

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

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

207/13 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons. City Cllr Vickery Jones, City Cllr Sonnex. County Cllr Marsh will be late.

208/13 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda.

209/13 The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

210/13 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. All the repairs that were needed at the Community Park have been done and those to the fence at the Forest School.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO SPEAK

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

211/13 **Chairman's Announcements.** None

212/13 **Police Matters/Crime report.** None

213/13 **Warden's Report.** None

214/13 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh told members that the cost to the developers to put in the infrastructure required for the proposals in the local plan equated to £16,000 per dwelling; he did not think that developers would find this affordable. He has a meeting scheduled with Sir Roger Gale MP, to discuss the changes proposed for the new ward boundaries and County Cllr Marsh would like the parish council view on this. He had provided some help to Little Ducklings and was working with the fire brigade on the issue of the lights on the Christmas tree at St Martin's church. He also spoke about the Remembrance Service and the policing issues.

215/13 **Highways.** A question was asked regarding who has responsibility for over head cables and trees that are growing into these. Cllr Davis said she understood it was the land owner as far as phone lines were concerned.

216/13 **Planning Matters**

To receive minutes of Planning & Highways meeting held on 24th September 2013.

Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk attended the Licensing hearing for the Micro Brewery in Braggs Lane. Despite a large number of objections, including those from the parish council, consent was given for 4 music events per year and on sales weekdays from 4-7pm and weekends from 10am - 6pm. They also got consent for 4 music events per year with no more than 6 musicians, the music was to be unamplified. The event held on Sunday 6th October was played through microphones and speakers, presumably this would be classed as amplified. They are not allowed more than 100 people and 25 vehicles. The clerk reported that she had received 2 phone calls regarding the event on 6th October one about the amplified music and the other about a coach which had blocked the road as it had trouble getting in and a person using the footpath as a urinal after leaving Bleangate Brewery. Residents have been advised to keep a diary. Breaches of licensing carry more weight than that of planning.

217/13 **Finance**

To ratify payments made since last meeting. None

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

To report on income received. The clerk apologised as she did not have the report due to computer problems.

To discuss covering the cost of providing the equipment for changing the Christmas lights on the yew tree at St Martin's. The church needs to replace bulbs with LED's and the parish council last year offered to pay the cost of the Cherry picker approx £200, by the time the LED's arrived Serco had returned the cherry picker. On contacting them this year

it appears that they are not hiring one as CCC is not having lights put up. It is likely to be very expensive to hire a cherry picker for just one job and alternative options are being sought. Members agreed that lights on the tree were important and agreed that up to £400 would be given towards the cost of replacing the bulbs with LED's if needed.

218/13 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. A busy month again, the clerk told members she had started to put together a response to the Boundary Commission stating why the Ward Boundary for Herne & Broomfield should be retained and be the same as the parish boundary. This will be discussed in more detail agenda item 223/13.

The quarterly audit was carried out on Monday 7th October.

Serco had quoted for the repair of the path at the Community Park but another quote will be required as it will be quite expensive; so the clerk will organise getting someone else to quote for the work.

The clerk attended a workshop on applying for a CCC CIFT grant, there wasn't really anything that would need a capital grant this year, but next year it may be possible to apply for some for the new Community Hall.

Permissions are now in place for the painting of the mural and the clerk has contacted the artist and he hopes to start early November. Barriers have been borrowed from Mr Body who is currently working for KCC in the service road Canterbury Road.

There was an issue with the car park area at the allotments, when the fencing went in it was noticed that Quinneys hadn't made the entrance wide enough, they had used the existing entrance and not the dimensions on the drawing they were given. They are coming back on Monday 14th to carry out the work necessary.

Some of the allotment holders have started worked on their allotments and have even got winter onions planted!

There has been more damage to the fence at the Forest School, this has being repaired. Kim Melton suggested weaving some dead blackthorn into the fencing to discourage people climbing over it.

There was some rather distasteful graffiti sprayed on the entrance path at the BMX track, this was cleaned off by Serco. Some other graffiti on the container and sign was cleaned off by Peter Gray.

The clerk reported that something odd had been happening with the computer, printer and fire alarm today.

