

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

- 022/12** To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Davis, visiting family, Cllr Robert Jones has had an operation on his leg. These reasons for absence were approved. PCSO Sue Radcliffe is on annual leave. City Cllrs Vickery Jones and Bissett.
- 023/12** To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. None.
- 024/12** The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2012 were agreed as a correct record.
- 025/12** 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.

4 Present 2 spoke.

- 026/12** **Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Day welcomed Peter Topley chair of Sturry Parish Council.

- 027/12** **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh reported that he had had a meeting with Wendy Le Las, the planning consultant the parish council has used previously and they had gone through possible options for objecting to the Tesco application when it arrives. He was also going to have a meeting with Sharon Thompson at County Hall. It was hoped that he will have a meeting in March with Greg Clark the Minister of State to discuss this issue. Obviously nothing can be done until the planning application has been received. County Councillor Marsh told members that he was working on behalf of HAT to get a road closure for the march which was planned for 26th February. He also supported the comments made by Peter Topley that Herne & Broomfield would be better served if they moved from HBAMP to RAMP and was pleased Herne & Broomfield had the support of Sturry Parish Council, he also confirmed that RAMP had £10,000 of funding to be shared out by members of that panel. There was to be a Big Society Fund of £3m which could be distributed to parish/town councils and other organisations as loans, at an interest rate of 12.4%. There has been good feedback from residents regarding the clearance of the roads in the county. County Councillor Marsh spoke about Dave Lee's funeral at Canterbury Cathedral; he said the atmosphere and tributes were wonderful. Cllr Blatherwick asked whether children attending church or grammar schools will still get free bus travel, The answer was no, this has now been stopped; they would need a Freedom Pass at £100 per year to cover the travel to school. He also reported that KCC were looking at extending the age group to include 16-18 year olds. He added that KCC were currently holding talks to discuss a new secondary school for Herne Bay.

City Cllr Sonnex reported that Dave Lees funeral had been a unique experience. She reported that the bus shelter in Hunters Forstal Road had been repaired and now had new Perspex in it and the one outside St Martin's Church would also be repaired. She was working on getting one of the dog bins moved to enable putting one in between The Meadows and The Plough. The railings in Mill Lane had been re-instated but the streetlights in Broomfield Road had not yet been repaired. The new changing rooms in Cherry Orchard will be opened at the end of February. She also asked if the vegetation along the Mill fence could be cut back as it was overhanging the path in Windmill Road.

City Cllr Vickery Jones sent a short report. In this week's papers that he is calling on

residents to make their views known over the proposed night flights at Manston. These may affect Herne & Broomfield.

He has also been making the case within City Council against the Tesco proposal, a full report of which I have sent to Tony as well. He assured everyone, that nobody who matters in City Council is unaware of the huge resistance locally to this proposal. If they cannot get permission for a sufficient size extension then that renders the whole project unviable even without the controls that could be applied through being in a conservation area with regard to signage and such.

Yellow lines are to be painted at the junction of Tal Mead and Margate Road outside the Harvester.

There has been a meeting between the developers and KCC about Blacksole Bridge, he will give full details as soon as they are available.

City Council Tax is frozen for another year, which is to go to full Council next week along with all the other budget proposals.

He has made his feelings known about the Golf Course in that it should not be built upon with residential units at least.

028/12 Police Matters/Crime report. None

029/12 Wardens Report. The response warden had told the clerk that new wardens were being recruited and it was hoped to have one back in the parish in May.

030/12 Planning and Highways matters. To receive draft minutes of the planning meeting held on 7th February 2012. Cllr Blatherwick reported there had only been one contentious application and that was a new build in Braggs Lane.

Motion to revisit hiring expert advice for the Tesco planning application. The clerk has sent out a report explaining why this item should be re-visited. Cllr Day explained that new information had come to light regarding this and it was agreed by members that this item would be re-visited and discussed again.

Cllr Blatherwick stated that neither she nor the council had the necessary expertise to deal with such an important issue. Following discussions it was agreed that a consultant would be used when a planning application had been received from Tesco and a limit of up to £2,500 was set for this expenditure. It was agreed to try and source another quote for this work and the decision as to who should be employed was delegated to the clerk, in consultation with Cllr Blatherwick and Cllr Day. It was agreed that any information should be shared with HAT and visa versa. The clerk asked members how they would like the planning application dealt with when it arrived. It was agreed that HAT would be notified, the Planning meeting would be held in the Community Centre to allow more residents to attend. This would be on a Saturday morning and the plans would be available for residents to view prior to the meeting. Plans would be available on line and in the parish office, before the meeting. Cllr Day told members he would look at the safe maximum capacity for the Community Centre as the Safety officer for the Community Centre. Information was made available by the chairman of HAT to members stating that one of the group who has planning experience is giving them help and they will of course work with the parish council on this. Any information will be passed on to parish council.

