

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 July 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 Harvey, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Moore, Cllr Sargent and Cllr Tobin

- 141/11** To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Brealy who is attending his daughter's graduation and Cllr Tracey Jones who is working, Cllr Sargent will be late. Cllrs Vickery Jones, Bissett and Sonnex are at a CCC meeting and have sent apologies.
- 142/11** To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. None
- 143/11** To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2011. The minutes were approved after Cllr Moore had raised the issue that the Queens Jubilee celebrations and vegetation was not on the agenda. Cllr Day told members that the Jubilee had been omitted this time due to agenda length and the expected lengthy discussions on the Community Centre. The clerk told members it would be on the next Environment & Leisure agenda. The clerk informed members that CCC had been asked to get the Community Payback team to do some vegetation clearance.
- 144/11** To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. Cllr Nicholson had provided members with a revised welcome letter for residents, Cllr Davis did not feel it was easy to read, Cllr Nicholson will fade the back ground and increase the font size. He also produced a leaflet to give out to young people at the fun day, members approved this.

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

- 145/11** **Chairman's Announcements.** The Chairman welcomed a visitor from Sturry, parish councillor Steve Birch. Cllr Day told members that former parish councillor Paul Parker had sent a message congratulating the council on purchasing the hall and he was sorry he could not attend the meeting.
- 146/11** **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh told members that not everyone had grasped the fact that the interactive speed signs would be moving around the parishes and be in different places at different times. Cllr Jones asked Cllr Marsh if he knew what had happened to the interactive sign in Canterbury Road by the cemetery as the post was in half, Cllr Marsh will look into it. Cllr Marsh reported on the Joint Transport Board (JTB) meeting and the proposed yellow lines in Streetfield, also the reducing the speed limit on the A291 from Broad Oak turning to Bullockstone Road.. This reduction is not supported by either Kent Highways or the police and has been financed by the KCC Member Highway fund. Cllr Marsh asked to be kept informed as to what the parish council intended to do with regard to the Queens Jubilee. The Remembrance service will be on November 13th and road closures etc had been organised.

Report from City Cllr Peter Vickery Jones. Please accept my apologies for, yet again; being unable to attend tonight, it is regrettable that invariably City Council meetings coincide too often with yours as is the case tonight. Just a small briefing on the results of the meeting I attended last week. KIACC's (Kent International Airport Consultation Committee) decision last year to exclude Canterbury District from the public consultation process was very badly received by us and it should be recognised that we will all be affected by night flights.

The meeting scheduled for the 21st October at Manston Departure Lounge will be open to the public. Starts 2-30 pm.

MD Charles Buchanan reported that there are no plans to go out to public consultation in the foreseeable future and that there will be an announcement soon of a new

Airline to be operating next year. No details were forthcoming.
Manchester flights were not doing well.

At the moment they employ 110 people. Manston is listed as one of the airports being used for 2012 Olympics. This means the government will temporarily amend the existing regulations so as to provide new powers to ensure that during the Games period the available air space capacity over the south east of England will be able to accommodate the maximum possible number of extra flights, whilst minimising the risk of disruption or delay to existing services. These regulations will cease to have effect on the 31st December 2012.

Thanet District council are voting on a motion tonight on banning all night flights other than emergencies. Will keep you posted on the outcome of that. Streetfield, worked with Monica and County Cllr Marsh to ensure that the new proposals for a single yellow line restriction be implemented in accordance with Parish Council's wishes. I can confirm that is the case.

You will know that the A291 will soon be subject to a 50 mph limit and although there is some disparity about who did what to bring this about the only thing that really interests me is the result not who can gain credit from it. So well done all for working together.

George Wilson has made a retrospective planning application for the Nursery site; I shall be looking at this matter very carefully indeed knowing all of the problems we are likely to have in this area, particularly over the very restricted opportunities for an appropriate amount of parking.

Attended a meeting of the Sea Cadets last night who are keen to erect a climbing wall at our Family Fun Day, it seems a good idea to me so I hope you will facilitate this when they make contact soon, I have given them Monica's number.

Report from City Cllr Sonnex. Just a couple of items this month. Bob and I spotted a number of goldfish and what appeared to be very large koi in Broomfield pond. I contacted Carol Davis who in turn contacted the appropriate agency.

I was sorry to see the speed recording device had disappeared from Broomfield Road. I understand it was only temporary but we had positive feedback from the residents and hope to see it return sometime in the future.

Hunters Forstal Road continues to have temporary traffic lights to allow road works to continue. At least the bus stops have now been reinstated.

