

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 12th January 2012 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

001/12 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. City Cllrs Sonnex and Bissett who were at a full council meeting.

002/12 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. Cllr Day 16/12

003/12 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2011.

004/12 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

3 members of the public attended, 2 spoke

005/12 **Chairman's Announcements.** Applications for residents to apply for a place on the Community Centre Committee there needs to be a closing date. This was agreed as 31st January 2012.

006/12 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.**

County Cllr Marsh brought Jo Pannell along with him to observe. He told members that he was very impressed by the turn out for the public meeting, and he would support the parish in any way he could regarding the Tesco issue. Alan passed on the name of an architect willing to help with the fight against Tesco (John Vale). There is a RAMP meeting on Monday 16th January and the Tesco Express is on the agenda Alan will attend as will Cllr Day. Both Alan and Roger Gale MP have contacted Greg Clark the MP responsible for the new Planning Policy Document, regarding the change from a pub to a Tesco Express.

Little Acorns was expanding and they were looking for an area of land where the children could go to get some hands on experience in the garden.

The speed limit on A291 between Sturry and Herne Common has now been reduced to 50mph.

Alan had been contacted by a resident regarding the pavement from Canterbury Fields into Herne, he has asked for it to be inspected.

City Cllr Peter Vickery Jones told members that he had visited the same resident and had walked through to the village and the path was in a poor state, it was also overgrown in places, in fact there was a tree down across it at the time, which Cllr Vickery Jones later removed. When you get past Curtis Wood Park Rd there are vehicles parked on the pavement which obstruct the path. PCSO Radcliffe has been asked to look into this. He had received a query, from the clerk, regarding lack of enforcement at a property in Herne Common and is now dealing with this.

Written report by City Cllr Sonnex. She is overwhelmed at the strong feeling re Tesco coming to Herne and will campaign robustly against. The lamp post in Broomfield Rd is still awaiting repair and the telegraph pole outside 29. There is a fair bit of graffiti around and CCC is working with the police to get it removed. The bus shelter outside the church has been targeted but the chemicals normally used will damage the Perspex. The Perspex has been removed from the shelter in Hunters Forstal Rd with a view to it being replaced. There has also been damage done to the bus time tables and these have been replaced

007/12 **Police Matters/Crime report.** None

- 008/12 Wardens Report.** Two youngsters have been interviewed regarding the graffiti.
- 009/12 Planning and Highways matters.** The clerk reported that various pot holes had been reported in the parish and also some streetlights that are not working. Cllr Davis reported a large pothole in Herne Street by the Old Chapel. Cllr Moore reported pavement parking on the service road.
- 010/12 Finance**
 To ratify payments made since last meeting. Harrisons Packaging Poo bags £127.19, Pip the Clown £70.
 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. Grants & Donations £568.75, Adverts £110, Interest £2.31, Community Centre £363.36. Total £1,044.42
 Auditors Report. Everything was found to be in order when the audit was carried out and there was a recommendation that the Employee Dishonesty cover should be reduced to reflect the lower amount of funds held by the parish council. The clerk was thanked for, once again, a good audit report.
- 011/12 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported that Kent Wildlife Trust was donating the 5 trees for Herne Green, these would need planting and she was looking for volunteers. Cllr Brealy said he would allow Cllr Sargent to help and Cllrs Day and Tobin also volunteered. Date to be confirmed.
- 012/12 Clerk's Report /Correspondence.**
 The clerk thanked members for her Christmas presents and wished them all a very Happy New Year.
 Since the last meeting there has been the Children's Christmas Party and everyone has received the copy of the report on that. Following the Christmas break it has been extremely busy mainly due to Tesco wanting to take over the Upper Red Lion. A public meeting was organised and - there were so many people that the meeting had to relocate to the church; apart from the Funday the clerk said she didn't think she had ever seen so many residents in one place. It is really good to see that we do still have a community that is willing and able to pull together on this sort of issue and she really hoped all the effort is worthwhile.
 Many of the response forms have come to the parish office and details have been put onto a spread sheet for the Tesco Committee, the forms have then been passed on to Tesco.
 The consultation process for the Community Centre is ongoing and there is a 2nd Consultation morning on 14th January and a table top sale, so hopefully there will be a good response for that and it can move forward. The groups and organisations will need to be contacted, but some are still on their Christmas break.
 As previously reported the quarterly audit was carried out on 10th January.
- Correspondence**
 A letter of thanks has been received from Strode Park for the donation. Apart from that most of the correspondence has been about Tesco. A letter has been received from Canterbury Cathedral Archivist re removing any records archived there to the new History & Library Centre in Maidstone, the clerk said she didn't think there was anything stored there but Cllr Davis said there were a couple of papers from the previous Parish Council period, she has copies of these.
- 013/12 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** Cllrs Brealy & Hobbs attended a KALC meeting on 11th January. The deputy cabinet minister was due to speak but was unable to make it, so the speaker for the evening was from Kent Fire & Rescue, the Chief Executive and 2 fire fighters who spoke on the dangers of not having a smoke alarm and removing the battery when it beeps. They explained the rationale regarding the closure of some fire stations. Some had been built more than 50 years ago and were not terribly well suited for today. Sturry retained Fire

Station will definitely close and Herne Bay will get a new station, there will be consultation on the location of this. There are no longer any retained fire fighters; they are now part time employees. Parish councils may be asked to put advertisements in their newsletters and packs are being put together to circulate to parish councils.

