

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 13th November 2014 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Not Present: Cllr Tobin, Cllr Tracey Jones, Cllr Moore and Cllr Rafferty.

208/14 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons. Cllr Tracey Jones and Cllr Moore are unwell, Cllr Rafferty has had to collect his wife as her train has been cancelled.

209/14 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations. Dispensation requests received from all members present.

210/14 The minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

211/14 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The response to the consultation on warden cuts 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.

None in attendance.

212/14 Chairman's Announcements. None

213/14 Police Matters/Crime report. PCSO Sue Radcliffe attended even though she was not on duty. She has worked closely with KCC warden. They have been dealing with issues on the Talmead estate. Parking at Streetfield at weekends has been flagged up and the school has been contacted. The car for sale on the roundabout will be dealt with. There are also issues with regards to bicycles now we have the darker evening, as they are difficult to see, especially when they don't have any lights and riders are wearing dark clothing. Michelle Weston said that she was attending the school next week to do a 'Be Bright, Be Seen' campaign.

214/14 Warden's Report. Michelle reported that she was being tasked more and more outside the area but she was spending the majority of the time here. A Stranger Danger talk was given to Year 2 at the Infants. The Community Café/Surgery was going well. Michelle went with the Infants School (300 children) to Curtis Wood Park to do a nature trail with the autumn theme. She has fitted a true call system for a vulnerable resident who was being targeted by scam phone calls. A meeting was held with Cllr Davis and Anna Palmer to discuss some issues in Curtis Wood. Some of the work has been completed. There has been an all agency meeting to try and engage with the young people at Meadow View (Talmead). Michelle got called away from the coffee morning the previous week to attend a sudden death and the ladies at the coffee morning cleared everything up and put it away at the end. Michelle attended the partnership meeting at Greenhill with Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk. She attended to deal with the road closure for the Remembrance service in Herne, which went well. KCC Highways, Transportation and Waste were carrying out a door to door survey from 14th November. They will all carry ID.

215/14 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. City Cllr Vickery Jones reported on the Concurrent funding Issue and he said most of the parish councils considered that they were being unfairly treated as they were supposed to be given funding to cover the cost of service provision that is carried out on behalf of CCC. This funding is down to 53%. County Cllr Marsh reported that Chislet Parish Council were up in arms regarding the Concurrent Funding cuts. He suggested that all parishes should state that as the funding is not forthcoming then CCC should take over the services and cover the cost. The clerk will contact the other parish councils and pass the suggestion on.

He spoke about the Remembrance service the previous Sunday and the wonderful attendance with over 500 people in the church. The collection raised £516 for the British Legion. It was also so pleasing to see so many young people paying their respects. He had also attended a service at the Kings Hall for Armistice Day. It is good that the parish has a strong parish council. He has arranged for Strode Park to have the reindeer again this year. The clerk had asked about the possibility of bollards outside 100 Mill Lane as twice they

had a vehicle come off the road and collide with the property, he is looking into this. There was a question about whether the lighting at the zebra crossing in School Lane could be improved as it was very difficult to see pedestrians in the dark, especially with the bright lights on the posts.

216/14 Planning & Highways Issues. To receive minutes of planning meeting held on 30th October 2014. According to today's local paper CCC has organised a public meeting to discuss parking issues on 19th November at King's Hall, 6.30 – 9.30pm. No information has been received at the parish office regarding this. It is interesting that the application for an Aldi in Herne Bay has been approved, in record time, under officers delegated powers, unlike Sainsbury which has taken many months and had to go to committee. The clerk reported that highways officials had been to look at the junction of Busheyfields Road and Canterbury Road following several accidents in that location. They may well make alterations to the markings.

Report on Parish Seminar held by KCC Highways at Kent County Cricket Ground on 7th November 2014

Andrew Loosemore gave an update on Highways, he explained that Highways had now joined with KCC Waste and therefore fly tipping was now under this umbrella. He spoke about the bad weather and the amount of pot holes that had required attention. KCC were committed to ensuring that when a crew came out to fill a pot hole, if there were adjacent pot holes that needed attention they would be done at the same time whether they had been marked up or not.

Julian Cook covered fly tipping in more detail, he explained that if there was fly tipping obstructing or blocking the carriageway it was Highways responsibility to remove it. All other fly tipping was the responsibility of the District Council and they will also be responsible for enforcement. There was a question about cameras for persistent fly tipping areas and we were told that cameras were available to the District Council to use. The enforcement manager at KCC is John Evans.

