

# 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 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Brealy, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Harvey, Cllr T Jones, Cllr R Jones, Cllr Tobin, Cllr Davis and Cllr Moore.

Absent: Cllr Day, and Cllr Nicholson.

- 129/12** To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Nicholson has another meeting. Cllr Day who is working late. Cllr Robert Jones will be late. City Cllrs Sonnex and Vickery Jones who have other meetings. County Cllr Marsh will be late.
- 130/12** To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda.
- 131/12** To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012.
- 132/12** To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The forms that had been sent out to the parish council to fill in for the Land Registry had been sent to CCC they don't think that the parish council need to complete these.

## **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 residents in attendance, no speakers**

- 133/12** **Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick who chaired the meeting in Cllr Day's absence welcomed the new KCC Warden Gary Moore.
- 134/12** **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh reported that CCC lost the vote on the proposed development of the land at Kingsmead. He said SE Water is looking to install meters at all properties and he felt they also needed to ensure that they repaired the leaks. They have a 25 year plan which includes a new reservoir. Alan suggested that the parish council write to SE Water's managing director stating that in order to grow and prosper they should fulfil their contracts. Alan commented on the fact that measures need to be in place to ensure a water supply before any more large developments are allowed to be built. He was please to see the resurfacing was in progress in Millview Road and also spoke about the money that was distributed to all the parish councils in RAMP. He is to have a meeting with the managing director of Highways soon there is a pot of money for repairs etc on highways and Alan wants to ensure his parishes get a large chunk of it. He asked for an audit to be done highlighting any areas that have problems or issues and this can be sent to him on completion for him to take it forward. He also spoke of the current situation on A2911old Thanet Way, which has been resurfaced and is like a skating rink, he said it is currently very dangerous and he asked for the parish council to write to John Burr Brian Sweetland and Paul Carter stating this was not the way forward for highways. Cllr Davis spoke about Bullockstone Road having a national speed limit Alan said there was nothing he could do to get the speed limit reduced. County Cllr Marsh congratulated the parish council on their jubilee event. The clerk thanked County Cllr Marsh for organising the Spitfire display for the Jubilee event.
- 135/12** **Police Matters/Crime report.** None. PCSO Sue Radcliffe is not on duty.
- 136/12** **Warden's Report.** Gary told members that he had been quite busy since he started and he thanked everyone for the welcome he has received. He told members that he had previously worked for the ambulance service and been in the military police as well as a short term in the foreign legion. He was good at engaging with people and estimated that since he started had walked about 90 miles per week. His aim is to patrol the entire area 3 times a week. He has reported 3 major water leaks, 12 referrals to Serco re fly tipping, 26 highway referrals, 10 vehicle referrals to the police and issues arising to trading standards. He has also visited 7 homes following break-ins etc and done 24 crime reduction visits. He has arranged for the fire brigade to visit 2 properties to offer advice. He has visited the schools and returned a stray dog to its owner. He has risk assessed the ponds and the BMX track and has suggested

that ropes be provided at Broomfield Pond and that perhaps padlocks with numbers should be used at the BMX track to ensure emergency services have access. He has spoken to residents of Strode Park and visited Ridgeway Farm where there are issues regarding motorcycles. He has done checks on doorstep sellers most of which weren't legal. Metal thefts are still happening residents need to be vigilant and if they see anything suspicious should ring the police. For the future he is looking at possibly having a Community Speedwatch team set up. Cllr Harvey asked about the calls he had attended that were victims of crime were any of these were serious but Gary said many car damage and shed break-ins.

- 137/12 Planning and Highways matters.** To report on meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Cllr Blatherwick reported that 2 applications were discussed and approved. The application for a dwelling at the rear of 43 School Lane had been refused and the application for a nursery at 40 Busheyfields Road had been withdrawn.

**138/12 Finance**

To ratify payments made since last meeting. KCC pension contributions £692.65 Payment to bands for Jubilee event £160.

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

To report on income received. Newsletter advertising £410, Fundy £30, Donation Flower tubs £125, Jubilee grants £1,545, Bank interest £4.76, Refund pension overpayment clerk £96.86, Hall hire £132.30. Total £2,343.92

- 139/12 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report** Cllr Davis reported that a meeting was to be held with CCC to update the management plan for Curtis Wood Park and to discuss the path around the pond at Broomfield. They will also discuss the necessity for ropes to be provided at Broomfield Pond as suggested by the warden. Cllr Hobbs reported there would be a task day on 24th June with a BBQ which has been offered by Peter and Carol Gray. Cllr Tobin report that some of the hedging that had been cut back along the path to Little Acorns had been left with sharp spikes sticking out. Cllr Moore said that the area where the daffodils had been had not been mowed, Cllr Hobbs said that was normal as the bulbs have to totally die back before they can be cut.

