

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 December 2012 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Davis, Cllr Robert Jones, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Tobin, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Brealy and Cllr Moore.

Cllr Blatherwick chaired the meeting in Cllr Days absence.

- 265/12 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons.** Cllr Hobbs who is away, Cllr Tracey Jones who is working and Cllr Day who is working. Reasons were accepted. City Cllr Sonnex was unwell.
- 266/12 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and any requests received for a dispensation.** The clerk reported that all members had received a dispensation to set the budget item 280/12. Cllrs Brealy & Sargent prejudicial interest on item 273/12, Cllr Davis item 274/12 personal interest.
- 267/12 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 8th November 2012.** These were approved.
- 268/12 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** Cllr Davis reported that following discussions with Little Acorns the vehicle access gate would be removed and replaced with chain link and new pedestrian and vehicular access gates would be installed behind the outdoor fitness equipment. This would make it easier for the children to access the area and the toilets. The cost worked out slightly below what council had agreed. The work will be carried out in the new year.

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.

None present.

Helen Bennington talked about the new waste recycling scheme to be introduced in 2013. Helen told members there would be a new bin with an insert, the insert would take paper and cardboard and the rest of the bin would be for glass, plastic and cans. There will also be two food bins one quite small for use in the kitchen, the other slightly larger which will go out for collection weekly. Residents are advised to mark their new bins. No one will be forced to have new bins if they don't want them. There are plans for collections for batteries and textiles; no date has been set for these yet. Helen also told members that there is an assisted collection scheme for those who have difficulties getting their bins out. Helen is willing to attend any local groups or organisations to talk about the new scheme.

- 269/12 Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.
- 270/12 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh reported that he had attended the Joint Transport Board meeting and the Westgate Towers were discussed. It appeared that many people were opposed to the trial continuing. 3,500 responses objecting to it had been received. County Cllr Marsh suggested that there was a simple solution to the problem and that was to allow cars only to use the towers and make heavy goods vehicles and buses use the current route. He was sure that KCC could work with Canterbury to try and resolve the problem. He warned members that Canterbury City Council seemed determined to just class Herne & Broomfield as part of Herne Bay. Cllr Davis told County Cllr Marsh that the web site hosting was falling behind modern technology and needed some updating. He told members that some changes were due to be made to improve it but any problems to email him the details. Cllr Brealy asked about the fly tipping issues and County Cllr Marsh told members that KCC are saying that Canterbury are not reporting an increase in fly tipping and that it does not appear to be a problem. He suggested that anyone with issues re fly tipping should contact the new Police Commissioner Ann Barnes. Cllr Davis reported that there would be heavy vehicles using Braggs Lane as there was felling of the conifers planned for West Blean Woods. She asked who would be responsible for any damaged caused to Braggs Lane. County Cllr Marsh confirmed the contractors would be responsible.

City Cllr Sonnex has sent a written report, 'I was informed by a local resident that a very large branch of a tree in the church garden had come down in the storms. It had taken several other branches with it and was blocking the footpath. I contacted the church warden who came out and made it safe.

On Sunday 24th November whilst walking along Margate Rd by Gothic House there was a significant amount of broken glass in amongst dense fallen leaves. I contacted Serco as it was obviously a hazard to both dogs, and children walking to playschool the next morning. Serco cleared the footpath when they emptied the adjacent bin later that morning.

There seems to be a huge increase in dog fouling. On one morning there were six piles within 200 metres in Margate Rd and three piles outside one particular house in The Meadows. The darker mornings and evenings are probably to blame.

There seem to be a number of cars parking on the junction with The Plough, even parking round the perimeter of the roundabout. Parking this close to the roundabout is obviously creating a hazard.

I am pleased to see the slip road between Margate Rd and Eddington Roundabout has been resurfaced. It is a vast improvement and was desperately needed.

There has been a serious flood/ice issue on the A 291 by the junction with Busheyfields Rd. I contacted KHS yesterday and by 10-30am this morning received a return phone call from them. They have informed me the main carrier drain was blocked, hence why water was not draining away from the road and creating a hazard to users. I have been advised the drain has been cleared and further remedial work is planned for the future to help prevent this recurring. My I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.'

271/12 Police Matters/Crime report. No police report.

