

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

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

The chairman welcomed Malcolm Bailey, Chestfield parish council chairman to the meeting.

199/10 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. County Cllr Marsh, City Cllrs Sonnex and Bissett. Cllr Baylis who has family staying. Cllr Sargent who is harvesting and has an aunt who is in hospital and Cllr Vickery Jones who had an emergency. Apologies and reasons accepted.

200/10 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. None

201/10 The minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2010 were agreed as an accurate record.

202/10 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. None

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

2 members of the public attended – no matters were raised

203/10 Chairman's Announcements. The chairman announced that the cheque presentation to Help the Heroes will be done at the Garden Safari thank you BBQ on 11th September. The cheque presentation to Strode Park and Fun Day thank you evening to be held at Wootton Room on 13th November. Cllr Day has offered to organise and run a Wine & Wisdom on 28 or 29 January and would like suggestions at the next meeting for the venue and whether the food should be sausage and chips or more traditional. There was also a suggestion that members might like to go out for a Christmas meal. Both of these will be discussed at the next meeting.

204/10 Warden's Report. Tom Daley reported that the youngster who had been responsible for much of the crime in the last couple of months had now left the area. Tom was hoping to organise a litter pick with Herne Junior School pupils and a talk on rogue traders. He was also targeting the dog fouling issues. He reported some graffiti on the BMX track and also said that despite the weather he enjoyed the fun day.

205/10 Police Matters/Crime report. PCSO Suzie Waldie-Temple reported that crime figures were up on the month and this time last year. Reports received 2 x criminal damage, 4 x vehicle crimes although these were unsecured vehicles and 6 x burglaries. The offender has been caught for the latter. Regular patrols will continue in the area. Some youths were moved on from Curtis Wood Park when they set up a camp and fire. The Road Show raised issues mostly parking and access in Streetfield and speeding in School Lane and Margate Road, speed checks will be requested. There were complaints about youths congregating along the paths leading to Cherry Orchard and in some areas youngsters playing in the road. There will be a road safety talk at the schools. Suzie announced that she would be office bound until she goes on maternity leave. She hopes to be back in about 12 months. Her place is being taken by Sue Radcliffe.

206/10 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. Cllr Sonnex submitted a written report: 'Well done on the Fun Day in Cherry Orchard. Despite the dire weather, spirits were up and she hopes everyone had an enjoyable time. The resurfacing done in Gorse Lane, Mill Lane and School Lane, is very welcome, and a dramatic improvement.

Very pleased to see the vegetation has been cut back on the signage on the flyover, considering this was requested as a routine order it was done remarkably quickly.

A complaint was received regarding flytipping in the alleyway between Woodrow Chase and School Lane. After several telephone calls it was determined that KCC

was responsible for this area. It is good to see the water mains replacement going ahead despite the inconvenience of traffic lights at the junction with Mill Lane, School Lane and Broomfield Rd. The same with regard to Ridgeway Road.

Finally, the Plough has reopened its restaurant as Little Italy. She would like to wish the Landlord and Landlady every success.'

- 207/10 Planning and Highways matters.** The planning minutes of meeting held on 19th August 2010 were received. Cllr Day asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes of the last meeting. There were none. He told members that the proposal to hold a referendum for planning applications has been scrapped. The clerk reported that the resurfacing work has been completed. New pipes are being laid in Busheyfields Road which is closed from just past Canterbury Garden Centre and Ridgeway Road is due to be closed at the weekend for drainage works and Curtis Wood Road is the diversion route. The clerk reported that she had told highways this diversion was totally unsuitable.

208/10 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. Cheque for Help the Heroes is a \$137 payment. These were approved.

To report on income received. £2767.28, Fun day income £2044.54, Newsletter advertising £214.46 and Grant £500 from KCC for underpass, Bank interest £1.78 and £6.50 Parish plan.

- 209/10 Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported that she had responded to a request for tree works at 53 Herne Street and that she had reservations about one tree. The Environment agency was going to take a water sample from the pond in Curtis Wood to try and find the reason for the cloudy water. 16 people attended the Bat evening walk in Curtis Wood Park. Cllr Hobbs reported that a pond task day would be arranged soon.

- 210/10 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.** The clerk reported a very busy month with the carnival and the fun day. There had also been some problems, with the container door falling off and graffiti on the start ramp of the BMX track. The container door issue has been resolved. The clerk told members that as it was very difficult to clean graffiti off tarmac she was going to try spraying over it with black paint. If that is successful the BMX club members will go over all the graffiti. The clerk reported that she had started work on the budget for next year and had almost finalised the Concurrent funding application she was just waiting for some quotes to come in. Cards have been sent to both Bunny Parker and Cllr Moore. On her return home flowers or a plant will be sent to Bunny.