The clerk informed members that the office would be closed from 14th October and re-open on 28th Oct.

Correspondence. Info from Boundary Commission and information on the Solar farm at Woodlands Farm Calcott, Sturry.

219/13 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis reported that a task day would be held at Broomfield Pond on 13th October at 10am.

220/13 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc). Cllrs Brealy and Hobbs were unable to attend the last KALC meeting and Cllrs Robert Jones and Taylor were unable to attend the Street Monitors meeting but the minutes of this had been circulated. Cllr Day reported that he had attended a Chairman's training day organised jointly with SLCC and KALC. It was very informative and enjoyable. The main item of interest was communication and it was suggested that a whole day could be dedicated to this. Many larger parishes have a budget for communication and Cllr Day told members he thought this was something that should be looked at when the parish council set its budget for next year.

221/13 Report on Environment & Leisure meeting held on 26th September 2013. All members had received a copy of the minutes. Cllr Taylor told members that the cheque presentation afternoon would be held on 24th November from 3pm, the Children's Christmas party is on 8th December. Cllr Brealy raised the issue of car parking for the fun day.

222/13 Report on meeting held with Albert Walton from Epps builders and architect Matt Judge, and the hall committee; the meeting was held on 9th October 2013. Cllr Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Albert and Matt on winning the public vote with their design. There were discussions on how the project would now move forward and it was felt that pre application advice from CCC planners would now be appropriate. It is also necessary for the parish council to enter into a JCT Pre Construction Service agreement with Epps. Epps will need to carry out further investigations on foul water disposal with Southern

Water. There were no issues with surface water as attenuation could be implemented for this. They will now do a more detailed budget for costs. Once a budget has been set any savings that are made would be split on a 50%/ 50% basis and that money can be spent on additional items for the build.

The parish council will have costs of its own as well as the building costs a Quantity Surveyor and Project Manager will be needed. Cllr Blatherwick told those present that she did have a local resident who would do the Construction & Design Manager (CDM)

Epps will get suppliers and sub contractors to quote for the work once planning consent has been granted. They will put together working drawings and packaging for contractors to tender. Local tradesmen will be invited to express interest if they wish to be considered. Grant funding can also be applied for at this stage. At this point they will set a final budget. Tree and shrub work needs to be carried out now and the clerk will get quotes for the work needed. It is hoped to get police advice on Security by Design. Cllr Davis asked if a meeting could be held with Strode Park once more detailed drawing were available to highlight any access issues, this was agreed.

Alan Ratford asked questions about the company's financial position which were answered satisfactorily. The companies last 3 years accounts will be supplied along with insurance details. The company is a family company and one of the sons Richard Epps is now responsible for running the company as his parents have recently retired.

Matt Judge had suggestions regarding sound systems, acoustics and how noise escaping from the building could be limited. Ventilation systems also need looking at to help reduce noise issues. The roundel will be planted with sedum, appropriate for local conditions and will have a drain around the edge to store the water so the sedum doesn't dry out.

They have taken on board comments made at the public consultation and the concerns raised by residents. A cheque will be raised for the pre-planning advice and then Matt will report back on the officer's view. There is a large element of partnership working with this particular scheme and the parish council is expected to be hands on.

A very useful meeting and the committee were all happy with the information and suggestions provided. Cllr Moore told members that he was not happy that there were proposals for a two storey building and neither were residents as he found out when he attended the residents meeting. Cllr Blatherwick pointed out that it was not a two storey building, there was a stair case to a loft area which could be used for storage if required, and there was absolutely no intention of building a two storey Community Centre. Cllr Day suggested this could be discussed by the hall committee..

223/13

Proposals to change Electoral Boundaries. Report on meeting with Charlotte Hammersley Boundary Review Officer CCC

Ward Councillor Peter Vickery Jones had viewed proposals made by Charlotte Hammersley and he contacted the clerk to talk about them as he wasn't happy with the proposals. The main proposal was to join Herne & Broomfield with Hoath and Marshside, but in doing that there were too many electors so she had taken a chunk of Herne out and put it in the Greenhill Ward! This area was from opposite Strode Park along Woodrow Chase to Mill Lane down the middle of Mill Lane to A299 back down to Canterbury Road, the area includes Herne Mill and the cemetery! The clerk was not very happy with the proposals and Peter Vickery Jones then set up a meeting.

