

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 13th January 2011 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

- 01/11** To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Blatherwick, who has to attend her daughter's concert and Cllr Robert Jones who has flu. City Cllrs Vickery Jones and Sonnex are at a full council meeting.
- 02/11** To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. None
- 03/11** The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2010 were agreed as a correct record.
- 04/11** To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. Tom Dailey has a supply of data pots to distribute. The three co-opted councillors have all signed their Acceptance of Office and have been given a copy of Code of Conduct.

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

1 member of the public attended but did not speak

- 05/11** **Chairman's Announcements** The chairman welcomed the new councillors. He also spoke about the Standards Board and reminded members that at the moment the Code of Conduct still applies to all members. He said "all councillors should consider matters before the council according to what their conscience tells them is in the best interests of the electorate. There are no 'groups' with which they would need to conform"
- 06/11** **Warden's Report.** Tom Daley reported that things have been fairly quiet due to the Christmas and New Year period. He has distributed some of the data pots and also had removed some cars that were being illegally advertised for sale at Eddington roundabout. He had also distributed some Keep Warm Keep Well leaflets to the elderly in the parish. He has been monitoring graffiti and getting it removed. He has also started working more closely with Strode Park. Tom asked members to let him know if there were any issues that they would like him to deal with.
- 07/11** **Police Matters/Crime report.** PCSO Sue Radcliffe reported the crimes for the previous month. There had been one report of vehicle damage, 4 burglaries which included the containers at Broomfield Community Park and also a container at the SE Water reservoir site. There were also reports of thefts of lead from roofs in the area. These are being carried at any time during the day. Lead can be painted with silver paint or anti climb paint, which lowers the value of the lead. A racial and anti social incident are also being dealt with at the moment.
- 08/11** **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh suggested putting a sign on the containers saying 'nothing of value is stored here'. KCC has set their budget for the coming year the government contribution to KCC has been reduced by 28%. The council tax rise is frozen at the same percentage as last year. The difference between the amounts of funding Kent receives and Manchester is £1000 per head of population and KCC were trying to address this so it is the same in all areas. 1,200 to 1,500 jobs will be lost over the next 4 years at KCC. It is likely that residents using bus passes will not be able to use them before 9-30am. The cost of Freedom passes for youngsters has doubled to £100 per year. KCC Wardens are to be retained for the next 2 years, after which the scheme will be reviewed. County Cllr Marsh reminded people to use Kent Health Watch and to report anyone who hasn't been called for flu jabs etc.
The interactive sign and the work to widen the service road in Canterbury Road has

been signed off and will now proceed. The two applications for grants, one from the Parish Plan group and one for the Fun Day have also been approved. He had attended Strode Park at the end of December to give them a film show which both residents and staff enjoyed. Cllr Marsh apologised and said he would need to leave following his report as Chislet parish council had changed their meeting night and it now clashed with Herne & Broomfield.

No City Councillors were present. City Cllr Peter Vickery Jones has asked the clerk to pass on the following 'My report to the Parish Council would have included an urgent plea for all Councillors to play an active part in talking to the electorate so that they may better understand the issues in order to make their choice; so long as what is said is honest and clear.'

- 09/11 Planning and Highways matters.** To receive planning minutes of meeting held on 6th January 2011 and take questions. All members had received a copy of the draft minutes and there were no questions received. Members were informed about the latest Parking Regulation Review proposals that had been received the previous day. Responses have to be submitted by 28th January. The main one that needed discussion was the proposal for Streetfield it was agreed that a single yellow line on one side of the road would be requested with parking restrictions from 8-30am to 9-30am and 2-30pm to 3-30pm from Monday-Friday. Hopefully this will resolve some of the congestion issues at school times.

10/11 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Carol Bosworth £70

It was resolved to approve payments presented at this meeting; and to approve bank reconciliation and earmarked reserves as supplied.

To report on income received. A total of £327.60 Donations for Poo bags £17.60, donation Children's Party £10 and advertising revenue £300.

Auditors report has been received for the last quarter. A variety of checks were carried out and everything was found to be in order.

- 11/11 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report** Cllr Davis told members there was a task day on Sunday 16th at 10am at Broomfield Pond. The leaflet for Curtis Wood Park will be ready shortly. There is an initiative to recycle low energy light bulbs as these are quite toxic because they contain mercury. There is a company who will provide a wheelie bin to put the bulbs in and they come and empty when required. The clerk will ask if KCC and the Friends have any objections. Cllr Brealy asked if there was to be a change to the weed management control in Curtis Wood. Cllr Davis said she understood Serco had been asked to do this and will follow it up.