147/11 Police Matters/Crime report. PCSO Sue Radcliffe is not able to attend as she is at the Open Golf in Sandwich operating the communications.

148/11 Wardens Report. Tom Daley reported that this month has been a fairly normal month.

He has been trying to promote the Handy van service and has completed about 11 referrals. This is good, as the handy van service, as you are probably aware, can make a big difference to elderly people's lives.

The Mother and Toddler group has not been as well attended as normal, however he has been in and helped set up and access the problems of the residents who do attend.

He has spoken this week with the restorative justice programme as they were clearing the overgrown gardens of council housing in School lane, and he would like to use them for projects in the community. He has taken details of their number.

The Upper Red Lion has been boarded up, and will remain so until the sale is complete. There is evidence of someone sleeping in the garden and this has been reported this to police.

The fencing around the new building site in Cherry Orchard seems to be permanently falling down. He has spoken to Serco, who are going to make a more permanent structure, whilst work is continuing.

Today he spoke with the chairwoman of Herne Bay in Bloom. She is very keen to include the underpass, once completed, for next year.

On that note he is still waiting for word from the artist, as to a start date, although he does now have relevant permission to start the work.

149/11 Planning and Highways matters. Receive minutes of Planning & Highways meeting held on 16th June. No questions were received on these.

Report on Kent Highways Services (KHS) meeting at Ashford on 11th July. Cllr

Blatherwick and the clerk attended a Highways seminar at Ashford. It is very much doom and gloom. We all know about funding cuts and they are going to have a significant impact on services. John Burr told everyone that a new works contract had been awarded to Enterprise, although most of the employees will remain the same the contract will be different, in future any sub standard work will have to be repaired by the contractor at no extra cost to Highways, currently if the contractor has to go back and put something right KHS are charged. There has been massive re-organisation at KHS and many of the staff has gone. It appears that the most experienced and knowledgeable staff are the ones who have left which is a great pity. There are now job vacancies. From September KHS will no longer exist it will all come under the KCC umbrella. With the current funding it will take 20 years to resurface all the roads in Kent. The plan is to repair pot holes and when the roads get really bad they will be resurfaced. KCC has no obligation to provide street lighting or grass cutting other than to keep sightlines clear. Speed limits will only be changed where there have been accidents. Drainage galleys will be cleared on a cyclical basis, which could mean they will only be done every two years.

Toby Howe the Highway Manager spoke about the changes in the office. There is a change in the Highways Inspectors roles; they will only deal with safety issues. There will no longer be a community liaison team; there will be 18 stewards approx 3 for each district. The stewards will look at priorities and what funding is available. There will be 12 district managers covering Kent; Steve Rivers will be the manager for Kent with Kevin Able who is the engineer. There will be a Highway Management Centre where all departments will work together. The district managers and stewards will deal with all issues. With the localism bill in mind it is hoped other organisations will be able to make a bigger contribution to dealing with issues in their area.

Phil Murphy talked about the Parish Portal and the changes that were being made to improve it.

Bob White spoke about the work that KCC do with developers in trying to produce more attractive junctions and layouts etc.

Toby Howe the Highway Manager spoke about the plans for the winter. The last two winters had been the worst for 100 years the two snow emergencies in December cost in the region of £1.4m. Salt resources will be monitored country wide. KCC were working with the Districts, parishes and farmers. Farmers have been given three year contracts and routes have been allocated for snow clearance.

The position of salt bins will be shown on the map on the web site. There are 2000 salt bins with 60 new bins being purchased. He talked about the Member Highway fund each member has access to £25,000pa. The contractor responsible for pot hole repairs in the Canterbury District is A R Cook. All repairs should be treated as permanent and should be cut out and filled correctly. Work schedules are available on KCC web site. At the end of June 50,000sq metres of patching had been completed and 3,000 potholes, which had taken half the budget. They will repair and then seal the surface with grip fibre and surface dressing.

Kirstie Williams spoke about Member funding which can be spent on Highway related schemes.

Stephen Gasche spoke about the Rail Action Plan. KCC is opposed to South Eastern getting their franchise renewed. They have also requested changes to the regulations regarding fares and would like to influence the delivery of a new rail franchise. They have 15 key recommendations the top 5 of which are: High speed links from Deal and Sandwich, Reduce Journey times from N Kent via Medway and Cannon Street, new city service to run all day on Maidstone East line to Blackfriars, retain Cannon Street for Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells and a new direct service to Gatwick.

Terry Martin the new secretary for KALC introduced himself and did a PR job for KALC.

