

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 14th April 2011 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Day, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Tracey Jones, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Brealy, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Moore, Cllr Parker and Cllr Harvey.

70/11 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Davis, it is her birthday and her husband has taken her out, Cllr Robert Jones has a business meeting, Cllr Blatherwick meeting at the school and City Cllr Sonnex whose son is in hospital.

71/11 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda.

72/11 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2011.

73/11 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. Recycle sacks are available in the parish office at £1.50 per roll. A letter was received this morning from Viridor they have awarded £20,000 towards the land purchase.

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

One member of the public present

Chris Wallis from CCC attended and spoke about the new system for recycling sacks. He explained that due to rising costs members had decided that the system that was in place was not sustainable. The change was very unpopular. Another meeting was held and the quality of the sacks was also discussed. It was agreed to provide better quality sacks and more of them to the people who had registered. There was a recommendation from officers to return to the old system but this was rejected. In future it may be able to purchase good quality sacks from vending machines in the council offices at a cost of £1.80 per roll. The amount of waste is falling this is due partly to the economy and the weight of packaging used being reduced. CCC is exceeding the recycling targets. From 2013 it looks likely that there will be wheelie bins for recycling, these will take cans, glass and plastic. There will be additional containers for food waste, which will be collected weekly and paper and cardboard. This system is being piloted in Dover and the outcome will be watched closely. There are issues around the amount of containers residents will need as not all properties have the space needed.

74/11 Chairman's Announcements. Cllr Day said this was the last meeting prior to the election and told members that if they were not re-elected they were councillors for four days following the election, the chairman remained in post to chair the first meeting following the election when a new chairman would be elected. Cllr Day told members that he had attended the funeral of Ken Cole earlier in the day. The family had requested donations for the Pilgrims Hospice. If members would like to contribute they can pass their contribution to the clerk, there could be a donation from the parish council as well, this will go on the agenda for the next meeting.

75/11 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh told members that he had been to Canterbury Pilgrims Hospice earlier in the week and they did a fantastic job. They only receive 25% of their funding from NHS and are heavily reliant on donations. It is a very valuable resource. Alan told members that the Turner Contemporary was open to the public on Saturday and entry was free of charge, he asked for feedback from anyone that attended. The interactive sign was in place in Broomfield Road and the data from it can be downloaded. The sign in Canterbury Road would also be installed fairly soon. KCC are looking for feedback on the idea of providing mini buses in some areas to run in and out of Canterbury.

City Cllr Vickery Jones told members there was little going on due to the elections. There were likely to be many changes coming out of the Localism bill, and the area

member panels may get a small budget. A letter has been received from Kitewood regarding their interest in building 700 dwellings behind Blacksole Farm. This is very unlikely to happen as it is not in the LDF, but Peter said residents needed to be aware of the intentions. The Village signs have been made and will be ready to install soon. He told members that he was very disappointed in the outcome of the Standards Board investigation into the behaviour of Roger Matthews. Despite finding him guilty of not registering interests, they have decided that no action will be taken. Their reasons were that due to the closeness of the elections they would leave it to the public to make the decision. Peter told members that if they were both voted back on the council Peter would have to resign as he could and would not work with someone like this. Peter said that Herne & Broomfield had a good parish council who got things done and he wished them luck in the elections.

City Cllr Sonnex sent a written report. A new telegraph pole has been positioned at Margate Road close to the Thanet Way. Planning permission was granted last year to include the installation of phone mast and an additional equipment cabinet.

Whilst out canvassing there has been very positive feedback regarding the solar powered speed sign in Broomfield Road.

There have been a number of flytipping issues in the ward.

She reported that the Landlord and Landlady of the First and Last will be leaving the pub at the beginning of next month and wished them well for the future.

76/11 Police Matters/Crime report. PCSO Sue Radcliffe is not on duty today.

