

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Herne Mill, Mill Lane, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7DR

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at Herne Mill, Wootton Room, on Thursday 9th August 2012 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Day, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Davis, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Tobin, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Tracey Jones, Cllr Robert Jones, and Cllr Nicholson.

Absent: Cllr Brealy, Cllr Moore and Cllr Sargent.

- 173/12** To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllrs Brealy and Sargent who are both working, Cllr Moore who is unwell. City Cllrs Vickery Jones & Bissett who are attending an event at Canterbury Cricket Club. Member's apologies and reasons were accepted. County Cllr Marsh will be late as he is attending the Chislet meeting first.
- 174/12** To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. None
- 175/12** The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2012 were agreed as a correct and accurate record.
- 176/12** To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The cheque has been received from Taylor Wimpey for the wildlife area.

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

- 177/12** **Chairman's Announcements.** None

178/12 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh brought the members attention to the new Age UK Advocacy Service and he left details with the clerk. He reported that he had accessed some of the additional funding from central government which was allocated for roads. There will be work carried out in Fordwich, Sturry and Hoath. He told members the tickets for the pantomime 'Puss in Boots' were going quickly and he had reserved more seats. He told members that any new development in the area should result in the parish getting S 106 money and that the parish council needs to work with City and Kent County Councillors to make sure it is received. He has received a complaint from a resident in the slip road in Canterbury Road about vehicles parking and making it difficult to get in and out of the driveway. County Cllr Marsh explained the history of the situation and said it was very unlikely anything would be done. He told members that he would support Little Acorns by giving them £400 if the clerk would like to apply on their behalf. City Cllr Sonnex reported that the bus shelter outside Herne church would have the panels replaced with toughened glass. She has also reported graffiti on the shelter opposite Strode Park. The hedge in Mill Lane by the bus stop opposite Woodrow Chase has been cut. There was a problem on 1st August with some of the recycling and garden rubbish not being collected. Cllr Davis asked if item 190/12 could be brought forward as a representative from Little Acorns was in attendance. This was agreed.

- 179/12** **Police Matters/Crime report.** *'Sorry that I am not able to be with you this evening. I am happy to say that I have now finished with my Olympic duties. Due to some staff being sent to the Olympics', we all have to cover the short fall. This means that we are all pulling together to cover the whole area of Kent. To date I have not been sent too far, but it has meant that I am currently not spending as much time in Herne and Broomfield but I know you are in safe hands with Warden Gary, who I am sure will make me aware of any problems etc. Recently there was a break in, to a resident's house, while they were on holiday which resulted in a person being arrested for burglary. I cannot give details as the case is currently open. I am aware that Gary has stated in his reports that he has done some crime visits. I need to link in with him on these as his crime figures for the area appear to be higher than the ones that are reported to the Police. I intend on linking in better with Gary after the Olympics' once staff are returned to area.*

Having said this it may be a case of a bit after that, as staff have been restricted on leave over these last few months so some may be taking a well earned rest after their long days on duty etc.

I would like to ask if it would be possible for me to use the hall once a month to hold a surgery for people to have the opportunity to call in and see me. Or if you have any ideas on other venues that would encourage people to bring their concerns to the Police.

If you have any questions or problems please feel free to contact me.

I am on leave from 1st September and returning on 18th September so I think I shall most likely not be at the next parish council meeting. Unless, of course you wish to hold the meeting on my cruise ship somewhere in the Mediterranean.....

Thank you to everyone for your support'.

180/12 KCC Wardens Report. *'My apologies that I cannot be there tonight but due to a shift mix up I am working different hours today.*

Since my last report I have been more proactive in crime reduction with a large number of visits to homes in the area to allay the fear of crime with advice being given on keeping homes secure. This also includes keeping vehicles locked when parked on drive ways.

I'm also working with some residents in Lower Herne Road to try and tackle some traffic problems and am waiting for the highways safety team to get back to me on some possible solutions and advice.

I've reported a further 29 highways problems and there have been a number of previously reported items now completed. My relationship with the highways stewards is gaining ground and this will help with further work in the area and in the next few weeks I shall be spending a day out on patrol with highways officers to see how best I can help both them and this parish.

I've been involved with the reported Anti Social Behaviour problems at Cherry Orchard and have met recently with the NTG to discuss a solution which hopefully will be sooner rather than later.

