

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 14th March 2013 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Not present: Cllr Tracey Jones, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Harvey.

45/13 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons. Cllr Tracey Jones who is working, Cllr Andy Harvey who is in London, Cllr Taylor who is ill. These reasons were accepted. City Cllr Sonnex and Vickery Jones are unable to get to the meeting.

46/13 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and any requests received for a dispensation. Cllr Brealy on items 53/13 and 60.13, he left the meeting when these items were discussed.

47/13 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

48/13 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The application for Viridor has not been completed yet as it does not need to be submitted until May/June. It appears that in order to make a new application the money received for the purchase of the land will have to be repaid, £20,000. This will be an agenda item at next month's meeting. The topographical survey has been completed.

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

5 present none spoke

49/13 Chairman's Announcements. The chairman reminded members that the Annual Parish meeting would be held on 4th April 2013 at Kent Enterprise House from 7pm.

50/13 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh asked if anyone knew if there was a maximum number of councillors for parish councils. Cllr Davis and the clerk thought it was 15. County Cllr Marsh asked who set the numbers and that if the number of residents increased, did the number of councillors. Cllr Davis told him that the number of councillors was set by the Boundary Commission. County Cllr Marsh had had a meeting with Mark Quinn and spoke about the possibility of the parish getting some gain from development in the area. Cllr Day told him that the parish council had already had two meetings with Mark Quinn. County Cllr Marsh thought that the developer would be willing to donate land for a new school but as KCC did not have the funds to build a new school this was of little benefit. He thought there were highways issues that needed to be resolved, and that any development would infill between Herne Bay, Greenhill and Herne. He asked if the chairman and vice chairman would like to accompany him to a meeting with Mark Quinn. This will be arranged later.

City Cllr Sonnex has sent a written report.

'Three weeks ago on a Sunday evening a pushbike was thrown into the path of an oncoming bus at Herne, near Curtiswood Park. The driver managed to brake safely and another motorist retrieved the bike. A group of youths were seen in the area but cannot be linked with the incident. The incident was reported to the police but no-one has been caught. A mindless and dangerous thing to do.

The hippo bag at the junction with Margate Rd/Hunters Forstal Rd has been a huge success in terms of providing grit in the recent icy weather. The grit has proved invaluable as that stretch of road has a lot of footfall with people travelling to and from the adjacent bus stops and local playschool.

The downside is, the bag itself. Whilst full of grit it became a litter tray for cats, a post for male dogs and a dumping ground for rubbish. At one point, it also got dragged whilst three quarters empty across the footpath creating a possible tripping hazard.

The bag itself is also not aesthetically pleasing and I would ask the Parish Council to consider providing a permanent proper salt/grit bin to be sited permanently on that location.

I have received a couple of complaints regarding the 'bird scarer' in the fields at Broomfield Rd. The sound is spooking dogs on their walks. I understand the need for the farmer to protect his crops but this really is an issue for dog owners, particularly for those whose dogs are nervous.

I attended the exhibition for the potential development of the sports hub/housing/Tesco at the Kings Hall last Saturday. There was a steady number of people expressing both interest and concerns throughout the period I was there'.

City Cllr Vickery Jones sent a written report as follows Blacksole bridge update.

'Agreement has now been reached between Network Rail and I have received confirmation that KCC will adopt it, which apparently was the last hurdle. However we have been this way before so fingers crossed.

I have arranged for planning officers to ensure that the developers building Talmead should now construct the footpath around to Blacksole bridge from Mill Lane in compliance with a condition in their planning permission.

I have also spoken with the developers for the Christian Centre who have yet to make an application, for them to consider providing a pedestrian access through their property for residents of Talmead to access Canterbury Road which will mean not having to walk right up to Margate Road, if they wish to go into town. You will remember how hard we tried to persuade the residents of Parsonage Road to agree the same.

Robert Jones will tell you about HBAMP, suffice to say he spoke well on behalf of the Parish and your application for funding in regards to the underpass. With his help we were able to agree the funding will be available in April during the next Council year.

At a public meeting with the developers of the Golf Course, I pressed the case for a contribution towards Herne & Broomfield's community projects as we have never really gained any benefit in the past from the huge amount of building taken place over the last 10 to 15 years. Mark Quinn was minded to do something along those lines, but I agreed with Carol Davis, who was there, that it would have to be considered carefully so as not to suggest a bribe to us. Nevertheless the opportunity is there and I seek your guidance about how much further I take it. If you do decide to at least explore it a bit further then some idea of the figure you have in mind would help.

As you know any decision on the local plan has been deferred until May, but in the interim it has been pointed out that no Herne Bay councillor has been involved to date. John Gilbey has now arranged for one councillor from each Herne Bay ward to have an opportunity to express their views before any decision is reached. Quite right too.

I have been working with Sharron Sonnex to resolve a resident's flooding problem in Hawe Farm Way and various other residential problems like moving the bus stop opposite Canterbury Fields, Canterbury bound, which is in a ridiculous position adjacent to a road island, and trying to get the footpath down into Herne properly maintained. You will remember that our local PCSO leafleted all those who were parking on the pavements with great effect because she solved the problem. Have we still got one?'

51/13 Police Matters/Crime report. PCSO Sue Radcliffe reported that she is not allowed to change her rota in order to attend meetings. New PCSO's are being recruited for Kent. There has been a spate of break-ins, in the Dartford area with work vans being broken into and tools stolen. Residents need to be vigilant in case they move towards the coastal towns. There have been vehicles damaged on driveways and a few lead thefts. Anti Social Behaviour in Herne Bay was on the increase, the police can now request that parents attend and collect their children rather than them being taken home. ASBO's can still be issued. There have been a lot of rumours regarding dog snatching in the area, these are totally unfounded and have been spread via a social networking site. There was a question as to whether it should be reported if youngsters approach and ask adults to buy cigarettes or alcohol on their behalf, Sue said yes ring the 101 number and report it.

52/13 Warden's Report. Gary reported that this was his last meeting as he was being moved to Littlebourne area and Hersden. Michelle Weston who is currently the warden supervisor will be covering Herne & Broomfield for at least 3 months. Since returning from sick leave Gary has been a visible presence in the parish and has dealt with a couple of neighbourhood disputes. He was pleased to report more residents were now looking out for neighbours. He had reassured residents who were worried about dog thefts. Cllr Day wished Gary luck for his new area.

53/13 Planning and Highways matters. Members had all received a copy of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 7th March. There were no questions.

54/13 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. £30 Global Airport Conference. Approved
To resolve the approval of payments presented at this meeting; to approve bank reconciliation and earmarked reserves as supplied. Expenditure and bank reconciliation approved.
To report on income received. Advert £60, Bank Interest £.82, Hall Hire £278.33, Hall Donations £45.92, refund £40. Total £425.07

To approve an Ecological Risk Assessment for Community Centre at the cost of £500.
Members approved this expenditure.

- 55/13 **Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported that the Friends of the Ponds held their AGM on 13th March and a written report will go to all councillors.

- 56/13 **Clerk's Report /Correspondence.** It has been a busy month again with a lot of meetings. There was a visit by Viridor to inspect the hall that they helped to buy. They were looking at the facilities that it had and the general condition and were pleased to hear about the improvements that the parish council has made to it. The clerk told members she had met with contractors in order to obtain quotes for Community Park maintenance. The clerk attended the opening of the new self contained accommodation at Strode Park. Strode Park's Coach House Mews.

An existing building, a wing of the Coach House in Lower Herne Road, has been converted and renovated into 3 self contained units. This will enable young adults with disabilities to move on to independent living. The flats are light airy and spacious and it was wonderful to see the delighted faces of those who will be moving into them. The architect was Russell Clarke a local resident and the builder was WW Martin. The converted building has been sympathetically designed to retain its original period features and has been finished to a high standard. The main living area is large and easily accessible for wheel chair users there is also a bathroom and a fitted kitchen. The whole area is light and bright and will be well used by those who will be moving in. A fantastic project and they are hoping that they will be able to build more in the future. The draft minutes of E & L have been circulated and it was reported that there was a meeting for those who are opening their gardens this year and they have chosen Macmillan as the charity for this year. There was a meeting with Alan Cox, Megan Taylor and the clerk with regard to the electricity bills. Megan had taken the useage from the planner and the parish councils meter reading, the parish council has used the Wootton Room about 30% of the time and KCC and the Friends the rest. The split KCC is looking for as a contribution towards electricity costs is 40% for parish office and Wootton Room use, the rest to be covered by KCC and Friends of the Mill. The clerk has been corresponding with a resident of St Martin's View answering a variety of queries.

- 57/13 **Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, Standards Committee etc), any meetings attended by members on behalf of parish council.** None

- 58/13 **To report on Youth Council.** Cllr Nicholson reported that due to lack of numbers the youth council was being disbanded. He thanked Lucy Blatherwick and William Brealy for all their hard work and also thanked Cllrs Sargent and Day for their support. Cllr Day thanked Cllr Nicholson for all his hard work and hoped that in the future perhaps the parish council can get more interaction with the young people.

- 59/13 **To discuss the recommendations on the Business Plan for Community Centre that once completed the new building will be put in the hands of a Trust and run as a Charity.** As discussed at the last meeting, Stephanie who has helped put together the business plan for the new hall, suggested that it would greatly improve the funding opportunities if the parish council had a long term plan for the running of the new community centre when it is finished. It was suggested that the best way was for the parish council to hand over the running of the new building to a Charity or a Trust, on completion. After much discussion it was agreed that in principle this was a good way forward but more information would be obtained on how this would be achieved. Cllr Davis will do some research and report back at the next meeting.

- 60/13 **To discuss the results of the public meeting and questionnaire re Local Plan proposals for the development land.** The clerk has circulated the report on the public meeting and it was obvious that residents did not want to see any development. They wanted the farm land left as farm land. Responses to the questionnaire as follows: 340 No to any development, 52 Yes to the Golf Course, No to Strode Farm and 13 yes to both. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to all executive members and Ian Brown with the results of the consultation for residents, query regarding the possibility of the barracks land being used for development. Perhaps it would be possible to delay the Local Plan consultation until there was confirmation on the barracks site. Cllr Davis told members that the figures showed that Herne & Broomfield had a much higher density of population per hectare than most other places in the Canterbury district, it was agreed this would be raised in the letter to CCC. Cllr Moore asked what happens next and if he could take over the group who had put their names forward to fight the development instead of Cllr Day. Cllr Day said he was happy with that proposal.

- 61/13 **To receive draft minutes of Community Centre Committee meeting and discuss any issues arising from these. To approve purchase of paint for Community centre.** The clerk

explained that there had been a few issues last Sunday with the work carried out at the Community Centre. The internal door glass had been smashed when the clerk attended on Monday morning, a cup with some coffee in it had been thrown over into one of the cupboards, the materials supplied have been removed and the hedge has been chopped down to about 3ft. The clerk reported that she had met with Hazel Gregory from the probation service and she was very apologetic and couldn't understand why the incident of the broken door hadn't been reported to her. It may well be that the glass was broken accidentally, but Hazel has agreed to cover the cost of replacing the glass. The police have been informed, at her request. She was also horrified at what they had done to the hedge. The clerk asked members if they still wished for the Community Pay back team to repaint the Community Centre. After some discussion it was agreed that they should continue but with a team of 5.

- 62/13 To discuss the maintenance of BMX track and agree expenditure.** The track is badly in need of maintenance, the very wet weather has taken its toll on the surface. There is money available from Developer Contributions £3,044 for work at the Community Park. The track builder has been asked to quote for the work and his quote is £7,179.60 plus VAT. The clerk has spoken with club chairman Chris Werner who said the club were willing to carry out the work if the parish council could supply the materials this should not come to more than £3,000. After some discussion this was agreed.
- 63/13 To receive draft minutes of the E & L meeting held on 28th Feb as and discuss any issues arising from the meeting.** The clerk told members the only issue really from this meeting was the pond in the Forest school and the safety of the children using it. It was agreed it might be better to fence the area; this would be a quicker solution. Cllr Davis and the clerk will meet the fencing contractor and get a quote for the work.
- 64/13 To approve Health & Safety and Recruitment Policies for parish council, copies supplied.** This item is postponed to the next meeting.
- 65/13 To discuss the provision of a new notice board in Curtis Wood Park and a donation towards an Activity Day.** Cllr Davis had met with officers from Canterbury City Council and it was suggested that rather than add another notice board, if the parish council's board (which is in a poor state) were to be replaced with a new one near the footpath map, the friends of the pond could use it to publicise their task days at Goldspots. It could be included in the grant application with the other works. There was also a request for funding towards the Activity Day which would cost approximately £200. It was agreed to donate £100, this sum would come from Community & Amenity fund.
- 66/13 To discuss whether members consider Cllr Brealy has a conflict of interest.** Cllr Brealy explained that when he attended the public meeting there were questions from the floor as to whether he should remain a parish councillor, he had not been happy with the response from Cllr Day and had later spoken to him about it. Cllr Day did write a letter to the press expressing his views that at no time had Cllr Brealy tried to influence the council, he always left the meeting when he had an interest and that he did not consider it necessary for Cllr Brealy to resign. Cllr Brealy wished to put it to all members of the council, because if it was their wish, he would resign. Cllr Day stated that the Code of Conduct and Members Declarations of Interest now came under criminal law and the rules were adhered to strictly by the parish council. He stated there was no reason why Cllr Brealy should not continue as a councillor. Other members stated that he had a lot to offer and did not see why he should resign, and much of the perception by residents arose from ignorance about how the parish council operated. All members supported Cllr Brealy and agreed he should not resign.
- 67/13 To explore the possibility of the parish council buying Herne Village store.** Cllr Moore explained to members that the current owners have been trying to sell the shop for some time and he had suggested that they let him run it, they declined. He thought that the shop could be made smaller and a garden flat could be made from part of the shop with a flat above, all could then be rented out. Cllr Day told members where village shops had been purchased by parish councils, these were generally rural areas and access to other shops, several miles away. Cllr Robert Jones had done some investigating and there was a company called the Plunkett Foundation that would look at whether a retail unit was viable and advise a parish council as to whether it would be a good investment. It is likely to involve a Public Works Loan which of course would need to be paid back regardless of whether the shop was run successfully or not. It would be likely that the residents would need to vote in a referendum to ensure they were willing to take responsibility for paying back the loan, through the precept, should the shop not be successful. This is a listed building so planning consent could be difficult. It was agreed Cllr Moore would get more information and report back to full council.
- 68/13 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. The clerk reported that the current owners of the land had come back with details of the purchase price which was different to what had been provided by the land registry, but the land registry had now confirmed the price paid and in view of that a higher offer of £5,000 has been made. This has been rejected. It was agreed that the council did not wish to make a higher offer and that the clerk will write stating that the parish council will not be increasing the offer.

69/13 Member's Reports. Cllr Nicholson had received complaints of vehicles parking on the pavement in Broomfield Road. Cllr Hobbs said there would be a task day at Broomfield Pond on Sunday 24th March at 10am, all welcome. She had attended the Herne Bay Business Show Case along with the Herne Bay in Bloom Group, this was well attended. There were not going to be troughs in Herne Bay High Street this year, there was a lot less funding available from Serco and the shop keepers didn't look after them very well last year. Herne Bay in Bloom were applying for Charity status to help with funding

70/13 The next meeting of the parish council, will be held on 11th April 2013 at 7-30pm at the Wootton Room Herne Mill, Mill Lane.

Meeting closed 10.05pm