- 140/12 Clerk's Report /Correspondence.** The clerk thanked Cllr's Davis & Taylor for covering while she was on holiday. The clerk thanked Cllr Davis for sorting out the problem of not having enough newsletters and Cllr Moore for distributing them to the volunteers. The flower bed at the bottom of School Lane has not been planted up yet the clerk has chased it up, apparently the person who deals with the bedding plants is off sick. It should be done soon. There is a chance to apply to HBAMP for funding, all the parishes in RAMP were given an equal share of the £10,000 funding they had, for their Jubilee events. Applications have to be in by early July. The clerk suggested that funding is requested for setting up the allotments. It is quite a long application form and the maximum we can get is £500. It also must meet at least one of the council's corporate pledges! She told members that she had spoken to Mark Ellender re changing from HAMP to RAMP and he has said that the parish would need to put together a really good case for moving, in order to get members support. Cllr Robert Jones was asked to take this forward.

The clerk thanked Cllr Sargent for getting the frames for the signs made and both Cllrs Sargent and Jones for putting them up. She also thanked Cllr Harvey for taking them down and Cllr Brealy for allowing them to go on his land.

The clerk had met with KCC Mills officer and Friends of the Mill to discuss expenditure for the Wootton Room. It was agreed that the soap dispensers would no longer be filled as they were quite costly and normal soap dispensers would be used. The electricity charges were discussed again, the parish council will be expected to pay for the office usage at the end of the financial year and from April 2013 there will be a percentage charge for use of the Wootton Room, this percentage has yet to be agreed.

In a recent report which is going to the CCC Executive it is proposed the Civic wardens will be given more powers and work from 8am to 9pm the main targets will be Crime and Disorder – To address concerns over litter, graffiti, dog fouling, cycling on footways and take positive action. With regard to cycling on the pavement they have said this would be applied to the area near the BMX track in Herne?

The clerk attended an SLCC day on 13<sup>th</sup> June which was very interesting and covered KCC Adult Education and had 2 planning officers from Swale. Abigail Levett spoke about the many courses run by Adult Education and she asked clerks to pass her details on local organisations to enable her to contact them and see if they would like a taster session. Chris Lewis who used to be a senior planning officer at Canterbury who now works for Swale and his colleague Lisette Patching talked about the Localism Act and how it affects planning laws and Neighbourhood plans etc. Although the bill is now an act, there is still a lot of information with regard to this that has to be produced. Chris explained that completing a NP was very complex and he would expect the cost for most medium sized parishes to be over £100,000 and as yet it is not known if there will be any funding available towards the cost of this.

Chris told everyone that it was important to work together with the District if they are producing a Local Plan; he said it would be interesting to see how these evolve over the next couple of years. He spoke about the abolition of Regional strategies, the SE plan has not yet been abolished and is still being used but the Secretary of state has stated he intends to do so. LDF's will go back to being known as Local Plans and will comprise of Core strategy, a site allocations document and a development management policy document. Local planning authorities will now have a duty to co-operate with each other. He covered other issues contained in the act and there was a handout which will be sent electronically and the clerk will distribute this to members. He also touched on Community asset register and slight changes to enforcement.

Following the presentations there was a discussion on General Power of Competence and how a council will qualify. The clerk needs to complete question 7 of the CiLCA, 80% of members must be elected and the council will need to pass a resolution stating they are going to adopt the General Power of Competence. The clerk reported that she would be attending a training session on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. This training session is being provided by SLCC. KALC has already held a training session and does not have plans to hold any more just yet. Unlike the Power of Wellbeing members will not be required to attend training.

The SLCC branch secretary reported that KALC were proposing to provide training sessions for small groups, clerks and members would be able to attend and if they can provide a venue it would keep the cost down. He also reported that the payments legislation was currently going through parliament. One of the members had been told that there would not be funding for PCSO's from April next year but no one had confirmation of this. There were also concerns raised regarding the changes the government was making to Band D properties which would impact on the precept. The clerk told members that she intended to look into this. The clerk told members that she had received a couple of complaints about the leaflets that are being delivered and she has also been asked who Herne & Broomfield Forum are and how many members does it have. The clerk reported that Quentin Roper will be leaving Herne Juniors to take up a new post.

**Correspondence** A letter from SE Water stating that the hosepipe ban would continue until at least the autumn. Audit Commission have sent details of the new external auditor for 2012/13 this is a company called Littlejohn LLP the cost of which will be £300 or £400 depending on the amount of income & Expenditure. KALC questionnaire on courses.

**141/12 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, Standards Board etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** Cllr Jones reported that he and Cllr Taylor had attended the Street Monitors meeting and had been given lunch at Serco headquarters. At the meeting there had been discussions regarding A boards outside shops mainly in Canterbury, this is the responsibility of KCC. The KCC councillors will be asked to help get enforcement for this. CCC will be introducing changes to waste collections next year when they will start collecting glass. KCC are only spraying weeds once a year and due to the weather this still has to be done. Weeds that are still growing will need to be reported to KCC and they will attend to spot spray. Refuse collections often have access problems in Canterbury. Members were invited to go out with a crew to see how they work and the problems that can arise.

**142/12 To report on Youth Club.** Cllr Taylor reported that 3 of the regular members had now left, it is hoped that numbers will improve in September.

**143/12 To report on Youth Council.** Cllr Nicholson has sent a written report.

“The next meeting is on Saturday 16 June.

At the last meeting we had 4 young people and we discussed the website with a lot of help from Cllr Tony Day and also what the young people would like to see happen with the Community Centre.

Due to them having exams, it has been difficult to get much going as they obviously need to focus on those rather than the forum, so I am hoping that we can really get some dates tied down for the next batch of events.

I want to thank Tony Day very much for his help with this project which is taking longer than I had hoped, but I am very confident that it will eventually take hold and we will see more young people involved.

On another note, I notice a leaflet has been posted through my door and some of the information is inaccurate. It implies that the Parish Council has decided that the hall will be bulldozed and that is not true. It is the people of Herne & Broomfield who have decided this by returning their questionnaires.

It also indicates that costs are unknown about this project and that is of course due to the nature of what will happen and this has not yet been decided.

Surely as a member of the Parish Council, Mr Moore knows why there were discussions in closed session and he could explain this better in the communications he has produced.

I have spoken to a member of our Parish and she was very angry about this misinformation being put through her letterbox and would like Mr Moore to know this”.

**144/12 To report on Community Centre Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and agree expenditure for grass cutting etc. £455.25.** Cllr Davis said all members had received copies of the draft minutes of the meeting. This was going to be a long process and there would be more consultation before final decisions could be made. The main issue needing attention was the grass and hedge cutting of the outside areas of the hall. The clerk had received a quote for Serco which is £455.25. Members approved this expenditure. The hedge in St Martin’s View would not be cut as residents have said they do not want parish council to touch that side.

**145/12 To discuss why it is sometimes necessary to discuss agenda items in closed session.** Cllr Blatherwick stated this had been discussed in the past in detail and asked Cllr Moore to explain why he had asked for it to be on the agenda again. Cllr Moore stated that there had been several agenda items discussed in closed session the main one being during the purchase of the Community Centre. The clerk had stated it would be unlikely that the land at the community centre would be suitable as development land as it is for community use, therefore there was no need for the discussions to be in closed session. Cllr Davis told members that a developer had told her he would have purchased it had he known it was on the market. Cllr Blatherwick pointed out that developers often purchase land and bide their time until they get planning consent. The clerk responded by telling Cllr Moore that developers weren’t the only people interested, that there had been two people who would have purchased the hall as a dance school and would have been prepared to pay a lot more than the parish council had. Confidentiality had allowed the parish council to purchase at the best possible price. Cllr Blatherwick told members that there was commercial confidentiality which had to be adhered to and it was not a case of ‘secrecy’. Cllr Robert Jones pointed out that 11 of the 13 members had been elected on a mandate to provide a Community Centre in the parish. Cllr Moore also raised the issue of staff issues being held in closed session. Cllr Tracey Jones told members that all employers should be aware that any staff issues are confidential and would most certainly not be held in public. All members agreed that closed sessions were only used when absolutely necessary or it is a legal requirement to do so, this is normal practise with any local authority.

**146/12 To discuss the possibility of having access to the Community Centre from the public car park.** Richard Moore CCC Transportation Manager has said that he cannot see why this shouldn’t be agreed in principle, even if it is only for the duration of building a new Community Centre. It would mean a loss of probably 3 parking spaces in the car park and any damage caused by trade vehicles would be the responsibility of the parish council. Any costs incurred removing part of the brick wall and installing a slope etc would also be the responsibility of the parish council. Cllr Davis told members that it was good to know this was an option even though any decision on this was a long way off. There was a lot of work to do regarding further consultation, plans and funding before the parish council will be ready to look

at access and taking forward a building project. Residents of St Martin's View would also need to be consulted on this. Cllr Blatherwick reminded members that there would still be a right of access via St Martin's View even if the option of access through the car park was auctioned. Cllr Robert Jones told members that it was far too early to take this forward at the moment but he was keen to lessen the impact on those living close to the community centre. There was also a cost consideration, but it was good to have approval in principle.

**147/12 Report on Jubilee event** The day started damp and windy but improved as the morning went on and by 1.30pm it was dry and the wind had eased. Herne Bay Air Training Corps opened the event and were followed by the duo Driftwood. At 3pm the Wantsum Morris men performed but stopped midway for a spectacular display by a spitfire, which had been organised by County Councillor Marsh, many thanks to him for organising this. The Morris men finished their dancing and we went straight into the fancy dress which was judged by Boy George look- a- like Bye George. Folk group Bottles then performed until the end of the event. During the afternoon Pip the Clown did two shows and the face painters worked non- stop. The WI and St Martin's church provided crafts for the children and an under 5's play area they also sold cream teas and cakes. The History Group put on a 'Royals' display and the WI had an Arts and Crafts display in the Green Room. The parish council gave away over 400 mugs to local children who attended. Strode residents made the Hunt the Royals pictures, which kept some of the families occupied walking around the gardens during the afternoon searching for the pictures.

Strode Park kitchens provided the cakes and scones for the WI stall and refreshments for the volunteers, many thanks to them. Despite the ever present threat of rain there was an amazing turn out estimated at approx 2,000 and everyone enjoyed the day. The clerk thanked those who helped on the day Cllr Day and his wife Sheila, Cllr Davis who also tied up the loose ends while the clerk was away, Cllr Nicholson who was the MC, Cllrs Harvey, Tracey Jones, Robert Jones and Taylor and Ann & Tim Blatherwick who helped set up, take down and did various jobs during the afternoon. Thanks also to Sue Davis who helped run the parish council Tombola stall and Cllr Hobbs who gave out the mugs. A special thank you to Tracy Barden from Strode Park who helped organise this event and all the other volunteers who worked so hard on the day. Cllr Davis thanked the clerk and her partner for their help on the day.

**Garden Safari.** The weather was kind on the day despite the forecast which had been for a wet day and this may have put people off coming it looks like numbers are down on last year. Those who did attend really enjoyed their visit and the feedback was good. Although not so many gardens opened this year and that may also have affected visitor numbers. New gardens are needed as that always draws regular visitors back again so if you know anyone who has a nice garden please ask them if they are willing to open next year and if they are ask them to contact the clerk. The numbers so far who attended are about 300 but there is still some ticket money to come in. Many thanks to Cllr Day and his wife, Pam Hobbs and Carol Davis who all helped on the day. Thanks also to Cllr Day who visited every garden and took a photo. Once again a big thank you to all those who opened their gardens as without them there would not be a Safari.

**148/12 Update on Wildlife Area and Allotments.** No further news on Wildlife Area. There is a meeting arranged with the Allotment Society on 30<sup>th</sup> June to look at where they want the car park and to discuss fencing. The committee are keen to get going now. Cllr Brealy suggested that the area needed topping to stop it from seeding. This was agreed.

**149/12 Members Reports**

Cllr Robert Jones thanked Cllr Harvey for removing the Garden Safari signs and Cllr Moore for delivering newsletters. He reported that one of the waymarkers in Curtis Wood was missing and that they have not been concreted in.

Cllr Davis asked for empty cans for the fun day.

Cllr Hobbs reported that the duck sign had been replanted, and that Herne Bay in Bloom would be holding a funday at the market with Pip the Clown, Punch and Judy. On 18<sup>th</sup> June planters would be emptied and on 20<sup>th</sup> they would be replanted. Herne Bay in Bloom and the Horticultural Society had also carried out the planting for the jubilee event at Strode Park and the planters around the parish.

Cllr Brealy reported that the hedge near Firwood Court had grown and was forcing traffic into

the middle of the road in Bullockstone Road. The clerk will report this to Highways.

Cllr Harvey reported that he had added BMX track to sign at entrance to Community Park.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that there were 1<sup>st</sup> responders based in Herne they were a husband and wife team and the work was voluntary. They gave excellent service while waiting for an ambulance to arrive. They also carry a defibrillator which they purchased themselves.

**150/12    The next meeting of the parish council, will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.**

Meeting closed 9.30pm