There were questions at the end; one of those was regarding 20mph zones outside schools. The response was that the statistics don't support these areas as being dangerous, it is not a problem it just doesn't feel safe. There was a question on verges etc. The budget for soft landscaping has been cut by 1/3 and the cuts were being reduced to eight a year.

The clerk has received the minutes of the JTB and the parish council proposal for a single yellow line in Streetfield preventing parking between 8.30-9.30am and 2.30-3.30pm Mon-Fri was approved, the other areas where yellow lines are to be installed are Lower Herne Road, Mill Lane/Mount View Rd junction and Woodrow Chase. The clerk reported that she had been told of some fly-tipping in Braggs Lane and on contacting Serco was told they had been to look and it was on a slope so they could not remove it.

150/11 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Came & Co hall Insurance £1,017.77
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 £2776.50 Advertising £430, Fun day £175, Garden Safari £2052.31, Interest £4.20, Sales £109.99 and Parish Plans £5.
Application from Herne & Boomfield History Group grant of £50 towards cost of printing their book on Broomfield. This was approved.

151/11 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Hobbs said the fish that had been put into Broomfield pond were slowly dying off probably due to lack of food. Cllr Davis will ask CCC to put notices up. Cllr Davis was asked to put together a pack on behalf of Friends of the Pond for South & South-East in Bloom judges.

Canterbury City Council have produced Wellie Walk cards for Curtis Wood Park, these are cards for youngsters to go around spotting various items. Cllr Davis has secured funding for similar cards to be produced for St Martin's Churchyard. Cllr Nicholson raised the issue of dogs not being allowed into Savernake Park, as CCC own it there is little that can be done. It has always been a dog free zone.

152/11 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The clerk thanked Cllrs Davis, Taylor, Day and Blatherwick for covering various jobs while she was on holiday. It has been somewhat hectic; as you are all aware the purchase of St Paul's hall has been completed. Since the purchase there has been quite a lot to do with bookings, invoicing and meeting with contractors etc.

The Garden Safari went very well despite the weather being a little unsettled, 401 people attended plus children which were slightly down on the previous year. There was £723.31 in donations, £92 on the raffle and £59 from the quiz. Total profit so far is £1,868. The feedback, as always, was very good and everyone seemed to have enjoyed the day. Thanks to all who opened their gardens and also to the helpers and Cllrs Hobbs, Davis, Blatherwick and Nicholson who all helped on the day.

Because I was on holiday by the time I had responses from members all the places on the Councillors KALC Training day had gone, I am told there will be another one in the autumn.

Folkestone Academy had again requested to use the track for 2 days earlier this week and the clerk told members that she had arranged for Billy one of the BMX club members to be there to help with training etc. Unfortunately Billy had a serious accident at Hersden while practising the day before and was airlifted to King's College hospital, where he still is. Thankfully the BMX club were great, they sorted out people to attend and help with the training on Monday & Tuesday and all went well. The clerk told members that she was really grateful to them for sorting it all out and of course wished Billy all the best. You have all received a copy of the report on the clerk's day please say if there are any queries. Clerks are very lucky in this area as there is a good network of clerks who are always willing to help each other out and especially Lilliana at Sturry who is probably the most experienced and well qualified clerk in the Canterbury District. Cllr Day told members that he would also like to say how much help Lilliana had given him when he was studying for the 'Working with your Council' course. She was extremely helpful and he appreciated the time she had given him.

An email from a resident asking if the parish council could discourage people from feeding the gulls, as they are disrupting their everyday living. There was a suggestion that a plastic owl helps to keep the gulls away. Cllr Davis will put something on the web site and in the newsletter asking residents not to feed them. Cllr Sargent arrived at this point.