KALC's Terry Martin spoke about the government review of the Localism Act. He also spoke about the volume of consultations and the time frames for responses. They will be holding new councillor workshops following next year elections. Terry also spoke of the Village Caretaker Scheme where parishes club together to employ someone to carry out work within the parish.

He informed everyone that KCC cabinet members had agreed that there should be two parish councillors on the JTB and that they should have voting rights. The chairman of the JTB committees will be asked to agenda this at the next meeting. (County Cllr Marsh has been contacted about this and Cllr Blatherwick has offered to be one of those if selected).

There was a talk from Katie Lewis who is responsible for drainage, she explained that land owners were responsible for keep ditches clear and not allowing water from their land to go onto the highway. Drains were cleared cyclically once a year. They did not clear the odd one here and there but, if there were several that were blocked close together and causing issues, they would come and clear them.

There was a short workshop on Emergency Plans and how parishes etc deal with emergencies all were encouraged to have a plan in place. There were suggestions that signs could be left where parish councillors/residents could access them and put them out when required. It would also be helpful if reports were emailed to parish councils in event of bad weather in the same way that UK Networks do.

Michelle Weston has done the training for preparing an Emergency Plan and she is willing to make a start on this for Herne & Broomfield. Members were happy for her to do this.

It is often the case that people don't know who is responsible for what at KCC and this needs to be much clearer when looking on line.

Village caretakers were discussed in more detail, these have replaced the village lengthsmen. KCC part fund and the parishes match fund. Several parishes are using the system, they will usually only consider a cluster of 4 or more parishes. Usually parishes are quite small, the clerk will ask if there could be a smaller number of parishes involved if Herne & Broomfield wanted to take this up.

Winter was discussed and the systems used to predict the weather and how services are deployed. The advice in snow and ice is to make sure you have a shovel, blanket, scrapper and de-icer etc in the car. Don't go out if the weather is bad and listen to the forecast. Look online at the advice given by KCC.

If a tree comes down it is the responsibility of the owner, KCC may clear it if it blocking the

highway but they can then charge the owner.

There were a few questions at the end and the seminar finished at 12.40pm.

The clerk has sent out the presentations used to all members.

217/14 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. VAT refund £1,565, Fighting fund £1,000, newsletter adverts £180, Fun day £57.88, bank interest £1.12, Hall Hire £365.41, Calendars £51.66, Community Centre fund raising £860. Total £4,081.07

Receive minutes of Finance & Resources meeting held on 6th November 2014. These had been distributed to all members.

218/14 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. The clerk thanked Cllr Taylor for dealing with the post and phone messages while she was on holiday.

The gate has been re-sited at the bottom of the steps to the Community Park and one of the main gates adjusted.

Dave Parr was asked to survey the trees in the wildlife area and there is a fair bit of work to be done and the cost is going to be in the thousands. It has been suggested that the poplars be felled to reduce the ongoing maintenance and native trees planted. Cllr Davis has contacted the tree officer to get permission to do what is required. Other quotes will be sourced and will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Children's Christmas Party is on 6th December at 3pm and the float will bring Father Christmas to distribute the presents. The float will tour Herne on 7th Dec and Broomfield on 13th Dec.

There has been some correspondence with a resident regarding the lack of street lighting overnight in the Forgefields, and Vinten Close area. The clerk passed his comments on to County Cllr Marsh who passed it on to David Brazier, who has explained in detail why the lights were turned off etc. The resident is still not satisfied and is threatening to withhold his council tax and he has said *'I am obviously wasting my time continuing to write to the parish council and the KCC as you have an agenda which you won't change!'*

A query about a radio mast was received and the clerk referred the lady to planning.

Cllr Blatherwick, Michelle Weston and the clerk attended a partnership meeting organised by Revd Elaine Richardson and held in Greenhill on 7th November it was attended by the Bishop and many local organisations. The focus was working together for the good of our communities. It was stressed that it was very important to communicate.

The grant application for the new Community Centre has been submitted and it is hoped that we will be informed of any grant awarded by the end of December.