031/12 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. Payments were approved.

To report on income received. Bank Interest £2.41, Grant £20,220, Parish Map £5, Hall income £932.20 a total of £21,159.61

To discuss the recommendation of the Finance & Resources Committee to pay the clerk for hours owed at a cost of £544.50. This recommendation was approved.

Request from Megan Taylor, Parish Plan Group chairman for £150 towards the cost of collating questionnaire responses. After some discussion this was approved with 2 abstentions and 1 against.

032/12 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. None.

- 033/12 Clerk's Report /Correspondence.** The clerk reported that she has been through the Local Plan in order to have the necessary information ready when the Tesco application is submitted.
- Letters have gone out to all the local organisations, schools etc inviting them to attend the Annual Parish meeting on 30th March. This will be held again at Kent Enterprise House at 7-30pm, the keynote speaker will be Steve Mellers from CrimeStoppers. The clerk had a meeting with Tracy Barden to finalise a few details for the Royal Garden Party, everything is on track for that. A grant application to Awards for All, is to be completed in order to try and source some additional funding for this event. The clerk has been notified that there will be £7,402 from developer contributions to be spent on open spaces in the parish and sports facilities.
- The consultation day held on 14th January went well there were 7 stalls and quite a few residents attended and spoke to Sue Davis and completed questionnaires. Richard Griffiths does not have any objection for a beacon basket being installed in Curtis Wood Park but the clerk has been advised to discuss it with John Hawkins.
- There were 3 applicants for the hall committee; they will be invited to attend the next meeting in order for them to be co-opted onto the committee.
- 034/12 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, Standards Board etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** Cllr Day reported on the CCC meeting of the Standards Board, members were informed that the last meeting of this committee will be on 1st July, but prior to this a working group will look at how the changes will be dealt with and how future complaints will be handled. The legislation now states that District Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure and promote a high level of conduct and they must oversee the conduct of parish councillors. There will not however be any powers to do anything other than name and shame. Whichever committee deals with complaints re councillors, Cllr Day is pushing to have parish council representatives on it.
- Cllr Harvey reported that at the KALC training Day he had attended was very informative, (copies of his report had been circulated to all members). He reported that Development Plans were being formed between District and County Councils and it is important for parish councils to be involved at an early stage. It was also highlighted that it was important to keep clerks training up to date.
- 035/12 To report on Youth Club.** Cllr Taylor reported that the last session was a good one with a good youth worker, the numbers are stable but could be better and the finances were looking quite healthy, especially if the grants applied for are successful.
- 036/12 To report on Youth Council.** Cllr Nicholson told members the youngsters had organised a quiz night on 11th February and he hoped as many members would support it as possible, as the young people had done all the work themselves, charges were £3pp. A bank account would be opened for the Youth Council which would help when applying for grants as they wish to set up a web site. It was also hoped that the group would enter the British Youth Council Award Scheme. Cllr Day congratulated Cllr Nicholson on his success at getting this going.
- 037/12 To receive draft minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee and discuss recommendations made.** All members have received the draft minutes. The gate on the MUGA has been repaired. The committee has recommended that Serco be awarded the contract for the maintenance of the Community Park when Deacons contract ends, subject to approval by full council. Total for year £2,434.23 for the basic maintenance. Members all approved this contract. Cllr Robert Jones had asked the clerk to point out that the Community Centre was discussed at the meeting and that to date, taking out the capital expenditure on doors, heaters etc. the hall was covering its costs. He hoped that if bookings could be increased it would make a profit in the first year.
- 038/12 To discuss the Public Adjournment at council meetings.** Cllr Day reported that at the last HAT meeting the committee found it was impossible to hold a meeting with constant interruptions from the floor; so the chairman suggested that there should be a session for people to speak, similar to the system used by councils. Cllr Day then suggested that it be