77/11 Wardens Report The underpass project is still moving forward, at present the artist is holding things up. A speed check was held with PCSO Sue Radcliffe in Margate Road and more are planned. This was done following complaints from residents about speeding vehicles. Tom attended the local Neighbourhood Tasking Group meeting, this brings the various agencies together, CCC Community Safety Unit, police, Licensing and Fire Brigade. It is a useful tool for dealing with local issues. Tom reported that there was no longer an out of hours number to call for noise disturbance, if there was a big problem residents should call the police. Despite the school holidays there have not been any reported incidents of youths causing trouble.

78/11 Planning and Highways matters. Report on KALC Planning Day. Cllr Day told members that the morning of the training day was very good and that much of it was about the Localism bill and the planning changes. He said there were planning officers from both Dover and KCC and they both had a totally different view on the changes, one thought they would be good the other thought not! The afternoon was the same as the Planning Training day held at the Mill, but Cllr Blatherwick attended the workshop which she found very useful. The clerk reported that pot hole repairs were not on schedule but Highways hoped to catch up soon. As stated previously the speed indicator sign has been installed in Broomfield Road.

79/11 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Youth Club Insurance £68.94 and CCC payment of £24 for admin fee for using Cherry Orchard. These were approved.

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. Donations for Fun day £1,250, W & W £443 KCC overpayment £1,892.01 and grant for Parish Plan £500 Bank Interest 26p total £4085.27

The internal auditor has carried out the end of year audit and everything was found to be in order. The clerk reported that the accounts for 2010-11 had been closed and the current year is now up and running. The end of year process went relatively smoothly and the problem with earmarked reserves that showed up last year has been resolved. The end of year statement will go to the Finance & Resources committee at their next meeting and will be finally approved at the next full council meeting.

80/11 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Hobbs reported that the pond task day at Goldspots had been attended by 9 or 10 people and brambles were cut back. The Friends were going to look for funding for the silt to be removed but CCC has said the Environment Agency will do this and also remove the fish. There has not been any further information on the pollution.

81/11 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The Quiz night was very successful with 11 tables booked on the night. A profit of £420.50 was made on the night which includes £75 from the raffle. This has been put into the Community & Amenity fund, as sponsorship for the Birds of Prey display for the Fun Day has been got from Crown Charitable Trust. A big thank you to all those who helped on the night and especially John Nicholson who did a great job as question master.

The APM was held on 31st March at Kent Enterprise House and was well attended. The chairman gave his annual report and the clerk gave a financial report for the year. Bob Bennett, CCC Elections officer, came along to speak about the forthcoming elections and how the election process worked. Cllr Day awarded Megan Taylor with the award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community. Thirteen organisations attended and reported on what had been happening throughout the year. The evening was very relaxed and it was wonderful to hear how well all the local organisations were doing. The clerk thanked Kent Enterprise Trust for providing the venue and refreshments.

Cllr Davis and the clerk attended the Funding Fair in Folkestone on 13th April. It is very apparent that grants are being reduced and more people/organisations are vying for less funding. It is even more important that any bids for funding have the correct information and are well written. There is money available but it is going to be tough particularly for parish councils who have to carry reserves and it can seem to funders that they have plenty of money. Setting up Friends of Groups will help with accessing grant funding. Small grants are regularly available from Co-Op. There was also one funder who said they would consider an application towards the setting up of allotments. There was an interesting talk on Community Led Planning by ACRE. Carl Adams spoke about how having a Parish Plan gave communities a head start when Localism becomes law. He expected that villages would see more locally owned shops, pubs, cafes etc. He said it was good to have between 8 and 15 people on the steering group and that head teachers, the vicar, local business are represented. In the legislation there is an opportunity for residents to put together a list of Assets of Community Value, (this would be facilitated by the parish or town councils). These assets could be pubs, shops, public toilets, allotments, playing fields, woodlands, ponds and trees; in fact anything that local residents think is an asset that should be preserved if possible. The consultation needs to have a good response, at least 60%. Once the list has been finalised it would be sent to Canterbury City Council who would need to approve the items on the list. Once approved all the owners of the items listed will be notified. If any of the properties/land on the list subsequently comes up for sale, they have to be offered to the community at market value. The community will be given 6 months to raise the funds. If they are not successful it goes to the open market for sale. The seminars were informative and it was a good opportunity to network.