There have been consultation documents to comment on, the one regarding a referendum for council tax increases and another which proposed to exclude parish and town councils from accessing Lottery funding. The response to both of these has been sent. The council has also responded to the Alcohol Consultation. There is talk that the next parish council elections may be postponed if there is a referendum, but this is purely speculation at this point. There will be a great many consultation documents coming through in the next few months, there will be one starting on 20th September 'Policing in 21st Century'. This will be an important one to watch out for. The disbanding of the Audit Commission is causing concern. The plan is to move it into the private sector; this would allow councils to appoint their own independent external auditors compared to being allocated one. We are told this will save taxpayers money and decentralise, although it could well cost parish and town council considerably more as the fees are currently set by the government. As most people will be aware the regulations surrounding council spending are very different from that in the private sector, therefore councils will need to take great care when considering who to appoint as external auditor.

There are also changes to planning legislation expected in the near future.

There is a government consultation paper to effect the transfer of private sewers into the ownership of the statutory sewerage companies in England from 2011. Existing private sewers and lateral drains (that part of the drain that extends beyond the property boundary) are currently the responsibility of the owners of the properties

they serve. Private sewers serve more than one property so ownership is shared. Transfer provides the only comprehensive solution to a range of private sewer and lateral drain problems affecting householders. It will bring simplification and clarity to owners, local authorities and sewerage companies. This will also help sewer management and the companies to plan maintenance and resolve problems easier. Subject to approval the transfer will take place from October 2011. Ofgwat estimates that there will be increases of between £3 to £14 per annum per household across the water and sewerage companies in England.

The date for the children's Christmas party had to be changed and will now be on 12th December, a replacement Father Christmas has been found as Cllr Vickery Jones will not be available on that day.

The Christmas float will go around after the party, in the Herne area and in Broomfield on 18th December.

The cheque presentation evening and thank you for the volunteers will be held in the Wootton Room on 13th November. There has been a problem with the new back-up system and there was an online support session, which the clerk was told had cured the problem, it now doesn't work at all. Hopefully another support session will be held next week to resolve the issue. The computer monitor started going fuzzy at times and will have to be returned for repair. Cllr Jones has organised the loan of one until the other one is returned. Tom Daley asked one of the EDF engineers to turn the CCTV camera back round so it is facing the entrance of the Community Park but unfortunately they didn't. Someone had turned it round so it faced the fields!

Correspondence Two letters from a resident in Streetfield regarding the parking issues and asking about the possibility of vehicles accessing through Herne Juniors instead of Streetfield. As this would involve going across two footpaths, and possibly removing some buildings the clerk did tell him that she didn't think it would be an option. She explained that the parish council has requested single yellow lines to stop the parking in Streetfield on the two way section during school hours and suggested that he awaits the outcome of that, before pursuing any other options. An invitation from Kent Police to attend a Police Reform consultation, Cllr Vickery Jones had agreed to attend but the meeting was cancelled on Tuesday.

211/10 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), and any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.

Street monitors. Cllr Jones reported that there was an open day at the Viridor centre in Hersden on 25th September. Those attending the street monitors meeting were told that the new system for recycling sacks was working well. Cllr Jones told members that he did not think that was the case as there were hundreds of people who had registered for additional sacks and CCC don't have the staff to get these transferred onto the computer system for them to be distributed by Serco. There was also the issue of the quality of the sacks. Cllr Jones told members that a lot of the people who attend the street monitors meetings only seemed to come to moan and he said that there were very positive things to be said about Serco etc.

212/10 To report on Youth Club. Cllr Taylor reported that there had only been one person attend the first meeting back.

213/10 To report E & L meeting. Draft minutes have been supplied to all members. Cllr Taylor gave a short report. The fun day was discussed in some detail, as was the carnival. The events for 2011 were discussed. Cllr Day offered to organise and run a Wine & Wisdom in January. The Christmas events were discussed, the party and float and also the thank you evening. Cllr Blatherwick suggested that members might like to go out for a Christmas meal. The clerk reported that a resident had suggested holding an auction and it was felt that this might be an unusual event and more details will be sought. It was agreed not to hold another football event as Cllr Day told members that there was an excess of these during the summer period. The Garden Safari and Fun Day would be held again and the thank you BBQ for the people who opened their gardens. The venue for the children's party had to be changed due to the hall cost and not being able to have a DJ or disco music. The clerk gave an update on the allotment field lease. The positions for the village signs were discussed and the clerk will now seek permission. The date of the cheque presentation evening for Strode Park and the thank you for volunteers was set for 13th November. The minutes

were accepted. Cllr Moore told members that he was disappointed that the football tournament would not be held next year.