272/12 Wardens Report. Gary supplied a written report.

'Apologies for not being here tonight.

Another busy month with a good number of highways reports going in and with some jobs actually getting done! I'm forging good links with some highways inspectors which will help in the long run.

There have been a lower number of neighbour disputes to deal with this month which is great and the ones from last month have nearly all been resolved! Good news!

I have received some ongoing training from KCC about the Winter Warm project run by Age UK so feel equipped to deal with any elderly people in the area who need help from various agencies. Please let me know if there is anyone you are concerned about during these cold winter months.

I have kept up evening patrols around the Curtis wood areas and so far it seems as though it has been quiet.

The bench at the top of cherry orchard has been removed now and the anti social behaviour there has dramatically dropped off with only the occasional problem being reported to me. I have urged all residents with any concern to call 101 numbers and get it logged to build up a picture of the problems and this seems to be happening now.

I have continued to forge good relationships with the infant school and have been working hard to try and sort out the serious parking problems there in the mornings.

I finish work for Christmas on the 21st December and return on the 2nd January.

I wish you all a very good Christmas and have a blessed and safe time.'

273/12 Planning and Highways matters. To receive minutes of the planning meeting held on 6th December and discuss any issues raised. To discuss the reports on meetings with developers, Hollamby Estates and Quinn Estates. Cllrs Brealby and Sargent left the room while the Hollamby Estates land was discussed. Cllr Blatherwick went over the reports that had been sent out by the clerk regarding the meetings. She raised the issue of the by-pass which everyone had thought would be a new road; this now did not appear to be the case. She also spoke about the proposals for the golf course and what would happen if Tesco did not get permission for a store, would the sports pitches still go ahead? The clerk and Cllr Blatherwick had met with the highways officers and it is hoped that they would also attend the meeting in the new year with Ian Brown and Adrian Verrill, a date has yet to be arranged. Two complaints were received about how icy the footpath to the school is. This was reported to highways, but they will not grit it. They have suggested the parish council could fund a new bin, if a suitable area can be found, for next year.

274/12 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. C. Bosworth £70 (Pip), J Nicholson £253.98, (Float lights etc) S Amos £160 (Hall roof repairs), Quasar4fun £95 (Youth club). These were approved.

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

To report on income received. Grant for underpass £250, advertising £350, bank interest £1.08, hall hire £546.88, hall donations £30, Total £1,177.96

Tree and Pond Warden donation £50 to BTCV. This item was deferred.

Accept minutes of Finance and Resources meeting of 6th November. These were accepted.

- 275/12 **Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported that there had been a tree planting day at Broomfield Community Park. She thanked Cllrs Brealy and Hobbs for attending alongside Broomfield Guides and volunteers from Friends of the Pond. Some tree felling work is due to start soon in West Blean Woods; some non native conifers are to be felled. There is to be a Blean Woodland festival around the end of May 2013.

- 276/12 **Clerk's Report /Correspondence.**

It's been a busy month with meetings and events.

The Remembrance Service was well attended and parish council chairman laid a wreath on behalf of residents.

A meeting was held with Hollamby Estates to get more information on the proposals for the possible development of Strode Farm. Following this the clerk told members that she was trying to set up a meeting with Ian Brown and Adrian Verrill to discuss the proposals before it goes to the City Council Executive for a decision. Cllr Blatherwick felt this was very important due to the highways issues, which raised particular concerns. A meeting was also held with Quinn Estates, this gives council members a good overview of the development of that area as a whole. The reports from both meetings have been distributed to members.

Cllrs Davis and Blatherwick had a meeting along with the clerk, with Peter Harkin from the builders GML; their architect also attended and spoke about what they could do for the Community Centre project. It is likely that a wish list will be sent to 3 or 4 companies to get an idea of what can go on the site and also a rough estimate of cost.

A tree planting day was held on 1st December at Broomfield Community Park 20 people attended along with Serco staff, thanks to Cllr Davis for organising people to attend and for overseeing things on the day. Any trees not planted by volunteers will be planted by Serco.

