

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 8th September 2011 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

185/11 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. None from parish councillors. County Cllr Marsh will be late. City Cllrs Sonnex, Bissett and Vickery Jones are unable to attend.

186/11 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. Cllr Davis on item 202/11 a prejudicial interest.

187/11 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th August 2011. These were approved.

188/11 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. One spoke on a planning application.

189/11 **Chairman's Announcements.** The chairman introduced Peter Gray the Community Centre Manager to members. Peter was asked if he was happy with everything and was very positive about the job, and is settling in well.

190/11 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh told members that he had asked Chislehurst Parish Council to move their meeting to the first Thursday of the month so it didn't clash with Herne & Broomfield. The post on the crossing beacon outside Herne Post Office has been replaced by an illuminated one. The flashing speed sign in Canterbury Road has had to be replaced following the theft of the internal workings and electronics. If it happens again the sign may have to be permanently removed. Highways had suggested that the parish council might like to contribute towards the cost but County Cllr Marsh has told them they must cover the cost. The interactive speed signs are moved on a regular basis. Cllr Davis asked about the one near Curtis Wood Park Road and County Cllr Marsh told her this sign was permanent. Cllr Harvey asked if the information from the speed signs is retained, County Cllr Marsh confirmed that it is and is periodically downloaded and a percentile is used. He finished off by offering members free tickets to the Pantomime at Broadstairs which this year is Scrooge.

City Cllr Peter Vickery Jones has been in contact with the clerk and has asked her to pass on that he has been looking at two planning applications at the Old Nursery site and Blean Cottage in Bullockstone Road. The planning officers concerned are minded to approve both applications.

191/11 **Police Matters/Crime report.** PCSO Sue Radcliffe reported that a Street briefing was to be held in Streetfield on 27th September. There had been an increase in metal thefts and she asked that residents be vigilant and if they see anything suspicious to call the police. She has also been dealing with nuisance quad and motorbikes, part of the problem is that residents don't call at the time the anti social behaviour is happening and often wait until after it has stopped. She needs them to contact her when the problem is taking place. Sue told members that she had not been able to attend the fun day as she was on annual leave but reports from the 2 PCSO's who did attend indicated they both enjoyed the day. Cllr Davis asked about a vehicle advertised for sale which is on a footpath. Sue will look into this.

192/11 **Wardens Report.** Tom Daley is not able to attend tonight.

193/11 **Planning and Highways matters.** Receive minutes of Planning & Highways meeting held on 18th August. Copies have been circulated. The clerk reported that she

had attended the Kitewood consultation at Reculver School. The consultation itself was very badly organised with only one copy of the plans available, apparently because they did not think many people would attend! The representatives who were there explained that they could not afford to install the footbridge at Blacksole because the business park was not making any money, but as soon as they got planning consent for the proposed development at Hillborough they would put the footbridge in immediately. Cllr Moore told members he had also attend the consultation and agreed with the clerks comments. He also told members that Kitewood were claiming that Network Rail was going to charge £600,000 to install a bridge over the railway line. The clerk reported that City Cllr Vickery Jones had spoken with Network Rail and they had not been in negotiations with Kitewood and therefore have not quoted a figure for this. Cllr Vickery Jones stated that it could all be done for approx £250,000.

194/11 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Martin Broyad, Darts winner £20.

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. Flower tub sponsorship £125, Adverts £253.34, Fun Day £2,425.18, Bank Interest £1.10, KCC Gate Post £180, Photocopying £6.05 and Community Centre £678.91. Total £3,820.83.

Discuss quotes for disabled access at Community Centre. The clerk has received 2 quotes to date and has one more company to come and look and quote for the work.

The clerk told members that of the contractors was extremely knowledgeable about the DDA legislation when he came to look and although the quote was slightly more, she recommended that this quote should be accepted, subject to another company who have been asked to look at the work and whose quote should be received next week. It was agreed that the clerk would be delegated to make the final decision on whose quote will be accepted.

195/11 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis had organised a Family Walk in Curtis Wood Park and she had also looked at a couple of tree work applications.

196/11 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. The clerk reported that it had been a very busy month with meeting and dealing with contractors and the Fun day. The clerk reported that the berms at the BMX track had now been tarmaced just in time for the Regional finals on Sunday. There has been an issue with a member of BMX club, Billy O'Mar who had the accident at Hersden. Apparently he has been seeking litigation over his accident. Due to his actions East Kent BMX Club have revoked his membership after taking advice from British Cycling. Billy rang the office complaining about the action that had been taken as they had refused to let him train at last night's meeting. The clerk explained that any actions taken by the club were nothing to do with the parish council and that they had no influence over their committee. The clerk suggested he contact British Cycling if he wished to take the matter further.

