

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 8th November 2012 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Absent: Cllr Sargent and Cllr Tobin.

240/12 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Sargent work Cllr Tobin away. Reasons approved. City Cllrs Sonnex and Vickery Jones who have meetings in Canterbury.

241/12 **To discuss the document received by the clerk from NALC** which states that members who live in the parish have a pecuniary interest and therefore a dispensation to vote on the budget/precept will be required. As well as repealing the legislation relating to the former Code of Conduct, the Localism Act 2011 also repealed the general dispensation permitting any councillor with an interest to take part in meetings relating to setting their Council's precept. Many councillors are likely to be council tax payers for their area and most will have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in setting a precept. Such councillors can request a Dispensation enabling them to take part in the budget and precept setting. Cllr Day explained to members that the council had two options to give itself the power or to delegate that power to the clerk.

242/12 **To discuss giving delegated powers to the clerk** for the type of situations stated above. After much discussion it was agreed that the clerk would be given delegated power to give dispensations for members wishing to discuss the budget and set the precept.

243/12 **To request a dispensation for items concerning the budget/precept.** All members have applied for a dispensation. The clerk can approve these applications at the meeting where these items are discussed. All applications for a dispensation will be included on the agendas for future meetings.

244/12 **The minutes of the meetings held on 11th October 2012** were agreed as a correct record.

245/12 **To report on matters arising from the minutes**, not on the agenda, for information only. The chairman reported that Hollamby Estates would no longer be attending the planning meeting to discuss proposals for the land at Strode Farm. The reason for this was due to the publicity their attendance had had in the local press. They therefore requested a meeting with just the chairman and vice chairman of the parish council. Following this meeting the parish council will be in a better position to look at calling a public meeting to discuss this issue. Alistair Cracknell from Quinn Estates, who now own the Golf Club have made a similar request.

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

2 attended none spoke

246/12 **Chairman's Announcements.** None

247/12 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** Report from Cllr Vickery Jones *'My apologies to the Parish Council, I have to attend a transport meeting tonight during which the proposal will be made that our Park and Ride strategy is not required and other ways are available to reduce congestion, I think you will understand how important it is that I hear first-hand about such thinking.*

At the HBAMP meeting on Tuesday I was successful in persuading members we should support option 1 of the concurrent funding proposal. Although set at 71.5% which is less of a percentage than in option 3, in practice it gives H & B more money, this is due to Option 3 & 4 being capped at last year's figure. Unfortunately for some unfathomable reason it appears that RAMP chose option 3.

On the Capital Grant we did not gain enough points however I have heard that one of the successful Parishes has withdrawn which should automatically move us up one. I will be pushing for it if that is the case.

I shall be attending St Martin's with Cllr Bissett on Sunday but am not sure about Cllr Sonnex as she is a member of the British Legion in Herne Bay which makes matters more difficult for her.

I have been doing my usual work within the ward with residents problems one of which was the over running road works in Pigeon Lane. I referred the matter to Alan Marsh and by some miracle work the road works were gone the next day.

There is to be a Christmas tree in Mortimer Street with lights. Carol singing and music will take place at various times and although the proposed pedestrian barrier is unlikely to be in place, it will be done soon.

Just a rumour, but it looks like Stagecoach want to stay where they are in Town and will not be moving to Eddington Lane.

The Fire Service is possibly going to apply for permission to build a Hub in Altira Industrial Park at Blacksole. I have mixed feelings about that as we also need industrial buildings to provide jobs for our residents. Quite apart from the continuing problems of safety at Blacksole bridge.

I have been keeping my ear firmly to the ground with any proposed building developments at the Golf course and Strode Farm but have already reached the conclusion that these developments will not provide sufficient funding for a Herne By-Pass.'

County Cllr Marsh reported that he supported the First Responders and he agreed that it was a shame they were not funded through the ambulance service. He reminded members that the Remembrance Service was on Sunday 11th November at 9.45am. All the permissions were in place for the road closure. He hoped that the highways team that came out on 7th November had done a good job. The clerk said they had done all they were asked to do. He had attended the RAMP meeting where they discussed Concurrent Function grants; they are only able to give recommendations to the executive who will make the decision. County Cllr Marsh told members that he felt that city councillors were trying more and more to incorporate Herne & Broomfield into Herne Bay and if we were not careful we would lose our identity. People in Herne Bay think that a Town Council is better than a parish council when in effect it is exactly the same.

He had received an email passed on by City Cllr Jean Law about the state of the area as you drive in and out of Canterbury. This was a Canterbury City Council issue and not a KCC one and was also not his area, so he would not be responding to it. Terrace Hill has stated that they will improve the entrance into Herne Bay if they get permission to build Sainsbury's. Although money is tight KCC will always do their utmost to give Best Value. There are still a few Pantomime tickets left. Cllr Brealy asked if there was any progress on the fly tipping issues. County Cllr Marsh re-iterated that all fly tipping should be reported to 101.

248/12 Police Matters/Crime report. None. The clerk reported that the instances of fly tipping were on the increase and any instances of fly tipping should be reported to the police on the 101 number, as this is a criminal offence.

249/12 Warden's Report. Gary reported a busy month he had attended a Junior Road Safety Course, had dealt with Highways issues. He successfully dealt with 11 anti social neighbourhood disputes. The bench in Cherry Orchard is still waiting to be moved, there have been a few incidents of anti social behaviour in the Woodrow Chase area. Gary has engaged with some of the young people, some of which have now progress from cycles to motorcycles. He has attended the cubs and beavers and given them a fire safety talk. He attended a meeting with the Community Safety Unit regarding the reports of anti social behaviour and bonfires in Curtis Wood. He had also carried out some door to door enquiries to get more information from residents. He has also submitted 29 5x5 intelligence reports. He had moved on some doorstep traders. He is working on a campaign to supply residents with leaflets re bogus traders and trusted tradesman. He is due to go into hospital for an operation on his hand in January and is likely to be off for 3 weeks.

250/12 Planning and Highways matters. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 1st November and discuss any issues raised. All members had received a copy and no issues were raised.

251/12 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Cheque to Inland Revenue for £1,870. This is due to both the Inland Revenue and the bank putting a cheque for £2073.26 through as £203.26.

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. VAT £385.57, newsletter advertising £200, Fun day donation £39.75, Interest £96.55, donations £70, hall hire £954.58 total £1,746.45.

To approve the purchase of Moneysoft Payroll manager at £56pa HMRC are changing the system for submissions and this will, from April 2013, need to be sent every month instead of annually. The free system provided by HMRC has not been very accurate in the past and is quite time consuming as all the details need to be put in every month. Moneysoft has been recommended as being easy to use and apart from any alterations that may come up during the year, the information only needs to be put in once, therefore making the new package less time consuming. The information from the package can then be sent direct to HMRC once a month.

This was approved.

Appeal for donation to First Responders. A letter has been received asking for donations to help fund first responders. Several councillors reported having had dealings with the first responders and how good they were. It was suggested that this could be the charity for the Garden Safari next year. This will be put to the people who open their gardens. It was agreed to donate £270 this will come from the community fund.

- 252/12 **Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported that she had met with the tree surgeons to discuss the work needed in the wildlife area, also the gates that were required. An expert would be meeting with her to look at the trees with regard to any bats that might be using the area. The arisings from the task day at Broomfield pond still had not been removed although this had been requested several times. No diseased Ash trees have so far been identified in the area. It is hoped a tree planting day will be held in early December.

- 253/12 **Clerk's Report /Correspondence.** The clerk thanked to Cllrs Davis & Taylor for covering while she was on holiday.

A meeting was held with Graham Simpson and others from the Public Safety Unit, ward Councillors and two parish councillors to discuss some issues that had been raised by residents concerning Curtis Wood. Graham confirmed that if there was a crime in progress then it was necessary to dial 999, anything other than that should be reported on the 101 number and to our warden Gary Moore. If residents have concerns but do not wish to give their details for fear of recrimination, then they can report all concerns to Crime Stoppers, which is absolutely anonymous, but helps the police to gather intelligence as to what is happening in an area. Cllr Davis will put an article in the newsletter to advise residents.

County Cllr Marsh arranged for his caretaker crew to attend in the parish yesterday. They were provided with a list of jobs and completed all of these except for the gulley cleaning which they have requested to be done. They cleaned and cleared the paths around the schools and into Cherry Orchard, repaired and cleared signs and cleaned off some graffiti. Thanks to County Cllr Marsh for providing us with a team to carry out these jobs.

Cllr Davis and the clerk had a telephone conference with Richard Bridge from Community Matters regarding funding for a new Community Centre. The information he has given is very useful and although there is not a lot of capital funding available currently there are grants for putting together a Business Plan, Architects fees and Feasibility Studies. He will send through this information and when we are ready to move forward, we can contact him and he will help with applications.

National Financial Advisor, Rod Latham, advises that the Order repealing section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 - the requirement that cheques need to be signed by two Members - is now likely to come into effect in the first half of next year. It had been expected that the change would be made before the end of this year, but the parliamentary processes involved in repealing something that is included in primary legislation means that timings can be difficult to predict. Responses to the consultation document on the proposed repeal are currently being analysed by the DCLG and they say a response will be issued in due course.

The annual equipment inspections have now been completed. A tree had come down in the wildlife area and damaged a fence; this had now been dealt with.

A reminder that the cheque presentation to Strode Park is on 2nd December at 3pm and the children's Christmas party on 9th December. The clerk will contact those doing food for both, prior to the events.

This Sunday it is the Remembrance Sunday service at St Martin's Church the service starts at 9.45am. Cllr Taylor apologised for not being at St Martins' as she would be attending the service at her church in Herne Bay.

Correspondence

Forestry Commission re diseased Ash trees. HAMP agenda.

- 254/12 **Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, Standards Committee etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** None. Cllr Day told members that there still didn't appear to be a decision on exactly what was happening with the Standards Committee. Cllr Day also reported that he had attended a lunch to celebrate the Fields in Trust sites in the CCC area of which Cherry Orchard is one.

- 255/12 **To report on Youth Council.** The group were proposing 2 projects one was for a remote control vehicle track in the parish and the other that they could paint a mural on one of the walls of the new community centre. The school council at Herne Bay High were also hoping to be involved.

- 256/12 **Report on Youth Club.** Letters had gone out to parents to tell them the club was closing and the church youth club will take the equipment.

- 257/12 **Receive draft minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on 6th November and set the precept for 2013-14.** This item is deferred to the next meeting.
- 258/12 **To approve the expenditure for the Community Park, which is being paid for from Concurrent Funding Grant.** The parish council is holding £5,500 which must be spent by the end of the current financial year. Some will go on general maintenance by Serco £2,434 plus £300 spent on repairs to tarmac at entrance. The balance will be spent on replanting trees and shrubs. This was approved.
- 259/12 **To examine employee relations.** Cllr Day told members that following on from what had been said under chairman's announcements at the last meeting, he wished to re-iterate that public criticism of the clerk is a confidential matter and should not be discussed in public. All matters regarding employees were confidential. He then read the relevant quote for Charles Arnold Baker and stated that although that wasn't law members should remember that employment laws apply and all employees have rights. If members have an issue they must take the appropriate action it can then be an agenda item in a closed session. Cllr Robert Jones stated that it was not good practise to discuss staff in public and should always be done in a closed session. Cllr Blatherwick raised the issue of members talking to the press. Cllr Day confirmed that any member is entitled to talk to the press as long as they ensure it was their own opinion and not the councils.
- 260/12 **To discuss Children's Christmas party preparations and Christmas float.** The presents for the party were being purchased and the clerk went to the Cash & Carry on Sunday to purchase crackers, table cloths etc. Most of the preparations are done for the Christmas party. The clerk told members that she was concerned that the float was not yet ready and hoped it would be done in time. Rotary had asked to borrow the float daytime on 9th & 16th December daytime. This was approved. Cllr Nicholson told members work on the float would be starting at the weekend. County Cllr Marsh has agreed £100 towards the cost of the Children's party.
- 261/12 **Update on Wildlife Area and discuss quotes received for gates and tree works. 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.** The clerk gave members the details of the quotes received and it was agreed to award D. Parr the contract at a cost of £1,285 Plus VAT. Cllr Davis then told members that the quotes for the gates in the wildlife area had been received and that there had been a suggestion to reduce the number of entrances from Cherry Orchard, possibly doing away with the pedestrian gate and retaining double gates. Members approved this subject to approval by Little Acorns. Members were given details of the quotes received and it was agreed to accept the quote from Quinney's, if possible for one pair of metal gates and also ask them to fence over where the unwanted gate is. The quote for the gates is £1,898 plus VAT.
- 262/12 **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.** Deferred to next meeting.
- 263/12 **Members Reports.** Cllr Hobbs told members that she was disappointed to hear that Sainsbury's developers were critical of Herne Bay. It had been decided not to enter S E in Bloom next year as they were likely to lose the funding from Serco. H B in Bloom will still go ahead. Cllr Harvey told members that a bag of salt had appeared near the notice board by The Plough for residents use, he thanked the clerk for making the request to Highways. He also told members that he had been refused entry to the refuse tip due to the fact he advertised his Grinning Pig business on the vehicle.
- 264/12 **The next meeting of the parish council, will be held on 13th December 2012 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.**

Meeting closed at 9.30pm