

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 August 2011 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Day, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Davis, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr R Jones, Cllr T Jones, Cllr Moore, Cllr Tobin and Cllr Harvey.

163/11 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllrs Taylor and Nicholson are on holiday, Cllrs Brealy and Sargent who are working. County Cllr Marsh will be late as he has to go to Chislet first. City Cllrs Vickery Jones and Sonnex are not able to attend tonight.

164/11 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. Cllr Davis item 181/11

165/11 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2011.

166/11 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The hedge in Cherry Orchard was cut approx a week after the last meeting. Regarding the matter of the dogs in Savernake Park apparently a resident requested that dogs should be allowed and so CCC have changed the signs to No Fouling ones, the clerk has been told this is not a designated dog exclusion zone.

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 attended 1 spoke

167/11 **Chairman's Announcements.** The chairman announced who were the new chairmen and vice chairmen of the committees. He also reminded members about the fun day on 21st August.

168/11 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.**

County Cllr Marsh reported that Broomfield Post Office owner was delighted with the new drainage that had been installed outside and Canterbury Garden Centre were also delighted that the ditches had been cleared in Canterbury Road. He reported that the new 50mph speed limit from Broad Oak to Bullockstone should be in place by October. Hunters Forstal Road had had new drainage installed and both this road and Margate Road would be resurfaced. There is a new lottery grant for Villages for new projects. Drain covers are being removed all over the county for their scrap value. Cllr Davis told him Braggs Lane potholes had been filled in but nothing had been done where the road was sinking. Cllr Blatherwick asked about school transport and was told the consultation had not been declared yet.

Cllr Sonnex has sent a written report. There has been good news all round at Goldspots. There was a Green Flag presentation on Monday. Also the new benches have been put in and look great. We are still hoping for funding to add picnic benches. On the downside a small fire had been started in the woodland. The police telephone numbers on the boards at Goldspots are incorrect. Cllr Sonnex has notified the relevant department and CCC to get them changed. The double yellow lines in Lower Herne Road have not been well received by some local residents. This issue may be revisited to see if a compromise can be reached. She has spoken with Elaine Richardson after being contacted by the church wardens at Herne church with regard to a temporary building and possibly a more permanent structure in the grounds to accommodate the Sunday School children and other meetings. Speaking with the planning department 'in principle' a temporary structure would not require planning consent whilst fire damage repairs are being carried out. A permanent structure would need consent and would have to be sympathetic to the church and its setting. Sharron commented that she was pleased to see the interactive speed sign was back in Broomfield Road. The dip in the road on the slip road on the A299 between Margate Road and Kent Enterprise House, along with a raised manhole cover, has become more pronounced. KCC have said they will send out an engineer to examine the road in the next few days.

City Cllr Vickery Jones reported by phone that the retrospective application for the Eddington nursery site now appeared to be an amended application as the unit has not yet been built.

169/11 Police Matters/Crime report. PCSO Sue Radcliffe reported that metal thefts were still taking place and also thefts of catalytic converters. She had targeted cars that were advertised for sale on roads, where this is not allowed, and untaxed vehicles. There had been complaints received about collectors for St John's Ambulance. Cllr Blatherwick said they were hard selling and her husband had difficulty getting this sales person to leave, they were intent on getting his bank details. The clerk and several of the councillors had all had visits from these people, they were employed by a company called WESSER and they are paid on the number of people they get to sign up and a percentage of the money donated. Members agreed to write to St John's stating that they were not happy with the hard sell tactics being used.

170/11 Wardens Report Tom reported that there had been reports of mini motorcycles using the underpass and also a lad using Vinten Close as a race track. The mural painting in the underpass will take place on 12th September. Serco have been asked to paint it with anti graffiti paint once completed. He had received a report from a resident who thought there might be badger baiting in Curtis Wood and the Rural Partnership team had come to look but did not think this was the case. Cars parked and advertised for sale at the road side near the roundabout in Canterbury Road had been reported and Kent Highway Services were hopefully going to install bollards. Sue Radcliffe asked if there could be an area for Police vehicles only. Cllr Davis reported that there had been motorcycles in West Blean woods.

171/11 Planning and Highways matters. Receive minutes of Planning & Highways meeting held on 21st July 2011. A copy had been circulated. Cllr Blatherwick reported that there had only been the one controversial application and that was on the George Wilson development for an additional unit. Parking was a major concern on this site. The clerk reported that Margate Road and Hunters Forstal were to be resurfaced in the next couple of weeks. Cllr Moore asked if anything could be done about the fence that had been put up in School Lane the clerk reported that enforcement were happy with it. Cllr Davis asked if the tall grass on the triangle at Braggs Lane/Bullockstone could be cut. Cllr Blatherwick also mentioned the area at the bottom of Albion Lane needed cutting.

172/11 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Two cheques were signed for the scouts and History Group, members had already approved the expenditure.

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. No report.

