

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 12th December 2013 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Not present: Cllr Hobbs

248/13 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons. Cllr Hobbs who is unwell, Cllr Nicholson will be late. City Cllr Vickery Jones has another meeting and County Cllr Marsh will be late.

249/13 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda. Cllr Jones item 262/13.

250/13 The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

251/13 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The precept request has been submitted.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO SPEAK

Members of the public to identify themselves, and confirm they are resident in the parish.

1 attended but did not speak

252/13 Chairman's Announcements. The chairman told members that none of them had the authority to comment or tell residents that they were doing something they shouldn't be doing and they had no powers to enforce anything. If they felt something was being done and shouldn't be, they should take it through the proper channels starting with the parish clerk.

253/13 Police Matters/Crime report. No report.

254/13 Warden's Report.

Michelle reported on the following

Speed watch - Set up in area

Areas now covered- Margate Rd, Canterbury Rd, Mill Lane, Broomfield Rd and School Lane.

Remembrance Parade – Traffic Duties/Road Closures

Coordinated Highways at request from Cllr Marsh.

School Traffic Duties- Parking on yellow lines

Have been working outside the school on advising vehicles on parking restrictions.

Restorative Approach training- To learn mediation skills and bring the victim in contact with the perpetrator so the victim has the opportunity to say how it made them feel and the effect it has had on them.

Domestic Abuse info day – Asda. With multi agencies.

Youth Engagement – Whitstable Fire station. Working with youth from Herne.

Children's Christmas Party- Helped with event.

Community Coffee morning- Will be starting on Jan 3rd – Weekly Fridays.

This will initially be started by Michelle with the long term plans of it being run by volunteers and eventually becoming a "Community Luncheon Club" Cllr Marsh has funded all equipment needed to run this. Main other duties have been –

Neighbourhood disputes, isolated elderly and community engagement.

255/13 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh told members he had been at County Hall all day and that the funding cuts were hitting hard. He had concerns over the changes to the Freedom passes which enable young people to get to and from school and can also be used out of school hours. The passes would only allow up to £350 worth of travel. Cllr Blatherwick said this would not even cover a term and that grammar school children had to travel to get to school and this was going to create financial hardship for many local families. County Cllr Marsh told members that £245M had to be saved over 3 years and there were really tough decisions to be made. He was also disappointed that he would be losing £23,000 from the pots of money that he had to share amongst the parishes. He had investigated the possibility of the parish council getting some funding towards the community centre but in order to access the funding it needed to be applied for by a charity or a trust. The clerk told members that a parish council could not be

a charity or a trust. Cllr Day told members that the parish council had discussed this previously and decided that they wanted to see the project through to completion. County Cllr Marsh spoke about the HGV signs that had gone up in Herne village, he said the one in Herne Street outside no 45 should be moved closer to Albion Lane. He also spoke about the proposed new boundaries that would join Hoath, Chislet and Reculver resulting in a larger area. The recommendation for Herne and Broomfield was that the ward boundary should be the same as the parish boundary. Alan stated that the pantomime season started for him on Saturday and he intended to enjoy it and he wished everyone a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Cllr Vickery Jones reported on the meeting where CCC members discussed the boundary changes and that none of the parties could agree a way forward. He also spoke about the possibility of Barton Court School moving to Herne and that all the children from Herne Bay and Whitstable currently had to get to Canterbury and further afield to attend a grammar school, he thought it made good sense to move one of the schools to Herne Bay. County Cllr Marsh pointed out that Canterbury residents did not want to see the school move. He also reported that the Manston fund still had money for grants and that the parish council could access borrowing from CCC for the new Community Centre. He wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

256/13 Highways. The clerk reported that she had received a couple of complaints about the HGV signs that have gone up in the village. Cllr Nicholson arrived at this point.

257/13 Planning Matters

To receive minutes of Planning & Highways meeting held on 5th December 2013 and discuss any issues. Cllr Blatherwick reported that the proposed development for 32- 46 Herne Street had been the only contentious application and the committee objected.

The clerk reported that a meeting was held with the highways officer to discuss the planning application for land at 32-46 Herne Street prior to the parish council planning meeting.

CPRE has sent through a copy of their final response to the Local Plan, there was also an accompanying letter raising the issue of Howe Barracks and Simon Langton not moving also the talk of Barton Court moving to Herne. They have also highlighted that CCC is relying on the New Homes Bonus, but this money cannot be guaranteed. They also commented on the Boundary Commission 'consultation' and the general feeling of discontent by residents regarding how CCC is dealing with local affairs. Lastly Barrie Gore suggested that anyone living in Herne should give their address as Herne nr Herne Bay!

258/13 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Carol Bosworth £70, K Melton £3,890 for installing fencing at allotments. These were approved.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. These payments were approved.

To report on income received. Calendars £106.74, Hall hire £329.38, funds raised for Community Centre £72, bank interest £9.17, events £70, newsletter advertising £700 a total of £1,287.29.

To approve purchasing a hot water urn for Community Centre at a cost of £39.99 plus VAT. The clerk explained that due to increased usage of the Community Centre it would be more convenient for clubs etc to use an urn. Members approved this.

259/13 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The clerk thanked members for her Christmas presents, which she hadn't yet opened and she wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. She also thanked the councillors who had been very supportive, during what has been a difficult year.

Report on thank you and cheque presentation event held on 24th November 2013

About 30 people attended the event held in Herne Community Centre.

Food for the event was provided by councillors and the clerk and there was mulled wine, tea, coffee and soft drinks on offer so everyone was catered for, live music was provided by Cllr Davis' son in law Leon who played guitar and also Cllr Blatherwick's daughter Lucy who played the flute.

David Dye, Director of Human Resources from Strode Park, attended to collect the cheque for the money raised from the Funday, which totalled £915, half of the profit made on the day. Cllr Tony Day told David that it was hoped that the parish council would continue to support Strode Park in the future and he then invited him to talk about their current projects. David explained that Strode Park was currently fundraising for a new hydro

therapy centre complete with swimming pool, which would be of tremendous benefit to wheel chair bound residents. He also spoke about the projects which had been taken on recently such as properties outside of Strode Park which helped those who were able to live independently with minimal assistance, also the children's unit in Stodmarsh, Footprints, which was hugely over subscribed for the respite and other care it gives. David thanked all those who had helped with raising the money for Strode Park and the support given to them by local residents. David answered some questions before leaving. A raffle was held during the event and raised £62 towards the community centre.

Report on Children's Christmas Party held on 8th December 2013

The party, as usual was well attended with nearly 60 children having booked in advance. The afternoon started with Shout Disco who had the children dancing and prancing, it is a good way to start as it does get rid of some excess energy! Following the disco the children sat down to have their food, helped by our army of volunteers. There was plenty of variety and it was enjoyed by all.

The clerk thanked all those who had provided some of the food, Sheila Day for the sandwiches, Jennifer Taylor and Pat Brealy for supplying cakes, also County Cllr Marsh for the £250, to cover the bulk of the cost of putting the party on.

After the children had eaten they were entertained by Pip the Clown, who did magic tricks and balloon modelling for about an hour.

Father Christmas (City Cllr Peter Vickery Jones) arrived on the Christmas float driven by Cllr Sargent, just after 5pm, having visited Strode Park to wave to the residents on route. Every child received a present from Father Christmas before heading off home. Some stopped outside to have their pictures taken on the float with Father Christmas.

The clerk thanked all the volunteers for their help, without which it would be impossible to have the party. Bill & Jan Whiffen, Kay Hayward, Cllrs Robert & Tracey Jones, Michelle Nicholson, Cllr Ann Blatherwick, Tim and family, Cllr Andy Harvey, Cllr Tony Day and his wife Sheila, Cllr Carol Davis, Trevor and her daughter Sue and the two wardens Michelle and Charlotte. The clerk also thanked Paul Parker for supplying the Disco and the music on the float, and City Cllr Vickery Jones for being Father Christmas.

Thanks were also given to Cllr Brealy for supplying the generator and Cllrs Nicholson and Sargent for all their efforts with the float which looked splendid, lastly Cllr Blatherwick for sourcing the presents for the children, which were wrapped by Cllr Taylor and Sheila Day.

Report on meeting with KCC Waste Management Team held on 11th December 13

Nick Gill and Malcolm Attry attended to discuss any issues that had arisen with Broomfield Community Park. They reported that the Environment Agency may require another bore hole to be installed on the site. Malcolm spoke about the steps which were getting in a dangerous condition. The clerk said she had got a quote to repair them but the cost is over £5,000. Nick thought that they might be able to access some funding to repair them from their safety budget. Malcolm did state that he had to use them regularly to access the monitoring points. Nick will speak to their Landscape dept. That was the only issue raised.