- 153/11 **Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** Cllr Hobbs reported on the KALC meeting, the speaker was CCC leader John Gilbey who spoke about the changes and challenges facing the council. He spoke about the proposals to hold referendums and was asked who would bear the cost. He didn't answer the question but told those present that the way forward was consultation and discussion. He also said that social housing was not meant to be for life. One of the big concerns in Canterbury was pollution and traffic. CCC majority had gone from 8 to 25 following the election. Cllr Hobbs told members there was also a report on Manston and the Marlowe Theatre was to be open for a public viewing in October.
- 154/11 **To report on Youth Club.** Cllr Taylor reported that the club had its last meeting until September and finished with a pizza supper. They now had 3 new volunteers. The equipment had been moved into the left hand back room in the hall. The club starts back on 14th September.
- 155/11 **To update members on the progress of the lease for the allotment site.** The clerk told members that she had heard from the solicitor with some queries on the lease and agreement with the Allotment Society. The details only arrived this afternoon and neither the clerk nor Cllr Davis has had a chance to go through it in detail. Things are moving, although slowly.
- 156/11 **To discuss the future of the Standards Board and voluntary system for the future.** Cllr Day told members that the Standards Board would definitely go and as can be seen from CCC report they will not take over any responsibility for parishes. The most likely outcome will be that parishes will self police. Cllr Day suggested that the council needs to look at putting together its own code for the future. This could be done for the Policy Review meeting. This was agreed.
- 157/11 **To discuss producing a Community Assets register** It was agreed that residents would contact Cllr R Jones with their ideas as to what they would like to see on the asset register. Cllr Davis will put an article in the newsletter asking residents for their input.
- 158/11 **To discuss the Wildlife Area in Cherry Orchard.** Cllr Blatherwick was approached by residents who were concerned about safety issues in the wildlife area, mainly the pond and its proximity to the play area. The clerk told members that CCC had looked at this issue in great details and did not consider it to be dangerous. Neither they nor the parish council owned the land and could not just take it over. It was not really being looked after and members asked the clerk to report the issue to enforcement. The clerk will also try and contact the developers to find out about the current position .
- 159/11 **To discuss St Paul's Hall and receive report from the Community Centre Committee.** Cllr Davis covered what was in the minutes of the Committee meeting. The clerk has been taking bookings and payments as well as giving out keys. An advert has been put in the notice boards, advertising for someone to take this over. It was agreed someone would be employed at £6.25ph initially for 4 hours a week. They will be responsible for booking, giving out keys, unlocking and locking and cleaning. The committee will interview any applicants and appoint the one they think most suitable. This was agreed.
- The change of name was discussed in some detail and it was finally decided that it would be called Herne Community Centre. This will go some way to stopping any confusion with the church's Herne Institute hall. Residents will be asked in the questionnaire if they approve the name and to suggest any alternatives. Cllr Davis and the clerk spent time at the hall sorting out any items that might have re-sale value. The clerk has met with contractors to obtain quotes for lighting, new gas heater, and door repairs as well as gutter clearance, and removal of old flue pipe and drop down posts at the entrance to the car park. There was much discussion on whether local trades people should be asked to help with this work in order to reduce costs. The clerk pointed out that the parish council was legally obliged to bring the hall up to standard and that needed to be done fairly quickly. There had also been funds included in the maintenance budget for this type of repair work. It was agreed that Cllr Nicholson would ask some of the local trades people he know if they would be

willing to contribute the labour. He will contact the clerk and let her know the outcome. The work will be progressed as necessary and be overseen by the centre committee. The parish council has been offered 10 lightweight fold up tables and a trolley for storage for £500, this is about half the cost of the Go Pac ones, the clerk suggested purchasing and applying to Manston Community fund to see if we could get a grant. Cllr Jones will see if he can get the price reduced a bit more. In the draft minutes of the Community Centre meeting the clerk had suggested getting professional help for the consultation on the Community Centre. Cllr Day told members that if the parish council is to apply for grants then it is vital that the consultation process is carried out correctly. This was agreed in principle subject to the cost being confirmed. Cllr Davis told members that she thought it would be good to have a working party to clear all the rubbish away and the metal work could go to the scrap man and would earn a small amount. There was also some furniture which could be sold on ebay or advertised in Free-ads. Cllr Day asked for Terms of Reference to be prepared for the community centre committee. Cllr Moore asked about the allotment holders, Cllr Day told members the previous owners had given them notice and they were due to vacate in February 2012. It may be possible that they could stay on until a decision on what was happening was made. The clerk told members that the legal implications of this needed looking into before a decision was made. The clerk asked members if they would like her to write again to the owner of the allotment directly behind the hall, to attempt to purchase. Members approved this.

160/11 To propose items for the next agenda. Vegetation clearance

161/11 Members Reports. Cllr Moore reported the hedge needed cutting in Cherry Orchard. Cllr R Jones reported that the 1st Herne Bay Scouts had thanked the parish council for the use of the track, everyone had thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Cllr Hobbs reported on the Herne Bay in Bloom results, there were many successes in Herne & Broomfield particularly Herne Infants School who won a Gold in South & SE in Bloom and were voted the best in the County. Full details will be on the web site and in the newsletter. Cllr Harvey reported that Tony the licensee of the Gate Inn at Marshside will donate a meal voucher for the Funday.

162/11 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be on 11th August 2011 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed at 9-45pm