Deacon Landscape has been on site putting in new fence posts to support the rotten ones in order to make it safe. The clerk reported that she had completed and returned the Concurrent funding grant and had included an amount of £6,500 towards the maintenance cost for Broomfield Community Park. The new heater and lights have been installed in the Community Centre and the new doors should be fitted in the next week, weather permitting. The company that fitted the heater also repaired the hole in the wall. The bookings for the hall have improved with it being booked every night except the third Wednesday of the month. Daytime bookings are very low and perhaps the council should think of ways of increasing usage. The clerk finished her report by asking people to be vigilant with the travellers being moved off the site in Essex in the next couple of weeks, it is reported that they could travel to Kent. PCSO Sue Radcliffe told members that if any caravans are spotted trying to access land then the police should be called immediately as they can prevent them from going on the land, whereas they have no right to remove them once they are sited.

197/11 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council. Cllr Hobbs reported that she had attended the S & SE in Bloom meeting and was pleased to

announce that Herne Bay had received a Gold Award this year, not only that they were voted top in the region and their category. The Memorial Park had received a Bronze Award and the Allotments at Eddington were voted the best in the region. Cllr Hobbs told members Colleen and all the volunteers had worked really hard this year to achieve the gold award.

198/11 To report on Youth Club Cllr Taylor reported that the youth club start back on 14th September, she had been told that a table top football game might be available from a local resident. Another volunteer was coming along to the next meeting. There were two volunteers going for first aid training and it is hoped to run some hygiene training sessions as one of the volunteers is trained to both this and Safeguarding training.

199/11 To update members on the progress of the lease for the allotment site. As Cllr Davis will confirm the proposed lease came back but still with mistakes and a query as to whether the Church wish to sell the land and the term of the lease being 7 years instead of 25 as it wasn't registered with the land registry. The alterations have been made again and the clerk thanked Cllr Davis who has been through it carefully, and it has been returned to the parish council's solicitor and to the church's solicitor. Cllr Day told members that the work that the solicitors had done was really unacceptable for the length of time that it has taken.

200/11 To discuss CCC's approach regarding advertising of community events. Cllr Moore told members that there had again been problems with advertising banners, this time the one on the fence at Cherry Orchard itself. Cllr Moore was contacted by the clerk to see if he could put the banner on his fence, unfortunately it was too big and the clerk then got permission from Strode Part to put it at their entrance. The clerk was told that because the people who had hired Cherry Orchard a couple of weeks prior to the Fun Day had had their banner taken down, the parish council could not have its Fun Day banner up. After the clerk had removed it she contact Cllr Sonnex who tried and couldn't get CCC officers to budge. The clerk contacted Cllr Vickery Jones who on the Friday got permission for it to go back up, although not officially apparently. The clerk suggested that something needs to be done about this ridiculous situation. Perhaps a representative could attend the next HAMP meeting to try and get members to change their position on this and ensure that officers follow councillors wishes. Perhaps all CCC members could be sent a letter complaining about the unnecessary bureaucracy with regard to advertising a Community event which is run for the benefit of the community. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to all CCC members asking members to change the policy to look more favourably on organisations advertising community events. Cllr Moore suggested getting Estate agent type boards made up and ask people to put them in their gardens.

201/11 To receive report from the Environment & Leisure meeting and report on Fun Day. Copies of the E & L report have been circulated. Cllr Nicholson was asked for an update on youth council as he had been unable to attend the E & L meeting. He told members that the response had not been good so far. He will be having meetings with those who had shown an interest so far.

The Fun Day this year was a huge success, helped greatly by the weather. Thanks to the many volunteers, the setting up went smoothly and everything was ready in plenty of time. There were many volunteers who stayed all day to help and those who manned stalls during the afternoon. Those who had come to set up in the morning came back at the end to help dismantle and put everything away. This event would not be possible without all these people coming along to help. Chestfield Rotary sent members to look after the parking in Strode Park and they did a great job.

Members of the public arrived in droves, the clerk thought it is probably the best attendance we have ever had. Unfortunately Miss Herne Bay was unwell and did not attend but her Maids of Honour did come along and opened the event. The two Folk Bands were very popular.. It was just loud enough to be heard without being overpowering and people eating and drinking were able to enjoy them. There were about 80 Classic Cars turned up on the day which was excellent. Marshside Pony Club did pony rides during the afternoon and the Star Wars characters were very well received and must have been very hot in their costumes. The Go Karts and little train were on the go the whole afternoon and the fun races were once again very successful and most importantly fun was had by all who took part, and once again there was

cheating going on!

Herne Bay Fire Brigade managed to stay all afternoon and the Police attended with their van and many of the children were locked in the back, they were let out again, and they were allowed to play with the sirens. Apologies to nearby neighbours for the noise!

There were a good number of entries for the dog show and I would like to say a big thank you to the two dog clubs for their hard work on the day. Pip the Clown was, as always, kept busy all afternoon and the two face painters were also busy from start to finish. Kent Warriors Karate Club did two excellent demonstrations and the Birds of Prey flying display was as popular as ever. Thanks also to Will Lee who came along and did some football sessions in the ball court during the afternoon. Paul Parker as always did a great job on the PA.