The mural in the underpass has been completed, unfortunately the warden found the other side had been graffitied yesterday, but she was able to remove the graffiti with the wipes. The clerk told members that she had asked Highways if they could perhaps look at the ceiling in the underpass which was in a poor state.

The clerk has received notification that Roger Wragg is leaving Serco, he is the person that has been dealing with the community park maintenance and tree planting and he was very knowledgeable' Mick Sammon is taking over from him and a meeting is to be arranged, to discuss the ongoing works.

Report on Pension Forum held at Oakwood House Maidstone on 5th December 2013

The clerk reported that the forum was to enable KCC as the pension provider to give information to employers regarding the proposed changes that will come in on 1st April 2014. They were promised by the government that all the information would be with them by September 2013, this has not happened; they have some information but not all of it. The actuaries attended the meeting Graham Muir from Barnett Waddingham and

explained their part of the process regarding the investment of funds.

KCC spoke about the members that were being moved from the scheme into private schemes, due to work changes etc. councils, specifically, were cutting jobs and the numbers of employees moving were on the increase. Private companies can apply to be part of the LGPS but this takes about 9 months.

Some of the changes that will come in from April are that there can be voluntary retirement at 55 without consultation with the employer, Protection for pre 2014 service and for those within 10 years of NRA at April 2012. Part time workers will pay contributions based on actual earnings. If off sick they can opt for 50/50 payments for a short period of time, if they have two jobs and one employer, each is assessed separately. Overtime and additional hours will now be pensionable. Additional bands will be introduced in April 2014.

The new lights have been put on the tree at St Martin's Church.

Thanks to Cllr Sargent for repairing the notice board and getting a new tyre for the council's Christmas float.

Correspondence

A report that the bench outside the church has been stolen.

A letter from Strode Park thanking parish council for the donation.

- 260/13 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported that she had responded regarding the environmental issue for the proposed development in Herne Street. There would be a task day at Broomfield Pond on 19th January and she was also working on the renewable technologies for the new Community Centre.

- 261/13 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc).** Cllr Brealy reported on the KALC AGM. This was attended by Ann Barnes the police commissioner, who Cllr Brealy described as being quite bullish when it came to addressing her election promises. She spoke about Neighbourhood police stations being moved to crime hotspots, there was to be a new Neighbourhood Watch web site and she hoped to re-establish a sex-crime centre for victims. The interviews for a new Youth Commissioner would take place soon, there had been 42 applicants. There had already been a cut of £53M from the budget and there was another £20M scheduled for 2014-15. The police have lost 500 officers and 700 staff to date. Assistant Chief Constable Rob Price attended the meeting and surprised delegates by stating that there are only 16 burglaries a day in Kent! There was a civil servant who attended to talk about Localism and she was told in no uncertain terms that Localism didn't exist in the parishes as far as the government was concerned. There were various motions put during the AGM in the afternoon. The clerk will send out the minutes to all members when they are received.

Cllr Harvey reported on the Allotment meeting, a large proportion of the allotments have now been allocated with about 16 remaining. The committee had needed to go through a variety of lists to find those who had put their names forward, this has now been completed. There has been some flooding in the corner of the site and a small trench has been dug along the fence line to try and reduce this, which seems to be working.

- 262/13 To discuss replacing the copier.** An email was received from EKS notifying that the current copier could no longer be supported as spares were difficult to get, it will therefore be necessary to purchase another one. The clerk discussed the issue with Cllr Robert Jones and two options have been sent by EKS. City Cllr Vickery Jones arrived at this point. It was agreed that the parish council will purchase a black and white reconditioned copier from EKS. The purchase price is £695 with a cost of 0.8p per copy. There was an option of a colour copier at a cost of £1,195 but members did not think this was required.

- 263/13 Update on Community Centre including planning application etc and repaying the grant to Viridor. To look at taking forward grant applications.** A meeting was held with the planning officer at CCC and the architect to discuss the application for the new Community Centre. The planning officer indicated that it would be better if the land, currently an allotment, was part of the site. The clerk reported that agreement had been reached with the land owner for the sum agreed and that this would now be transferred into the ownership of the parish council. The planning officer discussed some alterations with the architect and they will have another meeting prior to an application being officially submitted. The architect had said that if the parish council could purchase the additional land it would be possible to move the hall slightly further away from St Martin's View.

A meeting was held today, to discuss the terms and the planning application.

The meeting was with Albert Walton and David Brown from Epps, Matt Judge architect, Andrew Walker Betteridge & Milsom, QS and Employers agent. Cllrs Blatherwick and Davis and the clerk also attended.

The clerk reported that Paul Mercer had offered to be the CDM advisor, free of charge, but he was unable to attend today's meeting.

Andrew led the discussions on behalf of the parish council, he did not feel that there was enough detail at the moment for the parish council to be signing the JCT Pre-Construction Services Agreement. Following some discussion it was agreed that the parish council will send Epps a Letter of Intent and once some of the figures had been firmed up this would be followed by the signing of the JCT. The submission of the planning application was discussed and it was agreed that although it needed to be submitted as soon as possible it did need to be accurate so that it did not need any alterations, so attention to detail was paramount. Various surveys will also be required and the topographical survey will need to be extended to cover the additional land. This will be done by the parish council. The Letter of Intent will include some initial costings for surveys and architects fees etc. and the parish council will be expected to cover some of these costs soon. The clerk told everyone she had found a funding source which might enable the parish council to get some funding towards the pre-building costs. Members have already agreed an initial sum of £25,000 for this.

The access from School Lane Car Park was discussed and the retention of the existing access.

Andrew felt that the Design and Build was definitely the best option for the parish council as it gave security on costs. Epps would go out to tender for the various parts of the build to secure the best possible prices.

It was a very productive meeting and another has been arranged for 8th January 2014.

A soil Investigation would be needed soon.

In order to apply for a Viridor grant it is necessary to repay the £20,000 that was received when the hall was purchased, members need to approve this expenditure. We have been advised to get this done and the charge removed before we apply for a new grant. Members approved the repayment of this amount.

The Viridor grant application needs to be ready so that it can be submitted as soon as planning consent has been given. The clerk and Cllr Davis are able to do the basics but the clerk felt it needed a professional to look it over and make the necessary alterations and additions. Funding for this has been set aside.

264/13 To discuss access to hall via School Lane Car Park. Details have been received from CCC regarding the access from the public car park, it was sent back to the officer as it was considered that the access point was in the wrong place, this issue regarding the access point has now been agreed. Members have all received details of the lease and now need to decide when they wish the lease to start. It was agreed that a good date would be 1st April 2014. City Cllr Vickery Jones wanted assurances from the parish council that the Community Centre Car Park could be used by residents at school times to alleviate some of the parking issues in Herne. After much discussion it was agreed that in principle members would be happy to see the hall car park used at school times but this would need to be discussed further, nearer the time. City Cllr Vickery Jones said he was pleased that members had agreed, as if that had not been the case, he would have objected to the parish council having access through the public car park.

265/13 To discuss quotes for repairs to MUGA. The clerk had received two quotes for the work that needed carrying out. Members decided on the lower cost quote which was from Trevor May who installed the MUGA. The works will come to a total of £1,663.

266/13 Members Reports.

Cllr Tobin raised the issue of the water run-off from the school playing fields, again. Cllr Blatherwick said it was the responsibility of the school and KCC and there was nothing the parish council could do.

Cllr Robert Jones had concerns that HGV's going through the village were catching the yew tree and that the lights would get damaged. Cllr Blatherwick said they don't normally put the lights on that edge. He had also received a request from Sturry Parish Council to borrow the float, this wasn't agreed and Cllr Day told members that it could not be discussed as it wasn't on the agenda.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that she had been passed a neighbour issue by Cllr Tobin, the issue was to do with access to a garage and the height of soil from the neighbouring property which was above the damp course. The neighbour has agreed to lower the soil

levels and is happy to give access for maintenance.

Cllr Harvey reported that Broomfield Post Office would like the parish council support to oppose plans by Post Office Counters to have an open counter in the post office, they have concerns about security. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Brealy reported a tree down across a footpath.

Cllr Nicholson thanked his daughters and Martin Rafferty's daughter for painting parts of the Christmas float and to Peter Vickery Jones for making the brackets at short notice.

The chairman concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas.

267/13 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 9th January 2014 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed 9.35pm