The clerk was informed last week that Helen Bennington who had worked for CCC for a good many years, lost her battle with amyloidosis on 5th November. Her funeral is on 19th November at Barham 12.40. Helen spent most of her time in Streetscene and I'm sure many of the councillors will remember her. She was always helpful and enthusiastic and will be greatly missed. Cllrs Robert Jones and Taylor will attend the service. A collection is being held via just giving, for amyloidosis, the clerk asked members if they wished to make a donation on behalf of the council. It was agreed to donate £100.

219/14 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis reported that she had had a meeting at Curtis Wood Park and had met the new officer Michael Brown where they had discussed issues concerning the pond. Ash die back has been found in Curtis Wood. There is a task day planned for 16th November at 10am.

220/14 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc). Cllr Harvey reported that he had attended the KALC meeting and the minutes had been circulated to members. He had raised the issue of the warden cuts at this meeting. He had attended the KALC training day on Finance and good practise. There was also a talk on Anti Social Behaviour and the changes to the Crime & Policing Act. Came & Co were also in attendance and spoke on a variety of points one of which was the recording of meetings. Staff appraisals were discussed and it was recommended that performance management was looked at.

He had attended the Allotment Committee meeting, where site security was discussed as several sheds had been broken into, it is petty vandalism and the committee is looking into having a camera and signage put in place. They had finally sorted out their internet banking and had received the grant from CCC. They hoped to install a toilet at the site

with the funding. They are working closely with the allotment committee at Eddington and with the Horticultural Society with a joint venture planned for 24th February. Their AGM will be held on 17th March. They plan on getting a digger in to clear the ditch to stop the water collecting in certain areas. The weeds need to be cleared. All plots have now been let.

- 221/14 Update on Local Plan.** To date £1,250 has been received towards the cost of getting the barristers Opinion on the legality of the Local Plan, the total cost of which was £1,600 plus VAT. The Opinion was passed to Eric Pickles and a letter has now been received acknowledging its receipt and advising that everyone keeps talking to Canterbury and that it will be the Inspectors decision as to whether the Plan is legally compliant. There have been a great deal of emails being passed amongst the interested parties and the issue did make the press and Radio Kent, where Cllr Blatherwick was interviewed. The Transport Strategy was discussed at the JTB and it was also called in by the Scrutiny Committee but CCC's Richard Moore is adamant it meets requirements. It is a case now of waiting to see what happens.
- 222/14 To discuss replacing the Curtis Wood Park notice board.** A metal notice board 1050 x 1800 from Earth Anchors would cost £1,173 plus VAT, the clerk reported that she had not had time to source any others. It was agreed to delegate the purchase to the clerk for a smaller board with a maximum cost of £1,000.
- 223/14 To discuss and agree the budget for 2015-16 and set the precept.** Budget details had been circulated in advance. Cllr Davis reported that it amounted to an increase of just under 2%, approx 1p per week on a Band D property, most will pay less than that. Following some discussion the budget was approved and a precept of £99,834 was agreed by all.
- 224/14 Update on post box in Ridgeway Road.** The post box has been replaced with a new one.
- 225/14 To discuss taking forward the possibility of the hall being registered as a Charity with parish council as sole trustee.** Cllr Davis has circulated some information on parish councils being sole trustees of a building etc. This would be useful in order to access grant funding and of course people who make donations can be asked to Gift Aid. The meeting attended by Cllr Davis and the clerk organised by ACRE explained in detail about a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Kent Law firm Whitehead Monkton hosted the Trustee Legal workshop and they would be willing to help out if it is decided to apply for the Community Centre. There would of course be a charge for that. They have sent us out the details that were circulated prior to the meeting. The clerk has spoken with Terry Martin at KALC who has confirmed that he believes a parish council can be a sole trustee of property and that it would be possible for the parish council to have a loan and donate the money to the Community Centre build. He will ask NALC the question. Cllr Day pointed out that property owned by the parish council did not belong to residents. He proposed that the charity status should be pursued with the parish council as sole trustee. This was agreed. It was also agreed to seek professional assistance as required to achieve this and a figure of up to £2,000 was agreed for this. Cllr Davis and the clerk will progress this.
- 226/14 Members Reports.** Cllr Hobbs reported that a resident had requested speed bumps by the post office in Broomfield. Cllr Taylor asked for the road markings on the zebra crossing to be refreshed. Cllr Sargent apologised for not being at the Remembrance Service.
- 227/14 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be on 11th December 2014 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.**

Meeting closed at 9.20pm