

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 11th April 2013 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Day, Cllr Davis, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Brealy, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Tobin, Cllr Blatherwick, and Cllr Harvey.

Not present: Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Tracey Jones, Cllr Robert Jones, Cllr Moore.

71/13 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllrs Tracey & Robert Jones, away Cllrs Taylor and Nicholson, away, Cllr Moore is ill. City Cllr Vickery Jones and Cllr Sonnex.

72/13 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and any requests received for a dispensation. Cllr Brealy declared an interest on item 79/13.

73/13 The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

74/13 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The maintenance work on the BMX track has been started and will be ongoing for a few weeks.

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.

7 in attendance 2 spoke.

75/13 **Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Day informed members that two previous councillors had passed away in the last 3 weeks. Doris Weston and Pam Nichols. Unfortunately by the time the clerk was aware, it was too late to send a representative to attend the funerals. He also apologised to the ward councillors for not including them when he thanked everyone at the Annual Parish Meeting.

76/13 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh reported that this was the last meeting of his 4 year term of office. He attended the planning meeting at Kent County Council where they discussed the proposal for a change of use for the Lings site at Hersden, from inert waste to food waste. The votes were equal for and against and it was decided on the chairman's casting vote and was approved. The lorries are likely to use Hoath and Herne to get to the site at Hersden. Westgate Towers will be reinstated and there will be 6 small buses that will run from the bus station to the towers and use of these buses will be free. He has been in touch with Quinn Estates regarding the proposed development and KCC will have to contribute where development takes place but he is aware of the outcome of the consultation carried out by the parish council. He has been working with City Cllrs Vickery Jones and Sonnex on a problem that a resident has regarding flooding in the Broomfield area. Cllr Brealy reported to Alan that the repairs to Lower Herne Road were far from satisfactory and this leaves problems for the future, it also took a lot longer than was advertised. Alan told members that it is listed for resurfacing. He also told members that the more rural roads in the area should be looked after in the same way as the urban ones. Cllr Davis raised an issue regarding a resident who had had real difficulties getting the asbestos that was removed from the garage roof removed from her property, no one seemed to know where it could be disposed of and she was quite distressed over it. Cllr Davis will put some advice into the next newsletter. Cllr Vickery Jones hoped that the footbridge at Blacksole Bridge and a pavement would be underway soon.

77/13 **Police Matters/Crime report.** None. The PCSO has been off sick.

78/13 **Wardens Report.** Michelle Weston gave her report for the time she has been here.

I have now completed two weeks on area.

During this time, my main aim has been to familiarise myself with the whole parish area, visit as many of the groups as possible and get to know the local residents.

Despite the weather not being on my side, I have tried to engage with as many people as possible.

Here are some of the things I have also been involved in –

- Issued three disclaimer notices for residents to have graffiti cleaned off their property

- Spoke with KCC Highways Re removal of graffiti from flyover at the bottom of Pigeon Lane – work will be carried out soon

- Spent time in Streetfields- talking to residents about their safety concerns

- Reported offensive graffiti (for removal) in Underpass

- 2x Trading standards referrals re Scrap metal dealers in area
- Dealt with call regarding overgrown hedges causing obstruction of the footpath (Rectified)
- Sought advice from C.C.C Parking enforcement following complaint about quality of double yellow lines and ability to enforce them.
- Fly tipping issue (residential)

Cllr Davis has kindly agreed to put a piece in the local newspaper as I am asking residents to donate bats, rackets, balls etc – this will allow me to have a “ games bag” to take to the recreation ground and carry out activities during holidays etc .

I have arranged to visit several groups in the next few weeks and I am looking forward to meeting more residents as the weather improves.

79/13 Planning and Highways matters. Receive minutes and discuss issues from the planning meeting held on 2nd April.

To discuss the letter to be sent to CCC re the response from residents on the consultation, re development land to be included in the Local Plan, and whether the parish council needs to look at damage limitation with regard to land for development. Cllr Brealy left the room while this was discussed. Cllrs made a minor amendment to the letter which will be sent to executive members and Ian Brown. Cllr Blatherwick pointed out to members that even though the parish council had requested that the land should not go into the new Local Plan if a planning application is received then the parish council can only object on good planning reasons. It is a brownfield site. Cllr Davis said there were possibly environmental issues with herbicides going into Plenty Brook. There were also traffic and highways issues. Cllr Brealy was asked to return to the meeting.

80/13 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. 1st Broomfield Guides £25, Jewson £475.20, Dirtworks £2,297.76 CCC for the fun day £20. These payments were approved.

To resolve the approval of payments presented at this meeting; to approve bank reconciliation and earmarked reserves as supplied. This includes a donation of £25 to Kent Enterprise House for use of facilities for APM. These payments were approved.

To report on income received. Donations Poo bags £27.15. Interest £.79, KCC payment for Mr Airey £300, Hall hire £236.25 Total £565.02

81/13 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis spoke about the fencing to go around the pond in the Forest School, the clerk had suggested that children would climb over stock fencing and that perhaps chestnut fencing would be better, members felt this wouldn't look very attractive and it could cause splinters. Something with a smaller mesh was needed but it needed to be strong. Cllr Sargent suggested looking at chain link. Cllr Davis and the clerk will meet up with fencing contractors to discuss the options. Members agreed that up to £2,000 could be spent. The paths in this area could be wood chipped but members felt that it would be too costly to edge the paths. Cllr Brealy offered to clear some of the dead wood with Cllr Sargent as soon as the field was dry enough to drive on. Members did not have a problem with an outdoor shelter being erected in the area. Members did have concerns regarding overnight camping by the scouts, Cllr Davis pointed out that it was designated as a wildlife area and it did back onto residential properties. An issue with regard to clearance of the site had been raised by Little Acorns, the clerk suggested that the KCC wardens could probably help with this, Michelle told members that she was quite happy to organise this.

Cllr Davis reported that the bat walk had been cancelled due to the weather and would now take place on 16th April at 7-30pm weather permitting. The tree works in West Blean woods would continue for another week. Cllr Hobbs reported that the last task day at the pond had been cancelled due to the weather. The next one would be at Goldspots on 21st April.

82/13 Clerk's Report /Correspondence. The clerk has been working with Cllr Harvey and Peter Broad to get quotes for fencing etc for the Allotment site as the parish council holds the lease they need to apply for the grant from Awards for All. The planning consents have been received for the fencing and parking etc on the allotment site, however there are a couple of conditions one requiring an archaeological survey of the site and that the parking area should be surfaced and drained to the satisfaction of the planning authority, they also require a landscaping scheme to be submitted. When the planning officer returns from annual leave the clerk will ask for clarification on these conditions. The clerk has been working with Cllr Davis on the grant form. The clerk has been catching up on sending out invoices for the latest newsletter completing the end of year with regard to the accounts which is well under way and Kevin funnell will attend next week for the end of year audit. The application to use Cherry Orchard for the fun day has been submitted and preparations have been ongoing for the event. Risk assessments visits to the gardens opening for the safari, will start at the end of the month

and preparations for this have been ongoing. The signs have been taken to have the dates altered and Cllr Davis is working on finalising the programmes so they can be distributed in advance. The latest edition of the Community News has gone out and the clerk thanked Cllr Davis for producing another professional publication. This week has been particularly busy as Peter is away and the clerk has been looking after the hall and the Community Park. The clerk thanked Cllr Harvey for unlocking and locking for the children's party at the weekend. The clerk told members she would not be in the office on 23rd and 24th April.

The clerk read out two items of correspondence one regarding a twitter and facebook account that has been set up by Herne resident Tina Kinsella, the other about the proposed development of Strode Farm. The clerk had also received notification that the public contact number for KCC is now 03003335540.

- 83/13 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, Standards Committee etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** Cllr Breal gave a brief report on the KALC meeting, the minutes of which have been circulated to all members. There had been a talk on waste and it was interesting that the amount of waste that is produced today is the same as it was in 1930, but back then it consisted of a lot of ash from the coal fires whereas now much is food waste. Kent has an excellent record for recycling and no waste goes out of the County.

Cllr Harvey attended the Allotment Society AGM, approx 20 people attended and the planning application, fencing and funding were discussed. The committee were re-elected with two additional members. A working party will start to mark out the area once it has been fenced. A financial report was also given.

