

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 10th January 2013 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

01/13 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Robert Jones, Cllr Ian Sargent Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Tracey Jones, who are unwell. City Cllr Sonnex who has another meeting. County Cllr Marsh will attend after the Chislet meeting.

02/13 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and any requests received for a dispensation. Cllr Brealy item 09/13 prejudicial interest. Cllr Davis 10/13 BTCV personal interest.

03/13 The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

04/13 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The Community Payback team has started work on the land at the community centre. The fencing quote that was discussed at the last meeting was revised for a 6ft fence, this was more expensive and the contract went to the lowest quote, as agreed at last month's meeting. A letter had been sent out to CCC stating that Herne & Broomfield did not wish to be part of the Herne Bay Town Council, Ward Cllrs were copied in to this. The Dave Lee bench has been installed and the family will be contacted for a photo shoot.

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

None present.

05/13 Chairman's Announcements. The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year.

06/13 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. City Cllr Vickery Jones told members that the issue with Blacksole Bridge footbridge was the responsibility of Kitewood and it was their obligation to install it. It was not KCC who were holding things up but Kitewood themselves. Morrisons were not being very active and it looked like they would not put forward plans to expand in time to have any effect on the Sainsbury development although permission for this was not guaranteed. The trial for Westgate Towers will run until the end of March. He said that studies showed many more people could use public transport but the bus usage had more than doubled, so that was progress. He has also taken over the Foreshore & Beach Huts portfolio. He told members that there were difficulties balancing the budget with government cuts starting to bite. Over £40M is collected in business rates which goes directly to central government and CCC only get £4M back. Cllr Davis asked Cllr Vickery Jones where he stood with regard to Herne & Broomfield parish being consumed into the proposed Herne Bay Town Council, he said he would not support this.

County Cllr Marsh reported that he was looking into the issues in Braggs Lane but if a weight restriction was put on the road it would be 7.5ton and would stop the lorries getting into the woods. He spoke on the issue of the parish being incorporated into the Herne Bay Town Council and said he would fully support the parish and if need be would supply the funding to enable a referendum. £167 has been allocated to the parish council for any highways use by County Cllr Marsh. He intends to attend the HBAMP meeting on 15th and would like something in writing stating the parish council does not want to be part of a Herne Bay Town Council, he would be prepared to fund a referendum if necessary to get residents views. He also thinks he may have sourced some funding for the new Community Centre.

07/13 Police Matters/Crime report. None

08/13 Wardens Report. None

09/13 Planning and Highways matters. To receive minutes of the planning meeting held on 3rd January and discuss any issues, no questions regarding this meeting. Report on meeting held with Adrian Verrall with regard to the Local Plan. Cllr Brealy left the room at this point. Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk attended the meeting.

From the tone of the meeting, it would be sensible to presume that both the Golf Course and Strode Farm will be put forward as development sites in the Local Plan. This was not confirmed by the officers, but was what we both felt at the end of the meeting. It is also likely that the swathe of land on the other side of the Thanet Way from the proposed Sainsbury

development to Sweeneybridge Road will be included.

One of the main issues, if this land was to be developed, is the road access. The conversation led us to believe that Bullockstone Road would become the A291 and the road through Herne Village would be downgraded. The planners and Highways officers seem to think that Bullockstone Road could be improved to give a width of 6metres throughout its length. Cllr Blatherwick questioned this and also the sharp bends, the junction at both ends, from the new estate and at the Canterbury Road ends, as well as the problem of an overhanging listed building and a steep incline. The clerk raised the issues of pedestrians using an A road with no footways and access for the large amount of horses that currently use the road. A safety audit has not yet been carried out and we suggested this should be done sooner rather than later hopefully this will now be done before the report goes to the executive. Cllr Blatherwick laboured the point that she did not consider the existing road, widened or not, to be a suitable road for an A classification.

Cllr Blatherwick pointed out that, it was generally felt, if both sites were to be developed Herne would lose its identity and residents also did not want to lose the open space between Herne Bay/Greenhill for this reason. The parish plan update showed residents did not want large developments in the parish. The officers took on board that any development would need to have open space and would look at about 25-30% being allocated for this. Cllr Blatherwick raised the issue of the lack of secondary school places and the need for the youngsters to travel out of the area to access schooling, we were told this is a KCC issue.

Any development included in the Local Plan would need to be phased and the Herne Relief Route would need to be totally developer funded, and would not be done first. They were asked what would stop the developer from getting so far and then stopping, and the relief road never being completed, as had happened with the bridge at Blacksole. We were told that they would have to have a Bond which would mean they would have to carry out the work by a certain date. Any development would need to be mixed, with housing, business and recreation included. The officers were questioned about the fact that at times the allocations in the Local Plan were changed without consultation and land given over to another use. They try to avoid this happening if possible. Cllr Blatherwick asked about the type of housing that is likely to be approved and Adrian did say they were looking at having a minimum overall floor space criteria to stop the building of properties with tiny rooms, and to ensure living space and bedroom space was balanced. There should be adequate open space for youngsters to play etc and that they were also looking at Garden City Principles to be implemented.

Cllr Blatherwick told them that the area needed homes for the elderly, especially assisted living and also low cost homes for local people, i.e. shared equity, not just social housing.

It was made clear that Canterbury City Council has to come up with land to allocate for housing in order to meet the requirements, but they also have to incorporate land for business use and recreational/community facilities. It certainly seems that the whole development hinges on whether Bullockstone Road can be suitably changed to become an A road!

How does the parish council take this forward, after much discussion it was decided that a public meeting would be held, if possible in the church. Cllr Day will speak to the vicar and he and Cllr Moore will organise this. Cllrs Blatherwick, Davis and the clerk will put together a questionnaire, to get residents views and if residents were not in favour of this development in the parish, then it may be necessary to hire an independent consultant to produce a report on the viability of Bullockstone Road as a relief road, as members considered that this would be a major contribution in stopping Strode Farm from being included in the Local Plan. Cllr Blatherwick will get information on who could carry out this work and an idea of cost. She also thought the ward councillors should be invited to come along to state what their views are and what position they will be taking on this issue. Cllr Vickery Jones said he would see if he could find out whether this area was seriously being considered for inclusion. County Cllr Marsh told members he would speak to the highways officer to get as much information as possible.

Cllr Brealy returned at this point and raised an issue with the culvert in Owl's Hatch Road that takes the plenty brook water, this has partially collapsed and he had met with an officer from KCC earlier in the day try and get this resolved. He also reported that the pothole repairs in Lower Herne Road are breaking up.

10/13

Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. First Responders £270, Ann Blatherwick £24.97 party books. These were approved.

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. Raffle £39, Advertising £150, Funday £12.50, Children's Party £293.91, Bank Interest £1.31, Refunds £30.09, Sales £32.66, Youth Club £2.50, Hall

Hire £230, hall donation £10. Total £801.97

Tree and Pond Warden donation £50 to BTCV. Cllr Davis asked for this to be deferred.

Quarterly Audit Report distributed to all members. The auditor had found that everything was in order.

- 11/13 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported that she had asked for several trees in Bullockstone Road and one at Strode Farm, to have TPO's on put on them. The wildlife area was now closed to the public. Cllr Hobbs reported that the arisings had not been removed from Broomfield pond and that the dead tree still had not been removed.

- 12/13 Clerk's Report /Correspondence.** The clerk wished all members a Happy New Year and thanked them for her gift of a planter.

The Christmas float toured Broomfield on 16th December and collected £96.85 in donations, Cllr Nicholson arranged for people to phone ahead allowing people to be aware of when the float was in their area and this worked very well. Fairly busy month so far with meetings re the council tax issue, this is on the agenda and the meeting with planning which has already been discussed. The clerk reported that she was in the process of contacting companies with regard to getting designs and costs for the new Community Centre. Unfortunately one of the companies that we had met has now gone into liquidation. Discussions with Serco will take place soon regarding the ongoing maintenance of the Community Park. It is understood that Serco have got CCC contract for the next 5 years.

Thank you letter from Strode Park, letter from resident against the development of Strode Farm.

- 13/13 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** Cllr Hobbs reported on the KALC meeting. The guest speaker was Sylvester Nicholas of Kent Fire and Rescue Service who came to seek assistance with the maintenance of fire hydrants in the rural parishes. As Kent Fire & Rescue Service only check fire hydrants every four years on a rolling programme they wish to enlist the help of parishes in ensuring that fire hydrants are accessible and free of vegetation. Those in the roadway are marked with a yellow 'H' and, others are marked by small columns. A map of each parish's fire hydrants is available from KALC. The Service can provide log sheets for checking hydrants. Free fire safety checks are available and dementia sufferers can have switches fitted to electric cookers so that they switch off after 8 minutes to prevent fires. There were also discussions on the changes to the precept and Band D which could result in residents paying more. The new Police Commissioner will attend a meeting in February with the KALC secretary and chairman. The minutes of this meeting will be circulated to all members when received. Cllr Harvey attended the Allotment Society meeting on 9th Jan and the committee would like to move forward now by getting the planning application in to CCC. He will work with Cllr Blatherwick on this. There had been discussions on the parking provision and the provision for disabled. The committee was worried that the first rent payment to the parish council was due in March in they did not have any income as yet. Members agreed this should go on the agenda for the next meeting. The clerk reported that she had asked for a quote to run a water pipe from the existing supply at the Community Park to the allotment site.

- 14/13 To report on Youth Council.** None.

- 15/13 To discuss CRB checks for all parish councillors.** Deferred to next meeting.

- 16/13 Update on government legislation regarding precept and report on meeting with CCC regarding changes to Band D.** Lisa Fillery head of Finance, Tricia Marshall and Jackie Banham held the meeting on behalf of CCC and all parishes were invited, although not all attended.

The council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) starts from 1 April 2013 and subsequently will change parish precepts.

Council Tax benefits have gone and been replaced by the CTRS the council tax base figure is now discounted to allow for those that will be receiving council tax support from 2013/14. This means that in order for a parish to receive the same level of precept the band D charge would have to increase. The government has allocated a grant for council tax support to districts councils, with a proportion attributable to parishes. The parish element is intended to be used to top up the funding for parish councils so that they are not worse off under the new arrangements. This means that in future the total funding required by parishes will be split into the precept amount and a grant amount. Therefore, the precept amount will be lower and so using the discounted council tax base, the band D charge would remain the same. This is an unintended consequence of new legislation which is why the government have provided the grant.

There is a limit to the grant allocation that has been awarded and based on the information that parishes have provided to date, CCC hope to fully fund the council tax support element. Substantial increases to parish requirements will impact on this and if the total grant amount is breached then a method of allocating the grant will need to be decided.

The introduction of the grant allocation to parishes will mean that the precept amount will be different from total funding requirement that is notified to CCC.

The future grant funding amounts are not clear as the government have given a specific allocation for Council Tax Support in our government grant funding for 2013/14 but has advised CCC that this split will not be provided going forwards from 2014/15. They do know that the proposed cut to grant funding for 2014/15 is £1.3m for Canterbury (12.6%), so there will need to be a review of the position again next year. What this will mean is that any proposed funding increases from 2014/15 will need to be covered by increases in the precept. It is not clear at this stage whether parishes will be subject to capping in the future.

The precept request for 2013-14 is £94,785 this will result in an indicative grant allocation of £8,946.48 leaving a precept of £85,838.52, making Band D council tax £31.86. This is an increase of 72p per year or 0.01p per week. As you can see from these figures if no grant was made available then the whole precept figure would be an extra £8,946.48 about 10% increase which would have to be passed on to residents.

Therefore in a nutshell, next year, if there is no grant given by government, and the precept amount stays the same the cost for a Band D property will be £35.18, an increase of £3.32 p.a. or 11%.

17/13 Update on Community Matters re Community Centre Business Plan. Another meeting has been arranged with Stephanie Linham from Community matters with regard to putting together a business plan for the Community Centre. There is a very tight time scale for this as it needs to be completed by 31st March.

18/13 To discuss the painting of the other side of the underpass. There have been a couple of requests to paint the other wall in the underpass, do members want to take this forward? City Cllr Vickery Jones thinks there may be funding available through HBAMP, he will look into it.. Members were asked to think about what they would like to see depicted as a mural. The design would have to be approved by Highways.

19/13 Members Reports. None

20/13 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council, will be held on 14th February 2013 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.

Meeting closed 9.30pm