The last month I have been on patrol on average 34 hours a week keeping admin to a minimum. I have been working later each day to engage with local youths, with great success so far, since I was even offered some chips by some of them!

I will be on annual leave from the 20th August to 3rd September so any phone calls will go through to my duty supervisor.'

181/12 Planning and Highways matters. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2012 and discuss any issues. All members had received a copy and they were approved. Cllr Ann Blatherwick talked about the proposals for development in the parish that had been highlighted by Adrian Verril, this matter will be discussed at the next planning meeting. The committee had raised concerns regarding the change of conditions for one of the units at the nursery site. The clerk reported that the application for the Upper Red Lion had been received and will be considered at the Planning meeting on 16th August. The new owners have also said the parish council can have the blackboard on the wall outside to use to advertise events in the parish. This will need to have a board above with Herne & Broomfield Parish Council on it. Members approved this. The agent had also confirmed that they would try to retain the pub sign outside.

182/12 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. None

To resolve the approval of payments presented at this meeting; to approve bank reconciliation and earmarked reserves as supplied. The payments were approved and bank reconciliation accepted.

To report on income received. VAT refund £394.86, Newsletter adverts £450, Funday £120, Jubilee £64, Bank interest £1.33, Youth Club £150, Hall hire £687.91. Total £1868.10

To receive the minutes of the Finance & Resources meeting held on 19th July 2012. All members had received a copy.

To discuss the consultation on changes to the way payments are made. Cllr Jones explained that the legislation was set to change and that currently there was a consultation to get council views. The biggest change was to remove the requirement for two signatures. This will enable payments to be made by card or direct bank transfer etc it is aimed at allowing for modern methods of payment. Members approved the change. Cllr Jones told members that there would

be requirements for internal checks to be made to ensure, as much as possible, against any fraud.

To receive the report on the Annual Return. The Annual Return has come back without any comments from the Auditor.

- 183/12 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report** Cllr Davis reported that a request to fell trees in Forgefields has been received and she has also reported problems with the tree in the car park at the mill which the clerk has passed on to KCC. Curtis Wood Park has been awarded the Green Flag once again. Judges from both Britain in Bloom and Herne Bay in Bloom have attended the area and Cllr Davis put together a folder with as much information as possible for them to take away. Cllr Hobbs thanked Cllr Davis for doing this.
- 184/12 Clerk's Report /Correspondence.** The clerk thanked Cllr Harvey for opening and closing community centre while Peter Gray was off sick and also thanked Cllr Davis for getting the newsletters to the printers on time and also for all the work she has done to date for the fun day. She has organised most of the prizes, the tombola's and the advertising of the event. Preparations are on track for the funday, the gazebos have been checked over to make sure they are all ok and have the right accessories with them. Some new signs have been purchased for the A frames and the boards at Strode Farm and two saying fun day and slow for use on the day. Hopefully there will be enough helpers on the day. Stall bookings are still being taken. The caravan has been moved to Cllr Davis house to be filled up with the equipment for the fun day and prizes etc have been purchased. Bottles, books and tombola prizes have been donated by residents, thanks to them for their donations and of course to councillors who have also brought their donations in to the office.
- The newsletters have all gone out without any hitches.
- Talk Talk are withdrawing the current email address from December. The clerk is trying to get the new one set up as soon as possible.
- 185/12 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, Standards Board etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** None
- 186/12 To report on Youth Council meeting.** Next meeting is on 15th September and flyers will be produced to be given out on the Funday.
- 187/12 To approve minutes of Environment & Leisure meeting held on 2nd August 2012.** All members had received a copy, these were approved.
- 188/12 To report on the meeting held with residents of St Martin's View on 3rd August the meeting for residents of Chapel Row on 8th August.** Cllr Day congratulated Cllr Davis on the way she had dealt with the residents at the two meetings. Cllr Davis told members that so far there had been two meetings and there was one left to go which would be on 31st August. The meeting for the residents of St Martin's View was attended by 9 residents and observed by some parish councillors who were not on the committee, they did not take any part in the meeting. One of the non council committee members took notes. The issues raised were that they did not want a community centre in the middle of Herne and it should be in Broomfield as requested in the Parish Plan results; it was explained that all efforts had been made to purchase land in Broomfield but this had not been possible. A question on the need for secrecy was answered, it was explained that it was commercial confidentiality and that the parish council wished to retain the hall as a community building and there were two other people who would have purchased given the chance. One resident told members that she had called the police to a disturbance at the hall about 3 months previously. The police do not have a record of this. Complaints were received about the band practise, they have not been allowed to practise in the hall since the beginning of the year. There were questions about access and the type of traffic allowed to access, it was explained that access is access. Questions were asked about timescales and the allotment plots, whether the hall had a license to sell alcohol and whether hand tools could be used for work in the area, as one of the residents has an autistic child. The young people attending the youth club were accused of drinking when they left and of littering the allotments. Cllr Taylor explained that all youngsters were collected by their parents at the end of the session and she had never seen any evidence of the youngsters drinking alcohol or leaving litter behind. The meeting held for the residents of Chapel Row raised questions regarding where the co-opted members of the committee lived (two live close to the hall). Initially no-one stated they had any concerns and one resident stated he did not want to say

what his concerns were as the council may deal with them. Questions again about why a new building could not be built in Broomfield, noise issues, why the allotments could not be retained, access into the site from Chapel Row, a request to keep the boundary secure, they did not want any overlooking or a smoking area near Chapel Row. Someone mentioned a Right of Way through the middle of the site into Chapel Row, Cllr Davis responded that this had been rescinded and she had seen the paperwork.

189/12 Update on Allotments. Quotes for fencing are being sought by the committee and they have successfully applied for a grant of £500 from CCC.

190/12 Update on Wildlife Area. The clerk has reported that the funding of £25,000 for looking after the area has been received. Cllr Davis met with Michelle Jones who is the manager of Little Acorns to discuss what they have in mind for the Woodland School. The meeting was adjourned to hear from Michelle about the plans for Little Acorns to take over the wildlife area and run it as a Woodland School. Resuming the meeting members discussed what they had heard and issues regarding the closing off of the area to ensure the safety of the children were discussed and approved. Cllr Davis suggested the pond be filled in and would become a bog area which would make it safer for the children using it. It is intended that the area would be used by all the schools in the area as well as guides and scout groups etc. The idea is to encourage as many young people as possible to learn about their environment and look after it. It is also hoped that it would become accessible for residents of Strode Park. Little Acorns has two Forestry School Leaders who work with the children. They have currently used Curtis Wood Park but it is a long way to walk some of the children, some as young as two. The aim would be to hold open days and open for the Garden Safari to enable residents to see what improvements have been made. Cllr Davis told members that over the last 10 years little work has been done in the area and it is in a sorry state with broken gates and trees that need inspecting. It was agreed that an agreement will be put together between Little Acorns and the parish council which will allow them to manage the area on behalf of the parish council, initially for 1 year. The parish council now has responsibility for the area and will need to ask a tree surgeon to inspect the trees in there and quote for work that needs to be carried out. Quotes will also be required to install new gates etc. Little Acorns have a gardener who would be able to help with the work in the area and deal with general maintenance. Cllr Davis reported that residents in School Lane had made entrances into the wildlife area from their gardens and were dumping garden refuse, it may therefore be necessary to install a new fence along that section. Members requested that once formal agreement was in place Little Acorns would send a report at the end of each term on their progress etc.

191/12 To amend Standing Orders to take account of new Code of Conduct. All members have received an amended copy of Standing Orders and the amendments were approved.

192/12 To approve the proposed expenditure for developer contributions. Following discussions with Richard Griffiths at CCC the recommendation for the allocated funding is as follows Football Coaching Sessions £389, Improvements to Community Park £3,044, Resurfacing of MUGA £3969, a total of £7,402. Members approved these allocations.

193/12 Members Reports. Cllr Hobbs reported that the mural was being painted on the walls t the bandstand at that the artist was only charging for materials used. The troughs in the village do not appear to have been watered, the clerk has contacted Serco. The planter at Broomfield has been sat on and the plants squashed. The duck sign was removed from its post the post is missing but the sign was left behind. Cllr Harvey reported a lot of litter at BMX track on Thursday morning. Cllr Nicholson reported that he had read through the new Code of Conduct and asked if there was a dress code for meetings. Cllr Day told him no. Cllr Nicholson thanked Cllr Tobin for supplying some lights for the Santa Float.

194/12 The next meeting of the parish council, will be held on 13th September 2012 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.

Meeting closed 9.05pm