Report on Neighbourhood Watch Conference 26th March 2011

The first speaker was Chief Ins Steve Barlow for the Canterbury District. He spoke about the forthcoming financial restraints. A budget reduction of £44.6m over the next 4 years has been announced. The reduction for the first year is £13.3m and £12.1m for the second year. 84% of the policing costs are staffing. This will mean a reduction of 500 officers in Kent and 1,000 civilian staff, a large percentage of which will be at headquarters. There will be a reduction in senior management. The numbers and budget will revert to what it was about 11 years ago. Restructuring is essential and the 6 areas will be reduced to 3 large divisions. The Canterbury area will remain with a Chief Inspector, 4 Inspectors, 11 Sergeants, 58.5 constables, 27 PCSO's and 8 PSE's.

The Canterbury District covers 119 square miles has a population of 149,800, 62,500 households and 40,000 students. In the last year up to March 11 40,849 calls were received 6,757 of these required an immediate response. All crime has been reduced and there was a 30% detection rate. It is likely PCSO's will be given additional powers.

The second speaker was Doug Rattray, Head of CCC Community Safety Unit. He spoke of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team and that the main priority being to reduce crime. The team worked with Community Safety team, Emergency Planning,

Licensing, Streetscene. They hope to have direct links with PACT and resident panels. (There was no mention of parish councils, which the clerk took up with Doug in the break). Apparently the current government does not support PACT and is in favour of Neighbourhood panels instead.

The future focus will be on Domestic Abuse, People, Places, Premises and Young People.

The next speaker was PC Marshall who was a dog handler. He spoke about the various aspects of being a dog handler and the variety of issues dealt with by the dogs. They were used for drugs, money, explosives as well as tracking down people. They worked for a toy, usually a ball, their reward for finding what they have been sent to look for is play. Currently Kent Police have 36 German Shepherds, 18 drug dogs, and bomb and explosive search dogs. There are usually about 70 in Kent in total. There followed a demonstration by PC Marshall's drug dog, a yellow Labrador. The last speaker before the break was Phillip Pemble from CSI who started off saying he wished the job was as exciting as the TV programmes made it out to be. As well as DNA testing they have a finger print and a photographic department. There are restrictions on funding and it costs about £500 to look at fingerprints or test for DNA, therefore they often have to choose what should be tested from a crime scene, rather than testing everything. The advice given if you come home and your house has been burgled is firstly, call the police and if possible don't touch anything or walk anywhere there may be evidence such as footprints. The unit is only open from 7am to 11pm, unless it is for a major crime and then someone will be on call.

Following a break there was a talk by Steve Mellors from CrimeStoppers. Steve explained that Crimestoppers was a charity and that many people do not want to get involved with reporting crimes. The reasons for not wanting to get involved can vary from being frightened of reprisals, family members involved, other criminals or something to do with their employment. The law is being changed which will soon allow criminals in jail to ring in and report details without the calls being monitored, this will enable criminals to stay anonymous when giving details about information that has come to light in the prison. Crimestoppers provide intelligence for Law Enforcement Agencies. When anyone contacts Crimestoppers they are guaranteed to remain anonymous, the phones are open 24/7 and contact can be done through the website. Calls are not recorded, any information can be passed over, the person will not be asked to make a statement or go to court, all the systems are designed so that you cannot be traced. No one will ever know you have phoned. When you ring you will speak to a person, not be asked to leave a message. You will be given a unique Pin number. If a reward is due to you following the information you have reported, then you can claim it by ringing in and giving your unique Pin number. None have been claimed in Kent, to date. On the web site there is a most wanted page, some of these criminals are abroad and thanks to Crimestoppers a large proportion have been caught. This system removes the fear factor, facilitates contact and encourages intelligence sources. Following the results of the housing needs survey, a meeting was held with Tessa O'Sullivan to look at possible sites in Herne & Broomfield, it looks like the best site is the one next to the Huntsman & Horn which used to be a caravan site. All the options will go to CCC planning for their comments. Finally the clerk reported that she and Cllr Day had attended Ken Cole's funeral earlier in the day.