Report on Finance & Resources meeting held on 28th July 2011. A copy had been circulated. The main thing to come out of this meeting was the possibility of employing someone to do a few jobs around the parish. Members of the committee would like to know if full council would like to take this forward in order for it to be included in the budget for next year. Cllr Day suggested this be an item for the next agenda. The clerk reported that she had the forms for members to sign for the bank and after the fun day she would sort this out.

173/11 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis reported that Curtis Wood Park had been awarded the Green Flag and that there was a Wellie Walk organised for 25th August at 10.30am. The clerk reported that she had had a very rude man in the office shouting about the fact that there is no water in Broomfield Pond. The clerk pointed out that it was not policy to put water in the pond and that it was not the parish council's responsibility but that of the Friends of the Pond. Cllr Davis responded as a Friend of the Pond and stated that even if water was put into the pond it would just drain away because of the fact that it was on gravel and it would revert to water table levels.

174/11 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. The clerk reported that she had met with the licensing officer to discuss if Herne Community Centre needed a license. Looking at the current use a license is not required, but should the hall be extended, rebuilt or be

used for functions selling alcohol etc, it would be. The license is not transferrable if the existing hall is demolished and a new one built, therefore it would be better to continue as it is for now.

Preparations for the fun day have been the priority over the last few weeks and are now about on track. The Community Centre Committee interviewed the candidates for the Centre Manager position. All those who applied were offered an interview. Peter Gray was chosen for the position which he duly accepted. Peter lives in Broomfield and has taken early retirement on health grounds. He is very keen to get to grips with what is needed and has already done a couple of repairs in the hall and has been to meet some of the users to introduce himself and pass on his contact details. He is a welcome addition to the team. CCC has asked if the Parish Council has any objections to them putting a couple of containers in Cherry Orchard until the rebuilding of the changing rooms is complete. Members did not have any objection but requested it be after the fun day.

175/11 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council. Cllr Moore reported that it had been agreed to disband PACT.

176/11 To report on Youth Club. No report

177/11 To update members on the progress of the lease for the allotment site. Unfortunately the solicitor is now on holiday and the clerk has not been able to get hold of him.

178/11 Report on Environment & Leisure meeting held on 26th July 2011. A copy had been distributed. Cllr Moore told members that he had concerns about people bringing food and sharing it with others as had been suggested for the Jubilee event. The clerk reported that nothing had been finally decided and that there had been an approach from Strode Park to have a joint event. This will need to be discussed at the next E & L meeting. The clerk reported that Friends of the Mill would be happy to put bunting on the sweeps and Elaine Richardson, the vicar was in favour of a Beacon and was looking into that. The clerk suggested if the Beacon could not be on the church then perhaps it could be lighted at Broomfield Community Park.

179/11 To discuss Vegetation clearance on pavements and gulley's etc. The clerk reported this was not something the Community Payback people would not be able to do. It was decided to leave this item and see what came of the discussion to employ someone to work in the parish, at next month's meeting.

180/11 Update on the Wildlife Area in Cherry Orchard. The clerk reported that she had contacted the developer who stated they were not prepared to spend any more money on the area as the residents don't look after it. They also said that Mr Nichols still would not sign the paperwork and that Land Registry had said they would contact him directly. He had not had any feedback since then. The clerk also reported that she had notified enforcement to see if there was anything they could do.

181/11 To discuss Community Centre Consultation and receive report from Hall Committee, to look at quotes received and award contracts. The clerk reported to members that she had been looking into the VAT aspect of the Community Centre. There is an option to tax land and buildings, this basically means that VAT is charged on hirings, but all expenditure can be reclaimed. If the parish council decide not to do this most booking will be exempt, this means that it will not be possible to reclaim the VAT on purchases. Any works carried out on the hall which carry VAT would not be reclaimable. The main issues with opting to tax are that you cannot change this for 20 years unless the hall is sold or becomes a registered Charity or Trust and VAT applies to all bookings. The clerk thought that the amount of VAT that could be claimed if the Option to Tax was applied for could be considerable in the future and hire fees could be kept reasonable to include the VAT. Members agreed that the clerk should apply and Opt to tax the land and building.

Cllr Davis left the room for the following discussion.

Cllr Day spoke on the future consultations required for the Community Centre. He explained that the process was quite complex and not something the parish council could take on without professional help. There had been a meeting with the clerk, Cllrs Day and Davis with Sue Davis. Members had all received details of her recommendations. There was of course a cost involved and a rough estimate of

£5,000 had been quoted although this did not include printing etc. It was agreed in principle this needed to be done professionally and that £10,000 was perhaps a more realistic figure. There was also a request that at least two quotes were obtained.

182/11 To propose items for the next agenda. To employ someone to help around the parish (lengthsman) and to discuss picnic benches for Cherry Orchard.

183/11 Members Reports. Cllr Moore reported that The Smugglers did not receive newsletters. Cllr R Jones reported that Canterbury Garden Centre were very happy that the ditches had been cleared. Cllr Hobbs reported that Herne Bay in Bloom washolding a Picnic in the Park on 28th August and the awards ceremony for Britain in Bloom was on 7th September.

184/11 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be on 8th September 2011 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill. Confirmed

Meeting closed 9.05pm