- 214/10 To report on the allotment lease.** The Canterbury Diocesan Board is in the process of registering the land. For a lease of longer than 7 years a Section 36 report is required from an Independent chartered surveyor to satisfy the charities Act. This basically says that they are getting best value for the land. The clerk reported that she had contacted a surveyor and they have quoted to do this. She has reported back to the church that the parish council would be willing to pay the cost of this in order to get the longer lease. A positive response has been received regarding this. The clerk was asked to notify the Allotment Society of this development by Cllr Blatherwick who had attended the allotment meeting earlier in the week. She reported that they were depressed by the fact things weren't moving forward.

- 215/10 To report on Fun Day.** The clerk started her report by thanking all those who helped with the fun day with a particular thank you to Cllr Parker who turned up despite his problems at home.

This year's fun day did not run as smoothly as it has in the past. There were a few annoying and irritating problems with marking up and setting out. The ponies, ice cream van and Fire Brigade did not turn. Not being able to use the PA system while the band was on made it difficult to tell people what was on and where. The weather was not kind to us and if the rain had held off, the profits would have been considerably more, but we mustn't overlook the fact that local people came and stayed and supported the event and that the fun day is held primarily for our local residents. The Barrow & Booze did well and the auction may have done a lot better if we could have publicised it better on the day. The Birds of Prey did a great flying display despite the rain and the Karate team also went ahead with their display, despite being soaked, which was really good and was enjoyed by those who were there watching. There was a really good turn out by the classic car people with about 55 in attendance, although some did leave early. There are issues with regard to people leaving early, stall holders and other exhibitors need to realise that there cannot be vehicle movements prior to 5pm. The clerk had concerns re safety with vehicles moving about during the afternoon. The children's races went ahead despite the wet ground and although only about 16 children took part, they all enjoyed themselves and went home with a prize. Unfortunately the tug of war rope went home before the children's races started, so there was not a tug of war. Overall the event went well, but as expected the profit is down on last year with just over £1,950 to date. There have been suggestions for things that can be improved for next year and these were discussed at the Environment & Leisure meeting. Generally the feedback from the fun day was good and positive.

As always we owe a huge thanks to all those who helped on the day, especially those who carried on despite at times getting very wet. Cllr Day added his thanks to the clerk and her partner Mark for all the work they put in for the fun day. He also thanked Cllr Davis and her daughter Sue.

- 216/10 To discuss the report on Brainstorming session and take forward some of the ideas.** The main idea that had come from this session was to go out and talk to residents in small areas. The parish needs to be split up into chunks and it was suggested that locations for the newsletter rounds may be a suitable starting points. There would need to be a suitable venue at each location even if it was only a gazebo. Sue Davis had offered to work with members on how to run these sessions. A small group comprising of Cllrs Day, Hobbs, Jones and Moore would do this and would put together possible locations and set some dates. It was agreed that there should be a minimum of two councillors at each venue.

- 217/10 To discuss the cost of planting up the flower bed in Herne for the winter etc.** The clerk reported that she now had a detailed quote for the planting of the flower bed for the winter months; the cost would be £308.52. The maintenance would be £57.84 per month, the cost of that would halve for December and January. This would be approximately £345. This cost could come from Community & Amenities fund. It is possible that the horticultural society would look after the bed but there are issues with regard to them working on the highway. It was agreed that Serco will carry out all the work on the flower bed. There was a suggestion that tulips could be included

in the planting scheme. The clerk will ask if that would increase the cost.

- 218/10 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.** Members approved the motion to exclude Public and Press. The clerk reported that this matter needed to be moved forward and perhaps an offer for the land should be made. There were discussions on access issues and the report that had been received as well as the valuation. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with the vendor to discuss the various issues and put in an offer up to the level of the valuation. This meeting will be attended by Cllrs Day, Blatherwick and Davis as well as the clerk. Cllr Day told members that this issue was commercially sensitive and must not be made public. He reminded members that they were signed up to the Code of Conduct and must not speak about the land outside of the meeting. Cllr Moore asked about the fact that the Parish Plan group were going to circulate a questionnaire re the Community Hall and Cllr Day said they were a separate group and could carry out any consultation they wanted to without involving the parish council.

- 219/10 To propose items for the next agenda.** Wine & Wisdom and Christmas meal.

- 220/10 Member's Reports.** Cllr Moore asked why copies of the audited accounts were 50p a copy when all other copies of documents were 5p. The clerk responded that that was the suggested figure by the audit commission.

Cllr Parker offered to move the CCTV camera back in position if anyone could transport his ladder.

Cllr Davis reminded members that the Woodland Festival was on 11th September at Strode Park. Cllr Hobbs reported she would be attending the Herne Bay in Bloom awards ceremony on the 10th September.

- 221/10 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 14th October 2010 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.**

Meeting closed at 8-50pm