Correspondence Serco have provided a quote for the flower bed in the village for £481.28 this will take it through until March 2012. This does not include any additional planting. The clerk told members that two of the flower tubs were definitely sponsored again for the year. Chestfield Parish Council thanked Amanda Sparkes and Monica Blyth for organising the planning training.

82/11

Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), and any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council. Cllr Hobbs reported on the KALC meeting. There was a presentation by Gary Pesket the Housing Strategic Policy Manager. This covered population the largest number of residents are aged between 35-64, Employment, Canterbury has a lower earnings average than the SE average. 40.3% are employed in the public sector and over 50% travel less than 5 kilometres to work, The highest earners commute the furthest.

Owner occupation is 73% with 15% private, 8% council and 3.5% Housing Association. Parishes have a population of 42,500 with a rural population of 28,600. 90% of the district is rural and 805 of the population live in urban areas. There are 3290 registered as being in need and 207 homeless applications. The biggest need for affordable housing is 3 bedroomed homes. The meeting heard that the meeting regarding night flights at Manston had been postponed.

Street Monitors meeting report given by Cllr Taylor, there was a talk by Chris West the Herne Bay Town Centre Manager and the meeting was also told that Ian McKenzie was retiring.

Cllr Hobbs reported that at the Herne Bay in Bloom meeting the committee was pleased that quite a lot of funding had been sourced. The committee were going to supply shops with containers and growing material to enable them to plant them up and take them in at night. There would be a plant and compost giveaway again this year. There would be troughs placed in the Scruffy Ducks Car park area. CCC's Ian Cameron Fleming was going to be a judge for SE in Bloom.

83/11 To report on Youth Club Cllr Taylor reported that CCC were re-organising the youth workers and that Herne & Broomfield are to get someone different. The club had two new members and there had been 3 responses to the article in the newsletter.

84/11 Update on the celebration event for the Royal Wedding. Cllr Tracey Jones reported that there were plenty of helpers available on 29th. The scouts are running the refreshments, a generator is being borrowed so there are no power issues, the main problem is the insurance for the bouncy castle. The parish council insurers will not cover a hired bouncy castle. Cllr Jones told members that she was going to try and get the company that were hiring it to man it as well, this would depend on cost. The weather would play a big part in the success on the day.

85/11 To update members on the progress of the lease for the allotment site. The clerk reported that Nick Hutchings had got a draft lease to look at and it would hopefully come to the parish council with his comments soon.

86/11 To confirm Cllrs Day and Blatherwick will sign the legal papers for the land purchase. The parish council's solicitor requested that the members signing the contract of sale be minuted, it was agreed that Cllrs Day and Blatherwick would sign. Members approved Cllr Nicholson attending the Kent Rail Summit on behalf of the parish council.

87/11 To discuss the future of the Standards regime. Cllr Day told members that the Standards Board for England was going to be abolished as was the Code of Conduct. It is expected some things will become law such as the Members Interests and the Declaration of Acceptance. There will be nothing to oversee any bullying or other smaller offences in regards of respect etc. There will only be action if a criminal offence has taken place. Staff could be at risk from this change and Cllr Day asked members to come up with ideas as to how this problem could be addressed. CCC will not have a Standards Committee and it is possible that perhaps NALC will put something in place or individual parish councils will produce their own code. This item will be discussed again later in the year.

88/11 Report on Environment & Leisure meeting. The Picnic in the Park was discussed. Cllr Tracey Jones reported that the Bouncy Castle and PA system had been booked. The Bouncy Castle will need to be manned by a volunteer on the day as it is hire only. Cllr Parker said the Parish Council needed to check that the insurance covered the bouncy castle. Belles Stage School, Herne Bay Carnival Court and a Fancy Dress have been arranged for the day. Cllr Moore will organise a Penalty Shoot out. The scouts will be asked to run the arts & crafts for the youngsters. The scouts are bringing a large gazebo and the youth club gazebo will be used by St John's Ambulance and the information point. The clerk raised the issue of litter picking and marshals for vehicle movements. Cllr Davis will be asked to do the press release. Flyers and Posters have been produced. The clerk said she had not seen these. The matter of a burger van was brought up, but as full council had decided that this was not appropriate for a picnic there will not be one booked for the event. There will be teas and coffees provided by the scouts, ice creams and smoothies and the committee thought this was enough. The clerk will make sure that the cheques are available for Pip and the face painter to be given on the day and the ice cream van will pay 15% of

his sales. Councillors will need name badges for the day. Tracey asked who was going to be available on the day and she took names. Cllr Robert Jones mobile number would be supplied in case of an emergency. No power will be required on the day.

Village signs were discussed: Planning consent has been received but Peter Vickery Jones has said that the price of metal has doubled since the original quote was submitted adding £120 to the cost for each sign. The price of the posts has also gone up but the clerk has managed to get a good price for those from another source. Members agreed the increased cost.

Events discussed. Cllr Davis would be asked to put a link for the HB in Bloom web site on the parish council one. The Garden Safari preparations were in progress Cllr Davis is doing the programmes and she will see if she can get sponsorship for programmes again this year. The clerk wanted to know if anyone was available to help on the day, Cllr Taylor said she was. The clerk asked for ideas as to where the parish council's share of the profits should go and it was agreed that the money would go to the Community Centre project. **This was approved by full council.** A venue for the thank you BBQ was needed. Preparations for the fun day were going well and the clerk told members that she was pleased with the sponsorship and grants that she had received to date. She asked members if they would like her to apply to get a Red Arrows flypast, this was agreed. There are no scouts to help set up. Cllr Parker will ask the Lions if they could help out. The date for the children's Christmas party was decided it will be on 11th December with the float going around Broomfield on 18th December. Another quiz night has been suggested Cllr Nicholson is happy to run another one, perhaps in October. A date was set for the cheque presentation evening it will be held on 25th November. The clerk reported that the Quiz & Chips evening had been very successful and just over £400 had been raised.

Lease for allotment land. The clerk reported that she had sent Heads of terms to the solicitor, and the site has been power harrowed.

The purchase of new gazebos at £62.99 each for the fun day was discussed. The clerk reported that Serco are now charging £120 per gazebo to deliver put up and take down, parish council usually has three. It was agreed that 3 or 4 should be purchased. The clerk will liaise with Cllr Parker on the quality of those that she has located.

After much discussion it was decided that a float would not be entered in the carnival this year. This in part is due to members being away and problems with getting a tow vehicle.

89/11 To propose items for the next agenda. To discuss taking forward an asset register and donation to Pilgrims Hospice.

90/11 Members Reports Cllr Jones asked about the bridlepath CH71 the clerk reported that there had been work done on it and it was now in a reasonable condition. The potholes in Busheyfields Road were still there. Cllr Moore reported that the bin outside the Institute hall needed emptying.

91/11 To discuss the progress on the land purchase and any other relevant issues to progress this matter. This item may 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 clerk reported that there was nothing confidential to be discussed, therefore the public were not excluded. The parish council solicitor had asked that the parish council get their own valuation as she thought it necessary to ensure that the parish council was getting value for money. This had been done and the figure was very close to the price agreed. The overage agreement was taking time and the solicitor was being extremely cautious to ensure that they got the best deal possible for the parish council.

92/11 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be the Annual Parish meeting on 12th May 2011 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed 9-30pm