Thanks to Cllr Brealby for providing straw bales as seating and for use in the Agility Ring. Apart from two councillors who were on holiday and one that was working, all the councillors were there to help on the day.

There were lots of stalls with a wide variety of goods for sale and games to play. The Auction did not do quite as well as was hoped and there may need to be a different format for next year. The Barrow of Booze did very well and it certainly makes a difference being able to wheel it round and sell tickets to stall holders etc. Thanks also to City Cllr Peter Vickery Jones for making the Splat the Rat game and for sorting out the water for the scouts to use. I would also like to thank Sue Davis for taking responsibility for the stalls and helping with the fun races.

Although there was a large attendance people weren't spending a lot of money but overall the profit on the day was up. The predicted profit will be in the region of just over £3,000, so is higher than last year which was about £2,000. All the costs involved had been covered by sponsorship and grants so any money taken on the day was profit. Cllr Davis asked that it be minuted that the council would like to thank Monica and her partner Mark for all their help on the fun day.

202/11 To discuss quotes for consultation on Community Centre and any updates on bookings and how the new manager is settling in and discuss making his hours 18 per month rather than 4 per week.

Cllr Davis left the room at this point. Members discussed the two quotes obtained by the clerk for carrying out the consultation, the clerk gave members the details of each quote and price comparisons. Cllr Moore proposed that the quote from Sue Davis be accepted, he told members that the council had worked with her on previous occasions, she had given good advice and she is good at what she does. The approximate cost for the first part of the consultation is £3,680. Sue will set up a Facebook page, a survey on Survey Monkey and put together a questionnaire initially. This will be followed by public meetings and she will also visit groups and local organisations to talk to them about the consultation. She will work with the Community Centre Committee on getting the consultation started. This was agreed. Cllr Davis was asked to return at this point.

A relative of the clerk has offered to hold a fund raising event for the Community Hall on 1st October. She sells Giftware and would give a donation of sales to the Community Centre and we would also hold a raffle and do refreshments which would help to raise funds. It would give an early opportunity to speak with residents and get some views on what they would like to see done at the centre. The Community Centre is not available on 1st October another date will need to be set. The committee agreed that an event would be a good way of starting the consultation and it would be open to people to sell crafts, local goods etc.

The clerk asked members to round up the hours for Peter Gray as he was paid monthly not weekly. This equates to an additional 8 hrs per annum. This was agreed.

The clerk gave a report on two new halls recently opened in nearby villages and one older one. There are two new halls that have been opened recently in the area one at Wootton and one at Dunkirk. Both of these committees were happy for members to go and speak with them. The building at Dunkirk was put up by Mylcris Builders and the one at Wootton was purchased from Lithuania. The whole build was done for £250,000 but some of the work was carried out by local residents and they also supplied caravans and food for the Lithuanian workers. The hall at Petham, which was opened about 4 years ago, cost about £700,000. Grants were received from

- KCC and CCC with substantial donations from local residents. The hall is run as a registered charity and the hall committee is made up of local user groups.
- 203/11 To discuss picnic benches for Cherry Orchard.** CCC would be willing to install but don't have any funding for these. It was agreed that no further action would be taken on this as not all residents supported having more picnic benches.
- 204/11 To discuss Vegetation clearance on pavements and gulley's etc.** Cllr Day has received complaints about the state of the pavements and roads with the amount of weeds. Cllr Day wondered whether it should be parish council policy to keep the streets clean and tidy. There would obviously be a cost to the council if this was to happen. Cllr Davis didn't agree with this being done as it was double taxation and she thought residents should help to keep the areas outside their own properties tidy if at all possible. It was agreed to lobby Highways regarding the state of the road.
- 205/11 To discuss the possibility of employing someone to carry out work around the parish.** The clerk explained that if the council could look at employing someone initially for a couple of hours a week, to do things like the equipment inspections, litter pick empty litter bin at Broomfield and fill dog bag bin etc it would relieve her. This person could also keep an eye on things around the parish like street name plates, white lines etc. and grit some areas during bad weather. There was a suggestion that the hall manager might be willing to do this on top of his other duties. As he was at the meeting he confirmed he would be willing. It was agreed that he would start at the beginning of October and be given an extra 2 hours a week for this work.
- 206/11 Members Reports.** Chris Tobin suggested a calendar as a way to raise funds for the Community Centre. Cllr Davis told members that it would be too late for this year but it was possible that a competition for pictures could be held early next year. This could go to next E&L meeting.
Cllr Sargent reported that a friend of his had had a narrow escape on Blacksole Bridge.
Cllr Davis reported she had received another complaint about car repairs being carried out at the Birches, this had been passed to the enforcement officer.
Cllr Hobbs reported that the SE in Bloom judges were very impressed with Sea Street roundabout, the allotments and cemetery and especially Curtis Wood Park.
- 207/11 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be on 13th October 2011 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.**

Meeting closed 9.40pm