Charlotte said she couldn't change what had been done but nothing was set in stone, it had to go to members and they might decide not to send suggestions to the Boundary Commission and leave them to sort out deciding the new boundaries. (Cllr Vickery Jones has since reported to the clerk that this was the likely option.)

The clerk told Charlotte that she thought the proposal was ridiculous and that the parish council would never support it. Charlotte said she would welcome alternative suggestions and would supply the clerk with details of the number of electors in the various wards.

On receiving these it shows that Herne & Broomfield has 6,271 electors. The requirement is about 3,000 per councillor. The obvious course of action would be to make the ward coincide with the parish boundary and leave well alone. There should also be an allowance for future building up to 2019.

The clerk has looked at the figures and if CCC or Boundary Commission is intent on joining H & B with Hoath and Marshside then it would be better to have Stillwater Park and the area the other side of the Thanet Way (which is in the ward currently) and have 3 councillors. It would be hard to judge how well Hoath and Marshside would be supported by the councillors, as their vote would be in the minority. It would actually make more sense to join Hoath & Marshside with Reculver Ward if that is really necessary. The

Boundary Commission suggest that geographical boundaries should be clear (difficult to see that when you include Hoath & Marshside). The other is a sense of community where people shop, meet up etc.

The Boundary Commission state 'All proposals for warding patterns should demonstrate how any pattern of wards aids the provision of effective and convenient local government and why any deterioration in equality of representation or community identity should be accepted. Representations that are supported by evidence and argument will carry more weight with the Commission than those which merely assert a point of view.

The Commission will make recommendations on the number of councillors, the number and boundaries of wards, and the names of wards. It can also recommend changes to the electoral arrangements of parish and town councils i.e. the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of parish councillors for each parish ward. However, this is only in circumstances where the parished area is to be divided between wards. The Commission cannot, as part of this review, consider changes to the external boundaries of a parish, or create new parishes. Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, changes to external parish boundaries are the responsibility of local authorities.'

It may be that CCC will not make recommendations as a council but each party may put their own ideas forward. The clerk thanked Cllr Peter Vickery Jones for bringing it to her attention and also arranging the meeting with Charlotte. Sir Roger Gale MP has been asked for his comments and he has contacted Cllr Vickery Jones for his input.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has invited members to a meeting on Monday 21 October at 7pm in the Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury.

Members agreed that the parish council submission should be that the current Herne & Broomfield Boundary should also be the ward boundary and that it did not want to see any changes other than a reduction to two councillors.

224/13 To discuss footpath clearances. Cllr Robert Jones told members that he would be willing to clear some vegetation with his hedge trimmer if the parish council agreed to pay for the fuel. This was approved and Cllr Day will deal with Health & Safety for this. Cllr Sargent told members he would also be willing to help out at weekends. It was also stressed that this was the responsibility of KCC but due to lack of funding the paths will not be cleared. Cllr Taylor reported a problem with overgrowth on the path from Woodrow Chase to School Lane. A couple of residents had stated they were willing to help and the warden will check paths to look at their condition. Cllr Davis said that residents should still be encouraged to contact KCC PROW regarding footpath issues.

224/13 To discuss increasing the offer on the land that was discussed earlier in the year. 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. Cllr Davis suggested that having the additional land would give more outside space to the Community Centre. It was agreed to write to the landowner and ask them what price they would want for the land and take it from there.

225/13 Members Reports. Cllr Harvey reported that some of the new allotment holders had sheds and equipment on site. Cllr Hobbs reported that Herne Bay would only enter Herne Bay in Bloom next year. A bike had been found on the footpath in Honeysuckle Way the police have been informed and will collect it. Cllr Moore asked about the recent power cuts and if it was possible to find out the cause from UK Power Networks. Cllr Robert Jones said he had been contacted by Herne Bay Pier Trust regarding borrowing the Christmas float again this year. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

226/13 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 14th November 2013 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm