

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 11th October 2012 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Davis, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Tracey Jones, Cllr Robert Jones, Cllr Tobin, Cllr Moore, Cllr Breal, Cllr Sargent, and Cllr Harvey.

Absent: Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Day and Cllr Hobbs.

218/12 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Day who is doing a B-tech course, Cllr Nicholson who is working late and Cllr Hobbs who is away. The reasons were approved.

219/12 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. Cllr Davis item 227/12.

220/12 The minutes of the meetings held on 13th September 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

221/12 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. Representatives from Hollamby Estates will attend a planning meeting on 22nd November to discuss the possible development of Strode Farm. Serco have been asked to look at the hedge in Cherry Orchard by CCC. Cllr Davis told members that criticism, by Cllr Moore, of the clerk regarding putting notices on the vehicles parking in the hall car park, was unjust as she had been asked to do this by the hall committee. That committee were also quite happy for the clerk to park in the hall car park when she needed to, as the minutes of the July meeting confirm. Cllr Davis also reported that she had not been able to attend the Blean Initiative meeting.

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 member of the public, who did not speak

222/12 Chairman's Announcements. Councillor Blatherwick who chaired the meeting in Cllr Day's absence, told members that a letter from the clerk had been received. The letter pointed out that criticism of the clerk or any member of staff should not be made in public meetings, this does not show the council in a very good light and also could be seen as bullying. If any member has concerns or complaints with regard to any staff employed by the parish council, there are procedures in place that should be followed. Members should remember that they, as a body corporate, are 'the employer' and as such must act appropriately. Cllr Blatherwick told members that she totally agreed with the clerk's comments and that all members were advised to take the appropriate action with any issues regarding actions taken by staff and not to make comments in public as this was not appropriate.

223/12 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.

County Cllr Marsh reported that he had received a letter from a resident in Herne Bay stating that traffic in Herne needs calming. Tyre dumping in the area was a major problem and there had been five sites where a significant number of tyres had been fly tipped. There was an issue in Chislet where CCC planning enforcement had told the parish council that they could not take enforcement action even though there was an injunction to do so, due to lack of funds. It does look like they may have to take action regardless and are worried that the site will be re-occupied. There had been a spate of thefts of metal drain covers in the parish. Nine parish councils have been offered fire stations at a greatly reduced cost and only one, Sturry, had not taken up the offer. CCC would tonight decide on the new waste contract. It looks like the proposed parliamentary boundary changes will not happen until at least 2015. There were some discussions on recycling and County Cllr Marsh told members that CCC were responsible for the collecting up of fly tipping and that KCC disposed of it.

City Cllr Sonnex sent a written report.

'Herne and Broomfield seems to be suffering at the hands of vandals at the moment.

Car wilfully damaged in Rye Walk. Graffiti and damage to fence panel in Woodrow Chase.

Around 15 drain covers were stolen overnight last night in The Meadows, Margate Rd, Hunters Forstal Rd, Mount View Rd, Windmill Rd and Broomfield Rd.

Highways responded and have put temporary grids over the holes until new ones can be fitted. They have to be ordered.

Peter Vickery Jones and I met with residents and officers at the cemetery in Herne last week. Residents have expressed concerns over the level of service being provided by Serco. Another issue has been raised regarding residents using their own power tools in the cemetery. They were advised by Chris Wallis that before doing so, they must provide evidence of third party liability insurance and have carried out a risk assessment. We will hopefully bring more information next meeting.'

224/12 Police Matters/Crime report. None

225/12 Wardens Report. None.

226/12 Planning and Highways matters. To receive minutes of the meeting held on 4th October and discuss any issues. All members have received a copy of the draft minutes of the meeting and the further correspondence from Terrace Hill. Cllr Blatherwick went over some of the issues of concern regarding the Sainsbury's development, such as the increase in traffic and drainage issues which she thought were unlikely to be easily resolved as Southern Water and the Environment Agency had strict requirements. The new plan received today has taken on board the concerns for pedestrians and a new footway was proposed and pedestrian access through Blacksole Farm to the proposed new site. Cllr Robert Jones told members he thought that the parish council becoming involved at this early stage was very productive. It was agreed that the clerk should liaise with CCC to try and get funding towards the new community centre from S106 monies. Cllr Nicholson has been approached by a resident asking for a drop kerb at the junction of Hawe Farm Way and Broomfield Road. There is only one on one side of the road. The clerk reported that a request had gone to highways to get a dropped kerb on the opposite side. Cllr Davis told members that this request had originally been made about 5 years ago.

Report on Kent Highways Liaison meeting held on 10th October 2012

The first speaker was John Burr he spoke about how they had downsized by a third £150m last year and £200M the year before. They now have a contract with Enterprise and only now pay per job. If it is not up to standard they have to put right at their own cost. It is also the same for any subcontractor. Their name has now been changed to Highways & Transportation. The snow clearance was better last winter than it had been the winter before. Gully cleaning will be done on a cyclical basis and no gullies will be cleaned unless a property is liable to flood. They have cleaned three times the number of gullies than done previously over the whole county. The weather has caused problems with the grass cutting this year. Any works being carried out under the member's budget scheme have to be completed by March 2013. These will not be major works but more minor things. Jacobs's contract is up for renewal and there is a short list of five contractors, this will be awarded by Christmas.

David Shepherd the Freight Manager spoke about the Road Rental Scheme which will try and alleviate disruption or keep it to a minimum. Contractors could pay up to £2,000 per day if work is not completed on time. This scheme starts next year. They are about to consult on street lighting. Proposals are for removing 3,000 columns (2%), 70,000 lights to be part time mainly in residential areas, turned off between midnight and 5am. Fear of crime and accident being increased have proved unfounded in other areas where the scheme has been tried. They have surfaced more roads than ever but it will take 20 years to surface all of them and the life of the new surface isn't that long. He spoke about 20mph speed limits. They will only implement these where there have been fatal accidents and the government funding for this has been reduced by 80%. Unless there is a specific safety need the police will not enforce, and people generally complain about speed cushions etc which they are then requested to remove.

They still need to reduce costs by 1-3% but have made good progress cutting costs, to date.

David Brasier spoke about 'Driving Home the Message' and about Waste Management. He stated he would be willing to visit parish councils and speak at APM.

David Joiner the Transport Road Safety Manager told everyone that crash rates in Kent were 50% less than in the 90's. 519 people were killed or seriously injured on Kent's roads in 2011. 208 cars, 147 motorcycles, 51 cycles and 91 pedestrians. Kent figures are going down (22%); national figures were up by 3%. The plan was to target the young and also have a speed awareness campaign.

John Wilson from KALC spoke about Lorry Watch a scheme being developed to keep HGV's out of villages.

Andrew Hutchinson the PROW officer spoke about keeping paths clear and how parishes could help themselves. Alan Riley also spoke on landscaping.

There was a question and answer session to end, there were complaints about the Parish Portal reporting scheme. Also the message saying resolved when checking the progress of a logged complaint. Requests to re-instate grips to ditches, and whether caretaker money would be available. Self help was discussed in more detail and whether any funding would be available. Snow watch and the bags of grit being provided for some areas, these should be kept covered to keep the rain out. Salt spreaders were also discussed. Lorry Watch was discussed, this was like speed watch taking details of lorries using weight restricted roads etc but this is difficult to enforce. The new Freight Action Plan was discussed and temporary lorry signage was requested. There were more general discussions on highways issues, improvements to seminars.

Cllr Davis told members that Little Acorns had requested that the grassed area between the houses in Norton Avenue be made into car parking spaces. The clerk told members that this would be very expensive and CCC would not have funding for this. Cllr Tobin asked about the water runoff from the school playing fields. The clerk will contact the school and ask them if there is any action they can take to alleviate the problem.

227/12 **Finance**

To ratify payments made since last meeting. ACRK Community Halls Conference £48. Approved

To resolve the approval of payments presented at this meeting; to approve bank reconciliation and earmarked reserves as supplied. Payments were approved. Cllr Moore pointed out that the funding for the Wildlife area was not on the list of earmarked funds. The clerk said she would amend it.

To report on income received. Donation for mural in underpass £1,000, Newsletter adverts £250, Funday £196.05, Bank Interest £3.46, Quiz £388, Donation to Parish Plan Group £100 and Hall hire £85.82 a total of £2,023.33.

Report from Internal Auditor. All councillors had received a copy of the report showing that the auditor had found everything in order.

Request from Friends of the Ponds for funding towards cost of Insurance which is £264.81. Members approved this request and it will be paid under General Power of Competence. Cllr Davis took no part in the discussion or voting but thanked members afterwards on behalf of the Friends.

228/12 **Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported that 11 volunteers had attended the task day and carried out some of the work that had not been done by Serco. She had had a meeting with Little Acorns and the tree surgeon at the Wildlife Area to discuss what needed to be done. The tree works required had been sent to CCC tree officer and there is a 6 week period before work can be carried out. New gates would need to be installed fairly quickly to restrict access to the area. The PROW officer had attended Chapel Row to look at the problem with the trees but no response had been received back as yet. An application for tree works in Hunters Chase had been received and all was OK provided the work was carried out by a qualified tree surgeon. Cllr Moore asked if the wildlife area was to be closed to the public, Cllr Davis told him there would be open days and other organisations would be encouraged to use it, but yes, it would be closed to the general public, mainly on child safety issues.

229/12 **Clerk's Report /Correspondence.** The clerk reported a busy month. Computer problems wasted a lot of time, then the phone connection was lost following heavy rain and something strange happened to the Live Drive, there were also problems with the Norton which needed uninstalling and reinstalling!

Also following the heavy rain, the clerk reported that she called in to check the hall on Sunday 23rd September to find the floor covered in water. The roof had sprung a bad leak, which has been repaired. The contractor reported that really the hall needed a new roof but if it is going to be demolished there was not a lot of point in doing that. The clerk said she discussed the use of rubberised paint on the roof but the roofer said that the felt that was on the roof was too poor for it to be any use and recommended a couple of lengths of felt over the top of the existing, this would be cheaper and give that side of the roof a couple of years.

The quiz night was very successful and everyone enjoyed the evening, there was only one table

that did not turn up. There has been a request to supply food next time; this will be discussed at the next E & L meeting. The quiz raised £401.33 for the Community Centre.

Meetings have been held with Design and Build companies and halls visited. The Community Centre Committee and the clerk visited Faversham Community Centre on 27th September and then went on for discussions with Directline Structures, the design and build company in Ashford. A representative from the design and build company GML came to look at the site and had initial discussions with Cllrs Blatherwick and Davis, it is hoped that he will come back with some ideas.

The KCC Waste Management Team visited on 28th September, to catch up with what is going on at the Community Park. They are happy with the way the park is being run.

The clerk and Cllr Davis met with Roger Wragg of Serco to discuss the planting at the Community Park. A community planting day in November was suggested and then Serco will plant the remaining trees and shrubs. The small gate had been bent and broken, at the entrance to the park from the fields. This has now been repaired but it is likely that a new heavy duty kissing gate will need to be installed or some alternative installed. There was some pretty distasteful graffiti on the track, but luckily it was done in chalk. Peter Gray went over it with a broom which removed most and the rain did the rest.

The clerk told members she should have attended SLCC AGM and training day in Sevenoaks on 4th October, but due to work pressures she could not afford the time away from the office.

The quarterly audit was carried out on 5th October and all members have received a copy of the report.

The clerk met with Serco's Timmy Gledhill to look at the paths and steps at the Community Park on 9th October. Due to the heavy rain some of the surface has washed away and some areas need attention. Timmy came up with several suggestions and will submit quotes for them. One of his suggestions was to try and divert the run off by use of a type of French drain in the areas most affected.

The clerk attended the Safer Communities Conference on 3rd October.

Cllr Davis and the clerk attended a Funding Surgery at Hersden Neighbourhood Centre on 10th October. Discussions on funding available for the new Community Centre and the setting up of the allotments were high on the agenda as well as footpath repairs at the Community Park and resurfacing of MUGA. Funding advice was also given for funding for the Forest School and Parish Plan Action Plan.

There is not a lot of funding available unless you live in a deprived area. They suggested, for the community centre, to double the precept in order to get a substantial amount of funding before applying for grants as this would help, coupled with a loan from Public Works Loan Board. Funding should be available from Viridor towards the cost of the rebuild and KCC Capital Fund. For the setting up of the allotments grants could be sought from Awards for All, Viridor, Kent Community Foundation, Manston Community Fund and KCC Capital Fund. It may be possible to get funding for the community park from Parks for People.

Cllr Blatherwick attended the Highways Seminar on 10th October.

The clerk informed members that the office would be closed from 15th October and re-open on Monday 29th October as she would be on annual leave. Cllr Davis had agreed to check emails and Cllr Taylor the post.

Correspondence: Letter from Scouts thanking parish council for letting them attend the fun day and hoping we will let them provide refreshments again next year.

230/12 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, Standards Board etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.

Cllr Brealy reported that he had attended a KACL meeting the speaker was **Police** Inspector Steve Barlow who had been at Canterbury for 17 years and lives in Blean. He told members that there had been a 20% cut in funding over 5 years. 200 police officers had already gone and 1,000 civilian staff would go, PCSO's were classed as civilian staff. Cllr Brealy raised the issue of Herne & Broomfield's PCSO being reactive rather than proactive and that she was covering in Herne Bay, Whitstable, Beltinge and Reculver as well as Herne & Broomfield, which he seemed surprised to hear. Speeding was low priority at the moment unless areas had serious accident problems. There was a report on Manston, which has gone to all members. There was a question on whether KALC would increase their fees next year and they stated that they had a surplus of £13,000 so the increase would be small.

Cllr Harvey reported that he had attended a meeting at the cemetery, some of the people tending graves were not happy with the work Serco had done in the cemetery and had started doing their own, this was now prevented by Health and Safety issues. It had been suggested that they could form a Friends of Herne Cemetery and that the parish council could help them with this.

- 231/12 **To report on Youth Council (H&B Youth).** Written report from Cllr Nicholson. *‘We had six young people attend the most recent meeting and it was a good meeting. Progress is slow, but each step forwards is a positive sign. The young people have asked again about lighting on the road by the BMX track and were due to send an email to Alan Marsh asking if this was possible. They feel it is a dangerous part of the parish and a potential hazard for people either walking or cycling along there in the dark. They felt it would be possible to get a street light that was solar powered and triggered by movement so as to preserve energy. If they have not yet asked Alan, I will email him next week with the request for this to be installed. I am hopeful of at least two more young people coming along on Saturday 13 October to our next meeting as I have spoken with them. I met a lady called Jenny Blackburn on the Training Day about Localism who is a Town councillor from near Maidstone and she was asking about our youth arrangement and what we are looking to provide. This is a positive sign and provides a good message to the young people that are coming to our meetings.’*
- 232/12 **Report on Youth Club.** Cllr Taylor reported that there were now lots of activities available to the youngsters in the parish with the BMX, football, after school activities and the church now runs two youth sessions, it was felt that as numbers had declined perhaps it would be sensible to close the youth club from December. They would finish with a visit to LazerRush and possibly have a pizza night. Cllr Harvey thanked Jennifer for all her hard work and said that the youth club had been very popular but had run its course. Cllr Davis congratulated the committee on what they had achieved over the years. Cllr Taylor confirmed any unspent funds would return to the parish council and equipment would be donated to the church youth club. Members approved all of these suggestions.
- 233/12 **To receive the minutes of Community Centre meeting held on 2nd October 2012 and discuss any issues raised.** Cllr Davis asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes that had already been distributed to all members. Cllr Moore questioned whether the parish council had a right to stop residents parking in the hall car park and it was pointed out to him that the parish council owned the hall and car park and not the residents, and they had every right to stop illegal parking. He asked what action would be taken if the problem persisted and Cllr Davis responded that further action such as gating the entrance may be required. A resident had asked him about the parking there, stating that at the public meeting there was a request to allow residents to park. Cllr Davis said that the same resident had been told at that meeting when the new hall had been built parking for residents may be possible on occasion.
- 234/12 **Report on KALC Training Day.** Cllr Taylor told members that the first speaker wasn't very good however the two other speakers were. One spoke about the legal issues and councillors responsibilities and the second was from CPRE who spoke about the Localism Bill and how people think they are getting a say but actual aren't. He cited a case of a council refusing a planning application which was then overturned by the Secretary of State! He spoke about the Big Society and how councils and organisations communicate with residents. He talked of people with disabilities whose biggest need was to get out and meet people. There were many who were very isolated especially these with disabilities. Cllr Taylor told members that there also appeared to be quite a few councils who had not yet signed a New Code of Conduct and some had signed up to the NALC one rather than with their District.
- 235/12 **Update on Allotments.** An allotment meeting was held on 10th October and was attended by Cllrs Davis. There was a small but enthusiastic group present. The acting Chairman, Peter Broad and Treasurer, Steve Sellen confirmed they are willing to continue as officers. The secretary, Sarah Whitney can no longer take the notes of meetings and Ann Baker has offered to do this. Sarah will continue as Membership Secretary. It was agreed that Ann would sign cheques if Sarah doesn't want to. PB said that he and SW had visited Hawkinge allotments and picked up some hints on laying out the area and funding available. Fencing was discussed and the group want 1.8m heavy duty galvanised wire netting with three

strands of angled barbed wire on top. They have had one quote and are still waiting for the others to respond. The price is expected to be between £20,000 & £25,000, PB will contact others for quotes. The measurements have been passed to Monica so that the planning permission application can be drawn up.

Cllr Davis told them that the parish council will sort out the water to the site which is currently on the other side of Ford Road. This is likely to cost in the region of £4,000 and will probably have to come out of the £10,000 earmarked allotment fund. The chairman asked for a copy of the plan showing where the water main on site goes. She told them what the funding workshop suggested: approach Awards for All, Viridor, Kent Community Foundation, Manston Community Fund and KCC Capital Fund and if there is an environmental element the Nineveh trust for funding. They said to create a wish list with costs, in order of priority. Need to emphasise the community benefit. Cllr Davis suggested they think about having a plot set aside for the playgroup, as well as the plots for disabled people. She also suggested they contact the Windmill Community Allotment Project, Dane Valley Road, Margate for tips. There was also talk about allowing enough space between plots and turning heads for machinery. Next meeting 14th November at the Wootton Room – to be confirmed

236/12 Update on Wildlife Area. Cllr Davis reported on her meeting with Little Acorns. As she has stated earlier on in the meeting there was tree work required and she had notified the Canterbury City Council tree officer. There was also the issue of getting quotes for the gates and she offered to do this as the clerk was going to be away. Members approved this.

237/12 Report on Safer Future Communities Conference. The clerk reported that she had attended a Safer Communities Conference at Lenham on 3rd October. The report on the meeting was sent to all members. It is very important for residents to vote on the election of the Police Commissioner as whoever is voted in will have the whole of the funding for Kent Police and they can spend it in any way they wish.

238/12 Members Reports. Cllr Hobbs sent a report to say that Herne Bay had won a Silver Gilt in Britain in Bloom. They came top in their category out of 10 entries. As they were top of their category they will not be allowed to enter again next year. They will of course be entering S & SE in Bloom next year. Colleen won the Lord Mayors Award for her work as secretary of Herne Bay in Bloom.

Cllr Davis asked if grab rails could be put in the toilets in the Community Centre. **Cllr Harvey** asked about a grit bin near the Plough. The clerk will look at the possibility of a bag near the notice board in Margate Road. **Cllr Brealy** reported that many of the salt bins had been overfilled, which meant the lids did not fit properly.

239/12 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council, will be held on 8th November 2012 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm