery until 2012. They can help with all sorts of applications, allotments, village hall renovations, new builds etc. Members were provided with a tool kit and Nigel said the road shows had been very successful and there were plans to hold another at Folkestone Academy next year. They will be happy for grant applications to be sent to them before submission and they will give them a critical look and come back with suggestions.

Clive Powell from KALC also attended the meeting and spoke about the training partnership and KALC's revamped training sessions.

The camera at the entrance to the Community Park has been turned around to face the right direction. The bolt on the entrance gate has also been replaced.

Some of the graffiti has been sprayed over but it was difficult to match the tarmac colour.

The thank you BBQ and cheque presentation on 11th September went well and the rain held off. About 20 people who open their gardens attended and 5 servicemen from the barracks in Canterbury. A cheque for £1,115 was donated to Help for Heroes.

The clerk reported that she was investigating the option to put on a Planning Training session one evening.

A resident called into the office to request that the new Community hall is big enough for at least 120 people with a small hall as well and a stage.

The business card application has been approved and the card has now been received.

There has been official confirmation that the government is to change payment rules for parish councils allowing them to make electronic payments and adopt modern banking methods. These changes are planned for 2011.

The problems with Live Drive appear to have been sorted out.

Posts have been replaced to stop parking on the grass at the bottom of Albion Lane, and Herne Horticultural & Rose Society are going to plant the daffodil bulbs donated by Holamby Estates, in and around the trough at the bottom of Albion Lane.

The cheque presentation evening for Strode Park and thank you for all the helpers is on 26th November at the Institute Hall. All members are welcome and a plate of food on the night would be much appreciated, please let the clerk know what you are bringing.

The Children's Christmas Party will be on 12th Dec at the Institute Hall from 2-30 to 5-30pm. Shout will start the proceedings off, followed by food and Pip the Clown at 4.15. Father Christmas will visit with presents just before 5pm, after which everyone will go home. Twenty children have registered already.

A reminder that the Remembrance Service will be held on 14th Nov at St Martins.

The office will be closed from Monday 18th Oct re-opening on 1st Nov as the clerk will be on annual leave. Cllr Davis will monitor the emails and Cllr Taylor will check the post and answer phone.

Correspondence

Letter of response re policing in the parish, Chief Superintendent Molloy will be in touch re our area.

Vattenfall. Letter re extending the offshore windfarm at the Kentish Flats consultation to follow.

234/10

Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), and any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council. Cllr Brealy reported on the KALC meeting. The guest speaker was Terry Cable from Southern Water. He used the north of Canterbury area as an example of how his system operates. The company has its main waste treatment works at Sturry. It collects all the sewerage for the Canterbury area which has a

population 49k (and expected to increase by 9.4k by 2015). Details of the sewerage network were illustrated by maps and photographs of pumping apparatus. Canterbury treatment works separate sludge from the waste, which is then dried and made into a cake for sale to farmers. Methane, extracted from the process is used to dry the sludge. Two new retention tanks and associated pumping stations have recently been installed, in part to address the problems associated with flash floods and which are planned to accommodate the worst problems of a 30 year cycle.

In response to questions Mr. Cable offered to take up several issues of local concern to members.

Local Development Framework: no further information to that given by previous guest speaker, Cllr John Gilbey at AGM.

Broadband: Canterbury exchange to be upgraded in 2011. It is not known if all the parishes in the Canterbury District will benefit from the upgrade.

Ken Terrett reported that the Standard Board for England is to be abolished but it is not yet known how its work will be continued.

Janet Larkinson reported that the Speed Limit Review in East Kent has been abandoned. The County Highways Services has yet to announce how they are to proceed with an analysis of the problems known to exist in the East Kent area.

Len Claisse reported on a public meeting re Manston and had been told that a new radar system and new oil storage tank is to be installed. A new night-flying policy has been published. Consultations are to be held.

Street monitors report. Cllr Jones reported that the Canterbury town centre manager Phillip Eclasse talked about a new initiative regarding keeping Canterbury clean, this involved over 12 local volunteer bodies who gave their time to litter pick, river clean and generally tidy up unadopted areas. This was in no way to show up or criticise the work done by Serco, but to recognise that due to cutbacks we can all pitch in and make a difference give people the sense of ownership and pride in their city. He said it was very successful and he would look to do this again maybe 2 to 3 times a year, we are all part of the community and we should not just sit back and say that's the "councils job" we can all do a bit.

The group thought it was a good idea and thought that it could be suggested to Chris West that he comes along and see if we can start something similar in Herne Bay and Whitstable.

Ian Mackenzie reported that Dover District Council is in Jan 2011 going over to a new recycling method, which includes glass collection etc. Canterbury will monitor this closely as from 2013 this will be the new model of collection for our area, the intention is that all areas, Thanet, Dover, Canterbury etc will have the same collection and recycling method.

Lastly the CCC has now entered around 9,000 requests for extra recycle sacks.

Hopefully this information can be used for next year!!! To save the extra work again!! As the method for applying for the extra sacks is not compatible with the computer system and has to be done by manual entry!! The clerk reported many conversations with residents who were complaining that they were not getting any sacks let alone extra ones and that they would put the recycling in the grey bin. Cllr Davis reported that she had asked for the figures and although it was early days it appeared that landfill was up and recycling down. CCC could not confirm a specific cause for this.

Cllr Moore reported on the PACT meeting, he stated it had been a quiet year and the main issue discussed was the Upper Red Lion.

235/10 To report on Youth Club Cllr Taylor reported that members had come back at the last session and that included 2 new members had joined. There will be an article in the next parish news and the trip at Christmas will be to Laser Rush.

236/10 To update members on the progress of the lease for the allotment site. Due to the fact the parish council would prefer a 25 year lease the PCC has asked Angela Hirst to do the report which is required for the Charities commission this is to show they are getting value for money. The parish council will cover the cost of this. The church is still in the process of registering its land. The PCC and Philip Bell on behalf of Diocese have approved these. The clerk reported that she is still waiting for confirmation from Philip Bell as to which solicitor is to draw up the lease.

237/10 To discuss a Christmas meal for councillors. It was decided that this was not a council matter and did not need to be discussed at a meeting.

- 238/10 **To discuss the proposed Wine & Wisdom.** After some discussion it was agreed to get a price for both sausage and chips and chicken and chips and anyone attending could then have the choice. The event will be held in January 2011.
- 239/10 **To discuss bands for Fun Day 2011.** Cllr Davis had got the information regarding the two bands who played at the Woodland Festival both proved to be very popular. They would attend the Fun Day for a fee of £60 each. One is called Bottles the other Driftwood. Both bands were extremely popular with the visitors. It was agreed to formerly book these for next year's fun day. Cllr Vickery Jones arrived at this point.
- 240/10 **To decide whether gifts should be given to outgoing members on retirement.** It was felt that any gift should be by voluntary contribution, Cllr Whiffen told members he would not be comfortable with spending public money on this. It was also agreed that members should have served at least 7 years to qualify and they have to be retiring and not have lost their seat. Cllr Day is investigating the plaque for past chairman.
- 241/10 **To discuss the purchase of land for a Community Hall This item will be discussed without the public or press present, Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business being discussed.** The parish council did not exclude public or press as it wasn't considered necessary. The Chairman reported that a meeting had been held with the vendor and an offer had been made in accordance with what had been discussed previously. No response has been received yet.
- 242/10 **To propose items for the next agenda.** To review a continued parish council involvement with PACT and the installation of a litter bin at the new bus stop in Canterbury Road. Cllr Davis would like an Environmental spot on the agenda.
- 243/10 **Member's Reports** Cllr Hobbs reported that Herne Bay had come top in its class for Herne Bay in Bloom and had been awarded a Silver Gilt. The parish council were presented with a Certificate of Excellence for their part in the S & SE in Bloom.
Cllr Davis reported that she hoped to have an information pack to go out with the energy monitors. She had asked Good Energy, if people signed up to them as a result would they give a donation to the parish. There are also restrictors for showers available and it may be possible to get some of these for the packs. It may be possible to join with others to bulk purchase the energy monitors in which case we may get more for our money.
Cllr Parker asked for confirmation of the date of the Fun day next year.
- 244/10 **The next meeting of the parish council will be on 11th November 2010 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.**

Meeting closed 9-15pm