- 12/11 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.** The clerk wished all Members a happy new year and thanked them for her Christmas present. During the Christmas break the containers at Broomfield Community Park were broken into, nothing was stolen from the parish council's contents but the BMX club lost a compressor, generators, whacker plates and pick axe. The clerk received a phone call from the police at about 5pm on New Year's Eve to say that the containers had been broken into. Chris Werner from the BMX club attended in the first instance and replaced the padlocks. The clerk attended on New Year's day and replaced the gate padlocks and also put a new one on the parish council's container. The boxing around the padlocks had been cut away to give access to the padlocks. The clerk has looked at ways to make the container locks more secure. The really secure padlocks that are available are just over £400 each and there is a container that the manufactures say is virtually vandal and break in proof costs about £500 pa to hire. There is an alarm system available which is battery operated and the cost for this would be about £240pa. It may be possible to get a Capital grant for installation of the alarm system. The clerk has passed the details onto the BMX club to see what they think. Other options are being looked at in the meantime.

There is a possibility of a Capital grant for tarmacing the berms and installing steps at the rear of the Community Park to make access easier. Amanda Sparkes has been assisting the clerk in putting together

Another quote has now been received for cleaning the graffiti off the tarmac this is

for £375. The company that quoted originally are prepared to supply the parish council with the chemical, which could be used to clean off the graffiti. 5 litres would cost £37.75 if some members were prepared to have a go at cleaning the graffiti off this would be a much cheaper option. The product is brushed in and then time allowed for it to dissolve the graffiti, it is then washed off with water. Protective gloves are recommended. Several members indicated they would be willing to give this a try and it was approved to purchase the chemical.

The Planning training day that has been organised by the clerk and Amanda Sparkes is to be held on 19th February in the Wootton Room. There has been a good response with eight members from Herne & Broomfield wishing to attend at a cost of £200, the council is well within budget for training in the current year. There have been 12 applications to attend from other parish councils. There is now a waiting list as there is a maximum of 20 attendees. Amanda and the clerk will attend to ensure the smooth running on the day and provide the refreshments etc.

The clerk has been contacted by Giles Seaford CCC who says the youngsters that are attending the sessions are not the target group therefore it is likely that when the sessions start again at the beginning of February they will be held at Greenhill or Lucerne Drive. Giles will supply details for the Streetgames coaches which will be cheaper than those provided by Charlton. The lights in the ball court have not been working due to the sensor being knocked off its mounting and the wires being pulled out. This has now been rectified but there only appears to be one light working, Serco have been asked to come out again.

Correspondence

Letter from Victim Support thanking parish council for the donation.

Thank you letters from Bill Whiffen and John Baylis for the gifts given to them by members on their retirement.

An invite to attend the Lord Mayors Annual Banquet & Ball on 26th March.

- 13/11 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 that she had attended a KALC meeting with Cllr Blatherwick who had stood in for Cllr Brealy as he was in London that day. The invited speaker was Colin Carmichael who spoke about decentralisation and Localism. The intention is to cut unnecessary red tape and abolish housing strategies. The Standards Board is to be abolished and more power is to be given to Communities and they will be able to run specific services.

It was announced that the original application for night flights at Manston had been withdrawn and a new application will be considered. There were also discussions about referendums. Cllr Day told members that the new legislation was very complex and would take time and he would be very surprised if it was in place by the end of this year. He was also disappointed that the Standards Board was to be abolished. This meant that there would be no recourse against a councillor other than if he was breaking the law and then it would be done through the courts.

- 14/11 To report on Youth Club.** Cllr Taylor reported that two new members had attended she also reported that the hall door sticks very badly and she had trouble getting into the hall. The clerk was asked if it was OK for the youth workers to bring in a toaster so the youngsters could make toasted sandwiches. The clerk responded that she couldn't see a problem as the youth workers were in charge of this activity.

- 15/11 To discuss how residents can be notified about consultations.** This issue was raised by a resident after seeing details of CCC consultation on the budget, advertised on the parish council web site. Cllr Davis told members that she thought that whoever was consulting should be responsible for publicising their consultation. Known details are already put on the website with a link and she didn't think much more could be done. The parish council advertises things on the web site, in the newsletter and in the noticeboards. If there is a specific item such as the Community hall then it is likely a questionnaire will be sent out to all households asking them their views with details being published in the newsletter and on the web site. Cllr Brealy asked about additional newsletters. Both the clerk and Cllr Davis did not feel this was an option partly because of the work involved, the cost and having to ask volunteers to

do extra deliveries.

- 16/11 Report on the Children's Christmas Party and Santa float.** There was an excellent attendance at the party, a total of 62 children aged between 4 and 8. The afternoon started with Shout Disco, once again Cllr Paul Parker and his wife Bunny did an excellent job, providing this entertainment free of charge. Cllr Parker got all the children up dancing and even some of the parents who had stayed, got involved. Following this activity the children then had refreshments, there was plenty of food for everyone and particular thanks must go to Cllr Pam Hobbs, Cllr Ann Blatherwick and former Cllr Bill Whiffen's wife Jan, who all provided the sandwiches. When the children had finished eating, Pip the Clown took over entertaining the children from 4-5pm. The children were transfixed watching the magic show and all Pip's helpers received a gift.

Father Christmas arrived at 5pm and spoke to every child before giving them a gift. Father Christmas left about 5-30pm on his Sleigh float and did a tour of Herne, driven by Cllr Ian Sargent, with music and snow being provided by Cllr Paul Parker. Following the departure of Father Christmas, the children all went home.

Many thanks to all the councillors who turned up to help on the day. Cllrs Jones, Taylor, Hobbs, Davis, Blatherwick and Brealy and also all the helpers, Kay Hayward, Pat Brealy, Doug Hobbs, Tim, Alex and Lucy Blatherwick former parish councillor Bill Whiffen and his wife Jan, and also the clerks partner Mark who helped set up and clear up at the end. A special thank you to our new Councillor, Andy Harvey, who stepped into the Father Christmas outfit at rather short notice! A good time was had by all.

The Santa Float was unable to tour Broomfield the following Saturday due to the heavy snow.

- 17/11 To discuss a celebration event for the Royal Wedding.** After discussion on whether an event would be held it was agreed that Cllrs Moore and Tracey Jones would discuss and put together suggestions for the next meeting.

- 18/11 To update members on the progress of the lease for the allotment site.** The Diocese has appointed a solicitor to deal with this and she has made contact to say she will get on to this as soon as possible.

- 19/11 To resolve to write to Herne Bay sorting office on behalf of residents to complain about the lack of postal deliveries.** Cllr Blatherwick has had various residents complain to her about the lack of deliveries by Royal Mail and the fact that a great many people are going to the sorting office to collect their mail. The clerk said that the parish office is getting one or two deliveries a week, instead of daily. It was agreed that the clerk will write to the sorting office in Herne Bay and will keep Roger Gael in the loop. Someone higher up the chain will also be sought to send the letter of complaint to, Cllr Davis pointed out the social problems of moving all the postmen, who would often keep an eye on the older and infirm residents.

- 20/11 To discuss the progress on the land purchase and any other relevant issues. 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.** Cllr Day informed members that the first offer on the land had been refused but the second offer had been accepted. The matter will now be taken up by the solicitors who will deal with any issues raised by the parish council. The clerk had received one quote from a local solicitor to act on the parish councils behalf and was waiting to receive others, members agreed to delegate this to the clerk so the matter could be dealt with expediently. The Chairman told members that as the project progressed there would be many decisions to make, including consultation with residents, funding issues, management etc. Cllr Day reminded members that this matter was confidential and should not be discussed outside the council.

- 21/11 To propose items for the next agenda.** Cllr Davis would like to request a grant from the parish council towards the cost of the insurance for the Friends of the Pond.

- 22/11 Member's Reports.** Cllr Tracey Jones reported that Cllr Robert Jones had been told that the dog fouling in the Meadows had improved since the dog bin had been moved. Cllr Hobbs reported that she had been asked about the wildlife area in Cherry Orchard, the clerk reported that it was still owned by the developer and they were not

responding to any calls or emails. Cllr Harvey asked if it would be possible to have a salt bin near The Plough, the clerk will ask Cllr Marsh but it is unlikely to be until later this year. Cllr Brealy reported that he had received a letter criticising both himself and Hollamby estates, in connection with HB Golf Club. He told members that this letter was anonymous and that the information this person had was incorrect. Cllr Day told members he had seen this letter and it was particularly vicious and he felt very sorry for Cllr Brealy regarding this very personal attack. He also told members that this was not a parish council matter and as a general rule anonymous letters could not be responded to and would therefore be shredded. He added that members had the utmost confidence in Cllr Brealy.

Cllr Nicholson had a report on the future of the railway in this area which he felt commuters would be very interested in as it certainly not going to improve. Cllr Davis will put this information on the web site.

23/11 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be on 10th February 2011 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed 9-30pm