The presentation afternoon held on 2nd December went very well with about 55 people attending, the clerk thanked all the councillors who helped and supplied food. Cllr Day, Cllr Brealy, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Davis, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Hobbs (who did a great job with the raffle) and Cllr Tracey Jones. The raffle raised £39 for the Community Centre. A cheque for £1,098 was presented to Strode Park's representative Michelle Moxley, who then spoke about the difficult times and what Strode was hoping to achieve in the coming year.

Report on Children's party held on 9th December 2012

The party started at 3pm with Shout Disco who very kindly attended again this year, free of charge. The children, all 71 of them, were soon up and dancing and having a great deal of fun. After about 45 minutes the children sat down at the tables for something to eat and then were kept amused for almost an hour by Pip the Clown's Magic Show. Father Christmas was shouted in and then spoke and distributed a present to every child, this was also a great photo opportunity for the parents. The party finally finished at about 6pm and all children had been claimed by then! The clerk thanked all the helpers, Cllr Day's wife Sheila, Cllr Brealy's wife Pat, Cllr Davis, Cllr Hobbs and her husband Doug, Cllrs Tracey and Robert Jones, Cllr Blatherwick and her husband Tim and the two children, ex parish council chairman Bill Whiffen, Kay Hayward plus KCC warden supervisor Michelle Weston and her sister Collette who checked the children in and out. Most of the helpers arrived at 2pm to help set up and the hall was ready by 2.40pm just as the first of the children started to arrive. Cllr Robert Jones did a great job in the kitchen making teas and coffees and washing up; while all the other helpers made sure the children were behaving and sorting out visits to the toilet etc. Quite a few parents stayed and several offered to help during the clearing up stage.

Cllr Hobbs and Sheila Day provided the sandwiches, all the ham ones went very quickly and we put this down to the chairman's expert buttering skills! Cakes were provided by Cllr Taylor and Pat Brealy.

Father Christmas aka Peter Vickery-Jones did an excellent job once again. Thanks must also go to Cllrs Ian Sargent and John Nicholson and Paul Parker for their efforts with the float and especially Cllr Sargent who was asked at the very last minute if he could sort out a generator. The float looked magnificent with all its lights and glitter, music was provided by Shout. Following the distribution of the presents Father Christmas climbed aboard his sleigh and it then did a tour of Herne, finishing at about 7.45pm.

The float will tour Broomfield on 16th December from 4pm.

The clerk reported that she had successfully applied for grants of £150 towards the cost of the

children's party. Thanks to KCC Cllr Alan Marsh for £100 from his Community fund and £50 from Linda Hogan Trust has been received, despite being told no funding was available. The quiz night raffle raised £41 and donations of £47 on Sunday; means that the party cost about £40 which will come from the Community & Amenity Fund, but this may be covered by any donations given when the float tours Broomfield.

The mural in the underpass has now been completed and painted with anti graffiti paint. Ruairi needed to carry out the work mainly at weekends due to attending university, the clerk said she visited him on a couple of Sundays, to see how he was getting on, and kept an eye on the underpass in between in case of any further graffiti. While visiting, the clerk told members that several residents using the underpass asked if the other wall could be painted! The clerk had taken pictures which were shown to members. A donation of £1,000 from Crown Community Trust and one for £250 from KCC member Alan Marsh enabled the project to be completed. The parish council put in the shortfall of about £250 from the Community Fund.

The commemorative bench in memory of Dave Lee is ready for installation and hopefully will be in place in the next couple of weeks, quite a fitting time as it is now the Panto season. An official opening of the bench will take place and members of Dave's family will be invited to attend.

The Community Payback team are expected to start work on the area outside the Community Centre soon.

An updated quote for the water supply to be installed for the allotments has been received at a cost of £3,000. Chairman of the Allotment Society will contact Mr Brand to see if they would be allowed to run a supply from Community Park to the allotment field.

A complaint has been received from a resident in School Lane about closing the wildlife area to the public; her children like to play in there. Cllr Davis did speak to her and it was explained that it is designated as a Wildlife area and not part of the playground. However Little Acorns have been asked whether it is possible for the area to be accessible in the holidays.

The clerk had contacted Ann Barnes the new police Commissioner to see if she would attend the Annual Parish meeting, unfortunately she is away but has agreed to attend a public meeting later in the year. Suggestions for a speaker for the annual meeting were requested Kent's First Responders were suggested.

The office will be closed from Monday 24th Dec re-opening 2nd January 2013.