held at the start of the meeting to allow any ideas, comments etc. to be taken into account when the committee were discussing issues. He also stated this worked well at parish council meetings. Cllr Moore had then stated it did not work well at parish council meetings and that members of the public were frustrated at not being able to speak during meetings, and that at the very least, they should be able to speak again at the end of the meeting. Cllr Day told members that when there are small numbers attending he always tries to accommodate them and enable them to put their views. He also, on occasions, allows someone to comment on an agenda item, when it is being discussed, if he thinks the information will be useful. Most councils operate the same system, it would not be tenable to allow interruptions all the way through a meeting. Cllr Hobbs commented that most people, who come to speak, have their say and then leave. Cllr Brealy was happy that members of the public were given a chance to speak at the Chairman's discretion. Cllr Taylor pointed out that quite often comments were repetitive. The clerk pointed out that Standing Orders state 'a public adjournment is to be held'. This does not allow for more than one and therefore standing orders would need to be changed. Members were happy to leave things exactly as they are, with the Chairman using his discretion.

- 039/12 To receive any updates on actions regarding Tesco's proposal for taking over the Upper Red Lion.** Cllr Day reported that the HAT committee had produced and circulated a newsletter; they also had a website and various sub committees who were dealing with a variety of issues, such as planning, fund raising, press, strategy etc. There was also a group looking at future alternative uses. Cllr Brealy asked if anyone had contacted the owners to see if they would look at selling to anyone else. Cllr Day told members that they would not discuss the property with anyone; neither would Greensands, the agents. He also reiterated how important it was to find an alternative use should Tesco not go ahead or the planning application is refused. So far there had not been any definite interest from anyone. Cllr Moore suggested the parish council purchase the building, even if it meant the precept would have to rise by between £5 & £10 per household. Cllr Day reported the likely cost of purchase and refurbishment would be around £650,000, which was a considerable amount. The clerk reported that she had enquired as to whether Tesco had made any contact with CCC planning department, it appears that there hasn't been any further contact with regard to this application. The clerk recommended that an application to have the building locally listed might help to prevent some alterations to the building. It was agreed that this should be done.
- 040/12 To discuss quote for maintenance of flower bed and planters.** Serco have now submitted the quote for the planters and flower bed. Herne Horticultural Society has agreed to plant the three tubs and the trough. Serco will look after these. Serco will clear an area approx 1sq mtr in the raised bed area of the flower bed and plant it in a diamond for the jubilee. Serco will water, prune, weed etc. The total cost for the year will be £1,020. Hopefully sponsorship will cover £350 of this cost, it was agreed the remaining £670 could come from the Community Fund.
- 041/12 To discuss trying to get the parish moved out of the HBAMP area and into RAMP.** Members have all received the report on the background to this proposal, Cllr Robert Jones has asked that members discuss it and he is willing to take the matter forward if members make the decision to change. The clerk gave some information on the historical background of this request. The parish council had asked about 5 years previously to be moved to RAMP, as this committee dealt specifically with parishes in the Canterbury District, there are only 3 parishes which are not in RAMP and Herne & Broomfield is one of them. Members did consider that the parish would be better served if they were in RAMP especially as the County Councillor for Herne & Broomfield represented all the other parishes in his area on RAMP, but could not speak on behalf of Herne & Broomfield because they were in HBAMP. It was agreed that Cllr Robert Jones would be asked to action this request from the parish council to move from HBAMP to RAMP.
- 042/12 To update members on the progress of the lease for the allotment site and further action required.** The completed lease is still awaited, there were a couple of issues raised one being the revision of rent, this has been agreed at every 5 years and it has been

suggested that any alteration should be by negotiation with both parties, and if agreement could not be reached a surveyor would be asked to advise. Members agreed this.

043/12 To discuss a memorial for Dave Lee. Cllr Moore suggested that it would be a good idea to have a memorial in honour of Dave Lee it was suggested that a bench could be installed in Curtis Wood. The clerk would contact CCC to check this would be OK.

044/12 Nominations for Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award. It was agreed that this year's award would go to David Skinner a local resident who regularly picks up rubbish in Herne.

045/12 Members Reports Cllr Harvey reported that he had received a complaint that the steps that had been installed at Broomfield Community Park were a waste of money as no one used them. He pointed out that a grant was secured to cover the cost and they were used regularly. Cllr Hobbs reported that at the Herne Bay in Bloom meeting it had been agreed that the tubs and trough in Herne & Broomfield would be planted up and they are also going to carry out some planting at Strode Park. Cllr Sargent reported that he would be collecting and planting the trees on the Lower Herne Green. Cllr Moore reported that he had received a complaint about lack of lighting on the ticket machines in School Lane car park.

046/12 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be held on 8th March 2012 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.

Meeting closed 9.45pm