

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Tel: 01227 742700

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at Herne Mill, Wootton Room, on Thursday 12th July 2012 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Not present: Cllr Robert Jones, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Blatherwick

151/12 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Blatherwick induction day at the school and Cllr Robert Jones and Cllr Harvey who are working. These reasons were accepted. City Cllrs Vickery Jones & Sonnex.

152/12 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. None

153/12 The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

154/12 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

1 person attended. None spoke.

155/12 Chairman's Announcements. The chairman reported to members that the council was legally required to sign up to a new Code of Conduct but this needed to be done before any decisions were taken as decisions before this would be unlawful. Members agreed to bring item 159/12 forward to follow the warden's report.

156/12 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh spoke about the vegetation on the highway, in most places spraying has not been done due to the weather and will now take place later in the year. Only areas that have visibility issues are being cut. There has been a £30million reduction in the Highways budget. Cllr Brealy said this was too late as the weeds will have seeded. County Cllr Marsh reported that there were drainage issues on the Thanet Way. He told members that he had received a complaint about one of the footpaths behind the school, the clerk told members the highways officer had looked and the schools had been notified. County Cllr Marsh told members he was delighted to hear the Upper Red Lion had been sold for apartments. He offered pantomime tickets to groups, organisations and the parish council for the pantomime to be held at Sarah Thorne Theatre in Broadstairs.

City Cllr Vickery Jones sent a written report. *'Apologies for not attending as you remain very important to me but I do keep in touch with the clerk.*

The RAMP issue is mired with problems as I am sure the clerk has explained but I continue to press for a reasonable explanation why this should be so. I haven't yet received one, don't hold your breath!! Meanwhile you are to receive the apportioned amount of money voted upon by RAMP so as to avoid any suggestion that the 3 parishes outside of RAMP are not being treated fairly. This matter was resolved by Councillor Jean Law after admittedly some gentle lobbying by me.

The £10,000 fund presently out for local organisations to apply has nothing to do with the money allocated to each Area Member Panel. I have made enquiries and it would seem appropriate for the allotment society to apply to for funding, as they have not yet made any application to Canterbury City Council. On the matter of allotments the proposed 100% increase in rent by CCC has now been reduced in line with increases of hiring playing fields, this means that they will be paying £64 for the year.

I am due to meet with Network Rail today in London to press the case for a resolution to the Blacksole Bridge problem as Transport Portfolio Holder but more importantly, as a Ward Councillor. I will be supporting the application for the Upper Red Lion providing vehicles do not have to reverse out onto the road.

I am pressing hard for local Councillors to be more involved in decisions by officers which quite frankly are often at odds with what local people want.'

- 157/12 Police Matters/Crime report.** PCSO Sue Radcliffe reported that there had been very little crime in the parish. There had been a few incidents of criminal damage and metal thefts. There will be a new Chief Superintendent and there are rumours that rota's could change and possibly areas. Although Sue's area is Herne & Broomfield as she is part of the coastal team she is also working in Whitstable and will be in the control room for several weeks during the Olympics. She has dealt with doorstep knockers who were not licensed and asked that people do not buy anything from someone knocking on their door. She is liaising with Trading Standards and Licensing regarding the cars being advertised for sale on some roads.
- 158/12 Wardens Report.** Gary reported that he had done 33hrs visible presence and there had been a huge increase in the calls he was receiving and people stopping to talk to him while out. He has attended the Beaver scouts to give a talk on water safety and is hoping to talk to the schools about safety at home. He is hoping to have more involvement with Cubs & Scouts. He has been with the infant school on two school trips and will be involved next week with the Olympic torch procession. He has done 20 home visits, 26 Highways reports and 6 Trading Standards reports.
- 159/12 To discuss and adopt a new Code of Conduct.** This item was brought forward from 167/12. Cllr Day explained that it was a legal requirement that this council adopts a new Code of Conduct. There were two options one the NALC document and the other the Kent Code. After some discussion members voted for the Kent Code to be adopted 3 members abstained as they had not read the document. There was some discussion and questions were answered regarding the new Register of Interest Form which must be completed and with the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the council adopting the new Code of Conduct.
- 160/12 Planning and Highways matters.** To approve minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2012 and discuss any issues. The minutes were approved no issues were discussed. Cllr Moore commented that the work on resurfacing areas of Millview Road had taken a lot of time for a very small amount of work.
- 161/12 Finance**
To ratify payments made since last meeting. SNF £60 VAT on original account, EDF £44.14, Peter Gray £135.15
To resolve the approval of payments presented at this meeting; to approve bank reconciliation and earmarked reserves as supplied. The schedule of payments was approved and there were no comments on the bank reconciliation.
To report on income received. Poo bags £19.05, Advertising £150, Fun Day £545, Garden Safari £1,656.71, Jubilee £205, Children's Party £41, Interest £1.10, Refund £132, Sales £1.29, Hall hire £238.52. Total £2,989.67
Quarterly Audit report. All members have received a copy. The auditor did not raise any issues.
- 162/12 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported that there will be a task day at Goldspots on 15th July prior to S & SE in Bloom judging. A Bat & Trap evening is organised for Monday 16th July.
- 163/12 Clerk's Report /Correspondence.** The clerk reported that she had attended the training for General Power of Competence along with Cllr Robert Jones.
To be eligible the council must have two thirds (rounded up to the nearest higher number) of members elected, either through a contested or uncontested election. Co-opted members are not eligible. The clerk must hold either the certificate in Local Council Administration, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy or CiLCA. The clerk has to be trained in the General Power of Competence and then pass s7 Law, of the CiLCA test. Once these criteria are in place the council must agree to adopt the General Power of Competence stating that it meets the criteria and this should be clearly minuted. It is only the clerk that can hold the necessary qualification. If the council still qualifies following elections, it must reconfirm that it meets the criteria in order to continue using the power. It is not permitted to use S137 once it has agreed to use General Power of Competence.
In order to use the power the council must consider any restrictions and risks involved for what it wishes to do. For instance if the council wished to take over cutting the grass verges they would need to have permission from the Highway Authority, they would need to ensure they had the

funding and deal with any Health & Safety issues, as well as risk assessment for the operative. During the meeting Janet Haines raised an issue with regard to a parish council that had applied for a loan from Public Works Loan Board, for building a Community Centre. The council was intending to raise the precept significantly to cover the cost of the loan. The PWLB was querying with them as to whether they had considered what would happen if a referendum was called and did not get the support of residents. They would not be able to increase the precept to cover the cost of the loan, how would they pay for it?

The clerk reported that she had now done the test and it was waiting to be sent off.

The clerk reported that she has had a meeting with the new BMX club chairman and that he was very positive about where the club was going, there have been some issues within the committee which hopefully have now been resolved. He has been given the number for the new locks that are going on the gates. The work on the container should be finished soon. A barrier is to be installed to stop anyone from just walking off the top. Cllrs Blatherwick and Davis and the clerk met with a planning officer to look at the options at the Community Centre site. She was helpful but said there was not a lot she could say until there were some basic drawings to look at, she did say that she thought a more modern building would be better than what is currently in place and would like to see environmental aspects built in, soundproofing and rainwater harvesting, solar panels etc. She did say roof height would be a consideration but it was possible the new building could be cut into the ground to help with this. She suggested that a meeting be held with the Highways officer. This was arranged and Cllr Blatherwick and Cllr Day attended with the clerk. He thought access from the car park would be beneficial for haulage and if used long term suggested fencing of the existing entrance with a vehicle gate and marking it emergency access. He spoke about the number of parking spaces that would be required and added that as there is a public car park adjacent that would be helpful.

A new artist has been to look at painting the mural on the wall in the underpass, the clerk reported that following discussions with Michelle the warden supervisor, she had agreed to try and find funding for the £1,000 required. An application has gone in to CCC for £500 but this will need to be match funded if the application is successful.

Correspondence. Letter from KCC re resurfacing on A2990, notification of resurfacing in Broomfield and Millview Road. SE Water has lifted the hose pipe ban.

164/12 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, Standards Committee etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council. Cllr Hobbs reported on the KALC meeting the speaker was John Gilbey from Canterbury City Council. He explained that councils will lose another 10% of government funding next year and it is likely they will charge full council tax on empty and second homes. Increases of more than 4% in council tax would trigger a referendum. Adrian Verrill spoke about the New Local Plan and the housing allocation of 150-1200 homes over 20 years. Most sites will be in Canterbury and Herne Bay with some in the villages. He also spoke about Neighbourhood Plans which will be costly to produce and really only give an option for more development. There was also a report on Manston. Cllr Hobbs reported that parish councils will not be represented on Locality Boards but would be able to speak at a meeting on anything concerning their area. To get a by-pass in the village there would need to be a very large development. The new Community Infrastructure Levy will not generate as much income as was originally expected. Cllr Day told members that the new Standards Committee would only be made up of city councillors. The complaints review panel will have parish council members but they will not have voting rights. Cllr Nicholson reported that he is submitting a document with regards rail services along the North Kent Coast line in response to the DFT request.

165/12 To report on Youth Club. Cllr Taylor reported that the youth club had its last meeting on Wednesday and had now broken up for the summer, the youngsters were taken bowling. The previous session had been cancelled due to a mix up regarding the booking of taxis for the youth worker. It is hoped that Child Protection training sessions will be held in September/October. Numbers have fallen and if they don't improve in the autumn the committee may decide it is not worth carrying on especially as the church has a thriving youth club. Cllr Day said it was a shame but if it has run its course then it would have to close.

166/12 To report on Youth Council. Cllr Nicholson reported the next meeting was on 14th July, his CRB check had been carried out and the clerk had seen it. It is hoped to do a leaflet to give to

the Guides etc and he was talking to the press and hopefully they would produce an article on what their aims are and what they hope to achieve.

- 167/12 To report on Community Centre Committee meeting held on 5th July 2012 and discuss and agree recommendations.** Cllr Davis reported that everyone had received a copy of the draft minutes and asked if there were any questions. She asked councillors for their approval to ask Directline to come along and give some advice and any other company who would do the same, as any information could be very useful to getting plans produced. This was agreed. Cllr Moore asked why a third party had received the Community Centre Consultation report when councillors had not. The clerk replied that she thought she had sent it out to everyone and that it was an oversight. She would send it out after the meeting.
- 168/12 To approve minutes of Environment & Leisure meeting held on 28th June 2012 and discuss and approve recommendations.** Cllr Taylor asked if there were any questions on the draft minutes, there were none. The only issues arising from the meeting was the distribution of the newsletters. There had been complaints and problems with the dropping off to the deliverers and it had been decided that the committee would recommend employing someone to do this. This was approved. Cllr Davis thanked Cllr Moore for his efforts with this over the last 2 editions. There was a discussion about additional material being delivered with the newsletters. Nothing was to be put inside the newsletter unless prior permission has been given by parish council. The original quote was for £50 per edition for delivery but Cllr Day suggested that this should be flexible as it would need to be done at least once by the person doing the delivery for them to decide if that is reasonable. It was agreed that the figure could be revised if necessary.
- 169/12 Report on Allotment meeting.** About 8 Allotment Society members, including some of the committee, attended the site meeting along with Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Harvey and the clerk. Fencing, parking and access were discussed. The members thought that the area would need to be rabbit fenced and would also need some reasonable fence at least along the road side. Chain link was the preferred option with matching gates, this would need to be about 2 metres high. The Society's committee will come back with details as to where they want to put the car park. There will need to be spaces for about 25-30 vehicles. Once the information is available plans will be drawn up and an application submitted to CCC. Cllr Davis said that she had sent details of compost loos to the chairman of the allotment association as requested.
- 170/12 Update on Wildlife Area.** The clerk reported that the solicitor is still waiting for the parish council's cheque from the developer and a response as to how the right of access is to be registered. Cllr Blatherwick is liaising with staff at Little Acorns and a meeting will be arranged with them and Cllr Davis.
- 171/12 Member's Reports.** Cllr Taylor said she had received a complaint about loud music over the weekend at a property in Mill Lane. Cllr Davis reported that the Kent Bat Group would be holding events to do with monitoring the bats. Serco have moved the flower tub to under the Broomfield sign as requested. Cllr Hobbs reported on Herne Bay in Bloom, the judging will take place on 19th July. Lots of businesses in Herne Bay and Beltinge have agreed to water the plants outside their premises. Several areas have been planted with the urban meadow mix. Cllr Nicholson reported that it was Herne WI's 60th anniversary this year and they would like to do something with a windmill theme.
- 172/12 The next meeting of the parish council, will be held on 9th August 2012 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.**

Meeting closed 9.30pm