Finally the clerk wished all members a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

- 277/12 **Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, Standards Committee etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** KALC report had been sent to all members, there were no further comments. Cllrs Jones and Taylor attended the Street monitors meeting where they had a talk on the new recycling system and the new bins.
- 278/12 **To report on Youth Council.** Cllr Nicholson told members that only 1 youngster attended the last meeting but there is another meeting on 15th December and a new member will be attending.
- 279/12 **Report on Youth Club.** Cllr Taylor reported that the last meeting of the youth club was held at Lazer Rush and enjoyed by all. Cllr Taylor thanked Cllrs Jones and Harvey for all their support and of course, all the volunteers who had helped out over the years. Cllr Blatherwick thanked Cllr Taylor, on behalf of the council, for all her efforts over the years with the youth club.
- 280/12 **Receive draft minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on 20th November and set the precept for 2013-14.** The minutes were accepted. Cllr Jones explained that there was still no information regarding the changes to the Band D which could automatically raise the precept due to the cut in government grant, or whether the 2% increase would trigger a referendum. Members approved the precept figure of £94,785 and agreed to give the clerk delegated powers to adjust the precept figure down if it is going to trigger a referendum.
- 281/12 **To discuss the suggestion that Herne & Broomfield be dissolved and incorporated in a Herne Bay Town Council.** Cllr Davis reported that there was a lot of political infighting with councillors in Herne Bay and some seemed to want Herne & Broomfield included in a Town Council for Herne Bay. This council will have no more powers than a parish council; it will be exactly the same. The parish council needs to inform local residents that it is possible CCC could include Herne & Broomfield and to get their views. An article with questionnaire will go in the next newsletter to get a better idea of whether residents would like to be absorbed by Herne Bay. Cllr Jones told members that there were no guarantees that anyone from Herne or Broomfield would be on the Town Council and it was unlikely the interests of the parish would be high on a town council agenda if at all. Cllr Harvey asked about the property and leases held by the parish council, the clerk said she wasn't sure it seemed to be a very grey area but presumably it would be transferred. It was agreed to send a formal letter to the ward councillors

telling them that Herne and Broomfield did not wish to be included, Cllr Davis will also contacted the person who was trying to set up a town council and tell him the same. There was a suggestion that the parish could be extended to take in the whole ward.

282/12 Report on meeting with Stephanie Linham from Community Matters. Stephanie Linham from Community Matters met with Cllr Davis and the clerk, they have managed to find some funding to help the parish council put together a Management Plan for the Community centre. Stephanie travelled up from Southampton to attend the meeting and was here about 3 hours. She went through all the details and aims and said she would go back to Community Matters to see what funding they could make available and where they could help.

283/12 To discuss quotes for renewing fencing at rear of Community Centre. This item will be preceded by a resolution Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude the public and press due to the confidential nature of the business being discussed. There not being any members of the public present it was not necessary to exclude anyone. One of the quotes received had been for 4ft high fencing, although it had been requested that a 6ft fence be installed, the clerk was asked to check whether it was 4 or 6 and accept whichever quote was the cheapest for 6ft high.

284/12 Member's Reports. Cllr Davis said she would like to minute her appreciation to Debbie Bryant who organised the Christmas Fair in aid of the Community Centre. She also recommended that there needed to be some signage for the Community Centre. A representative from Blean Village Hall had attended as a stall holder and their committee had found a source of funding, which would match fund any monies raised. Cllr Davis suggested that Debbie be asked to attend the next community centre meeting. A resident had come out on the day of the fair and complained to stall holders that they were responsible for the state of the road (St Martin's View). Cllr Harvey suggested the parish council purchase a generator, the clerk said storage was an issue and it was only needed a couple of times a year. Cllr Brealy told members he was sure one could be borrowed when needed. Cllr Nicholson thanked the Broomfield Guides for their work on the float, especially Vicky Brown. Mobile phone messages were sent ahead of the float which meant more people knew it was coming and came out to meet it. Cllr Nicholson called for all parish councillors to have a CRB check and asked for it to go on the next agenda. There were also reports of the older children being a nuisance in the children's play area.

285/12 The next meeting of the parish council, will be held on 10th January 2013 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.

Meeting closed at 10.30pm