The consultation on Manston night flights is ongoing. There were no further moves regarding the Standards Board. KALC were not happy with the increased subscriptions from NALC and there was talk of a break away from NALC, so hopefully they will sit up and take notice.

014/12 To report on Youth Club. Cllr Taylor reported that the club had had its first meeting of the year and the youngsters filled in a questionnaire, with their youth worker, about what they wanted to see in the Community Centre. They also had their annual visit from KCC Youth. Cllr Harvey reported that the grant application for Single Gateway Funding had been unsuccessful and the people who were picking up the clothes no longer collected in this area. Another collector was being sought.

015/12 To report on Youth Council. Cllr Nicholson reported that the last meeting had been very positive and he thanked Cllr Day for attending. The young people are going to hold a quiz night on 11th February at Community Centre £3 per head. They were raising money for a web site. The next meeting is on 21st January.

016/12 To discuss the public meeting on Tesco opening an Express store at Upper Red Lion and what action might be taken. A report on the meeting had been supplied to all members. Councillor Day reported that members had been left in no doubt as to the strength of feeling regarding Tesco coming into the village. Since the public meeting an independent group had been formed and this had been split into sub committees. They will meet next Tuesday at the Community Centre. They want to be seen as a totally independent group and not an extension of the parish council, for that reason Cllr Day will not stand as chairman of the committee. He will stay on the various sub committees and give them all the help he can and it will also allow him to feed back and liaise with the parish council. All councillors stated that they against Tesco taking over the Upper Red Lion, it was the wrong location for that type of store. Cllr Brealy told members it was a shame that it had taken a negative event to bring people together. It was agreed that future use of the Upper Red needed to be looked at, should the campaign be successful. The parish council gave their full support to HAT (Herne Against Tesco). Members were asked to give financial support to a fighting fund, it was agreed that £1,000 would be made available to cover costs. All expenditure would be approved by HAT committee and receipts would be needed to draw down the funds. The parish clerk recommended that the council look at employing a Planning Consultant to fight the planning application as she felt that expert advice would be needed. After discussion and a vote, this motion fell. Cllr Day told members that the planning officer that had attended the meeting with Tesco earlier that day had concerns about the bulk of the proposed extension at the rear. She pointed out there was a Grade 1 listed building next door and Grade 11 listed properties opposite. She advised Tesco that they needed to consult with CCC planning as she thought there were several issues that needed discussion. It is not known if the scheme is dependent on a rear extension or what is planned for the upper floors. It was obvious from the discussions earlier in the day that Tesco were not really consulting and it will go ahead, as they have in other areas, regardless of what the residents want. They are more interested in what people will buy etc in the shop. The location was deemed suitable as there were a number of club card holders in the area which apparently indicated a need. Members agreed that a link will be put on the parish council web site to the HAT website and notices will also go on the notice boards. Individual councillors will be willing to help in any way they can but anything that is done needs to be co-ordinated by HAT committee. Ward Cllr Vickery Jones asked the parish council to make sure the other two ward councillors are aware of the parish council's objection to this proposal. Finally Cllr Day stated that the

parish council had not had any monetary offers from Tesco and would not accept any if offered.

017/12 Report on Children's Christmas party and Santa Float. This report has been circulated. The clerk reported that the party was a great success and the float very well received in both Herne & Broomfield.

018/12 Receive draft minutes of Environment & Leisure Committee held on 5th January 2012. All Members have received a copy. The changes recommended by the committee to the Terms of Reference were approved and a vote was taken on spending up to £800 on making the float really spectacular for this year's Christmas outing, this was approved with one vote against. It was agreed that the money for this work would come from the Community Fund. It was also agreed that the float would not be hired out but if any members wished to take it out, they are covered by parish council insurance.

019/12 To update members on the progress of the lease for the allotment site. The parish council is now waiting for the Allotment Society to provide the names of two Trustees.

020/12 Members Reports

Cllr Brealby told members that he would be happy to have a permanent sign board on his land. There were pot holes appearing again in Lower Herne Road.

Cllr Hobbs reported she had attended a HB in Bloom meeting and this year they were entering Britain in Bloom, and signs were to go up in Herne Bay.

Cllr Jones reported that he and Cllr Day had attended a KALC Chairman's Training Day, this was very informative and covered various charring styles. He had reported a blocked sewer to Southern Water and they came out and cleared it within 4 hours. He congratulated Cllr Davis and the clerk on their involvement with the Parish Plan Update which he said was excellent.

Cllr Sargent told members he would investigate whether there had been any graves in the garden of the Upper Red Lion and put together some prices for providing permanent sign boards.

Cllr Moore raised a point of order on last month's meeting.

021/12 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be held on 9th February 2012 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.

Meeting closed at 9-30pm