- 84/13 To discuss the possibility of parish council being given the land for a new parish office.** The clerk reported that the owner of the old dairy site has offered a piece of land which currently has a building on it, for use as a parish office. The site currently has a planning application which is awaiting a decision and the area on offer has been included in this application. He is prepared to donate the land regardless of the outcome of the planning application. The area would give a bigger office with more storage than we currently have but it would be necessary to make sure that the Wootton Room could still be used for meetings etc. Members agreed that more details were needed, details of whether there was a time scale for getting an office up and running, parking provision, planning and costings.

- 85/13 To discuss the results of the meeting held with the residents of St Martin's View.** Cllr Davis reported that 8 residents had attended and 3 councillors who observed, as well as the committee. Several had raised the issue of the road surface saying they wished it to remain unbound. Residents wanted to look at putting gates across the entrance, these would remain unlocked. They would like the bank to be planted as a natural hedge and concerns were raised about the clearance of the land. An ecological scoping survey had been completed. There were issues raised about the Community Payback team. Residents were not sure they wanted a Trust running the new building rather than the parish council. Also raised were licences, security cameras and lighting.

- 86/13 To report on the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th April 2013.** Following refreshments from 7pm, on what was a very cold evening; the chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. With about 40 people there, it was quite well attended. The talk given by Lynne Moore regarding the changes to the recycling system was well received and she answered quite a lot of questions. The chairman gave his annual report and there was a short finance report. Following this the chairman announced the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community which went to 1st Broomfield Guides for their work in and around the parish. Along with a certificate they received a cheque for £25.

There being no police in attendance Michelle Weston gave a report for the year on behalf of KCC Warden Service.

Nineteen reports were received from local organisations some in person and some as written reports.

There being no questions at the end the meeting closed at 9-45pm

- 87/13 Update on business plan etc for Herne Village store.** Cllr Moore had left a message saying that the owners of the shop are not sure that they are selling now. Cllr Blatherwick reported that the owners were very angry about all the press coverage and discussions that the parish council was going to purchase the shop, especially as they had not discussed this with the parish council or been consulted. Cllr Breal reported that he had received similar comments. Cllr Day stated that he was sorry that the owners had been distressed by the actions taken, especially the fact that it was in the press, but the parish council did not have control over what the reporters printed in their papers. He would call into the shop and apologise on behalf of the council. It was a lesson learned. Cllr Tobin stated that he was there when Cllr Moore was told

by the shop owners that they wanted to sell. It was agreed that the parish council would not be purchasing the shop and the matter would not be taken any further.

- 88/13 Agree Access Statement for new Community Centre and discuss the Viridor application for funding and Business Plan.** The Access Statement was approved. Cllr Davis told members that the Business Plan had been completed it was updated by a professional from Community Matters. It would need updating as time went on. She will send a copy to all members. The Viridor application for funding has not yet been completed.
- 89/13 To approve Health & Safety and Recruitment Policies for parish council, copies supplied.** Members approved both of these with a couple of minor alterations.
- 90/13 To discuss the scoping survey report.** The clerk reported that this had not been received yet.
- 91/13 To discuss quotes for the maintenance at Broomfield Community Park and agree a contractor to carry out the work, and discuss quotes for fencing around pond in Forest School if received. This item may be discussed without the public or press present, Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business being discussed.** It was agreed to exclude public and press. There were two quotes received for the maintenance of the Community Park, 3 had been requested but the third quote has not been received. The clerk gave details of the quotes supplied and it was agreed to accept the 3 year contract from Serco at £2385.54 per annum. The fencing of the pond has been dealt with earlier.
- 92/13 Update on the offer on the land. This item may be discussed without the public or press present, Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business being discussed.** It was agreed to exclude public and press. The clerk reported that she had contacted the land owner explaining that the parish council had decided not to increase the offer on the land and that the parish council's boundary with the land would now be fenced. No response has been received. Cllr Davis said it was a shame, it could have been useful.
- 93/13 Members Reports.** Cllr Harvey had a complaint about parking outside Broomfield PO and speeding in that area, also there is a large pothole in Bogshole Lane. Cllr Brealy reported on the Localism Consultation. The clerk told members this had been passed to Cllr Day to complete.
- 94/13 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council, will be held on 9th May 2013 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane This will be the APCM.**

Meeting closed 9.55pm