

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council to be held at Herne Mill, Wootton Room, on Thursday 9th October 2014 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Robert Jones, Cllr Tracey Jones, Cllr Davis, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Day, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Rafferty, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Taylor,

Not Present: Cllr Tobin, Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Moore.

- 187/14 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr Nicholson, unwell, Cllr Moore is in Clacton for the by-election. Members did not think that Cllr Moore had a valid reason for not attending the meeting therefore his reason for absence was not accepted. Cllr Nicholson's reason was accepted. City Cllr Vickery Jones has an executive meeting, City Cllr Sonnex who is having her bathroom redecorated..
- 188/14 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda** and requests for dispensations. None.
- 189/14 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2014** were agreed as correct.
- 190/14 To report on matters arising from the minutes,** not on the agenda, for information only. Some more work has been carried out on the end section of Braggs Lane. Cllr Davis reported that Highways had left a pile of road stone on the verge.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO SPEAK

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

South East Coastal Path Team will attend to talk about the path from Ramsgate to Whitstable. Apologies from Natural England they have realised we are not on the coast and therefore will not be attending.

- 191/14 Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick told members that she thought a special meeting will be required to go through the tenders etc that had been submitted. 205/14.
- 192/14 Police Matters/Crime report.** No Police report.
- 193/14 Warden's Report** KCC Warden Michelle Weston reported that she had been on holiday and only in for 10 days. During the 10 days she had been here she had attended to some issues in Curtis Wood Park, Cllrs Davis and Robert Jones are working on this along with the officer from CCC. Michelle has given two presentations at residential homes where vulnerable adults have opened the door and this has resulted in thefts from residents. There have been gas works in Streetfield and this has caused damage to the road, Highways are aware. At Christmas one of the coffee mornings will be held at the Infants School where the children will do their school play for those attending, the children are to write the invites. There have been parking issues in Streetfield at weekends due to the football played on the school fields. Michelle has contacted the manager of Herne Bay Harriers to discuss this issue and he will contact the teams and ask them to park considerately. Michelle is currently supporting an elderly lady who has been recently bereaved.
- 194/14 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Alan Marsh reported that he had attended the party conference and had been networking with ministers etc following this professional advisors for Compulsory Purchase are being sent to help Thanet DC with Manston. Hopefully there will be many opportunities for Manston Airport once the CPO has been completed. He had been contacted by George Wilson who was disappointed that KCC had decided not to sell him the piece of land on the Thanet Way slip road at Eddington. Alan reported that the JTB meeting was on 15th October and that unfortunately he had to go into hospital on Monday for an operation. He could not guarantee that he would be able to get to the meeting but would do his best. He was pleased that the parish council had sent a letter to all KCC members of the JTB with the views of Herne & Broomfield regarding the Transport Strategy. He had met with KCC officer Ruth Goudie at Canterbury who had told him developers must be allowed to build houses first as they could not afford to put in the infrastructure in advance, Alan's response was that they should not build them then. It is understood that Mark Quinn has voiced concerns regarding the amount

of funding that he may have to provide towards infrastructure in the Canterbury District. Alan asked Cllr Blatherwick to look at P47 of the Transport Strategy regarding Canterbury's strategy on parking. KCC had 4 main areas of concern with the Local Plan, Highways, Education, Developer Funding and Parking Strategy. Even if he cannot make the JTB meeting he hopes that enough has been done to get the support of KCC members and that KCC will not support what is put before them. Cllr Blatherwick raised the issue of the 'relief road' and Alan stated he had a meeting with Tim Read on 10th October to discuss the issues of the road, he also stated that he did not think it was wide enough for two stagecoach buses to pass.

City Cllr Sonnex written report *'I have received a number of complaints regarding loud music. These have been referred to an officer in the Environmental Health Team at Canterbury City Council to deal with. Neighbours affected have been supplied with diary sheets to monitor the situation.*

The clerk asked me to complete a questionnaire regarding the good work our Community Warden does. I downloaded, completed and sent it as Michelle is a valuable asset to our community and to lose her would be a great loss. She performs a diverse range of tasks and is always cheerful and willing to come to assistance.

I was unable to visit the Lower Herne Village exhibition but have viewed the proposals online.

I note the representation from the Parish Council in the Joint Transportation Board Agenda to be presented on the 15th of this month.

Dog fouling is still an issue, residents are being more pro-active if it occurs outside their frontage, keeping an eye out for the culprits, but obviously some owners choose to walk their dogs in darkness or early morning.

Finally, just a question. I know there is an active team namely the Friends of Broomfield Pond that care for that particular area, but we also have a pond at the top of Mill Lane. I appreciate this currently falls within the Ward Boundary (but not the Parish one) just curiosity has got the better of me and wondered if it was tended to'.

195/14 Planning & Highways Issues. To receive minutes of planning meeting held on 25th September 2014, Cllr Blatherwick explained that two applications had been objected to as they were considered over development and would be over bearing on the street scene. Following Cllr Blatherwick and City Cllr Vickery Jones and a resident speaking at the CCC planning meeting, they were successful at getting members to refuse the application for a change of use from Protected Open Space to car parking, at the Links. It is expected that an appeal will be lodged. Cllr Blatherwick pointed out to CCC members that they should uphold their own policies, especially when they had offered to make Kingsmead Protected Open Space! Cllr Blatherwick is to attend meeting on 14th October to try and stop the current planning consent for the George Wilson site at Eddington being changed, as this will result in even less parking. She will also attend the JTB on 15th October to speak on CCC Transport Strategy. It is also understood that there will be a special planning meeting on 21st October to discuss the Sainsbury application. Cllr Blatherwick will also attend this. Cllr Robert Jones reported there had been a burst pipe in Busheyfields Road which had been repaired but the road is breaking up badly, clerk will report to highways. Cllr Davis reported the footway in Canterbury Road near Firwood Court and Home Farm land needs some clearance work.

196/14 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Matt Judge £2,493.75, CNG £13.56. Approved. To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. These were approved.

To report on income received. Poo bag donations £22, Fighting fund £350, Newsletter advertising £420, Funday £236.51, Hall hire £409.58, Fundraising £6, bank interest £2.45. **Total £1,446.54.**

Quarterly Audit report, copy sent to all members. This was carried out on 8th October and everything was found to be in order.

Cllr Davis reported that calendars for 2015 were now available and asked members to sell some. The clerk thanked Cllr Day for donating the calendars.

197/14 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. The clerk thanked Warden Michelle Weston for attending the meeting on her day off. Thanks were also given to Cllr Sargent and Andrew Brealy for tidying up the flower bed in Herne.

The clerk reported a busy month once again with the Local Plan meetings and meetings with some of the contractors regarding the new hall building, the planning meeting at CCC

re use of Protected Open Space and of course looking at a response to the Warden Consultation and Grant application as well as all the usual day to day work.

The manhole at the BMX track has been completed and is now locked so hopefully the issue of water being left running will be a thing of the past. The gate at the bottom of the steps was not stolen, a resident of Hoath found both the gate and the posts lying in a field and asked the local farmer to retrieve it, which they did and are storing it in their barn until Kim Melton picks it up and puts it back in position. Kim also went to the Wildlife area a couple of weeks ago as a branch from one of the poplars had come down on the fence. Dave Parr has been asked to carry out a survey on the trees and list what work needs doing, this needs to be done during the winter months and is a requirement for insurance. The clerk requested the attendance of parking wardens in Streetfield earlier this week, as there were issues again with parking on the yellow line, 6 tickets were issued.

The caravan has now gone back to Strode Farm where it will be stored until it has to be moved to Bullockstone Farm.

Draft Consultation on Education requirements from KCC

In Kent we are seeing a continued and significant increase in pupil numbers and consequently a need for new provision. In 2012-13 we achieved our aim of creating an extra 22 forms of entry (FE) in Primary Schools and 4FE in Secondary Schools, plus 362 temporary places for meeting short term pressures for Reception aged pupils.

The number of Primary age pupils is expected to continue rising significantly from 111,193 in 2012-13, to 121,278 in 2017-18, which is more than 10,000 extra Primary school pupils over the next five years. Beyond this date the number of Primary age children remains comparatively level, although increases in some Districts are off-set by reductions in others. There will be a need to continue to make new provision available in some Districts on a permanent basis.

The Secondary age population, while reducing between now and 2016 will rise through the latter part of this decade. The number of 11 to 16 year olds in Kent Secondary schools is 79,244 in 2012-13. This will fall to 76,060 pupils in 2015-16 and then it is forecast to rise to 85,883 by 2022-23. The falling numbers to 2015-16 mask significant growth in some Districts that run counter to the overall trend, so that additional forms of entry in Year 7 in Secondary schools in some areas will still be needed.

Much of the additional provision will be achieved by expanding existing schools, although five new Primary Schools are already planned for 2015. While in many cases the need for new and expanded schools is dependent on future housing development, the increase in demand for education places is significant.

We welcome the fact that new providers, such as free schools, are entering the market and believe that parents and communities should have a strong voice in proposals for future school development. The Local Authority also recognises that popular schools may wish to expand, or be under pressure from the local community to do so. Such expansions are welcome to help meet the need for extra places and to meet our objective of providing access to a good local school for every Kent child. We support this greater diversity in the range of education provision available to Kent children and young people. As the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, we welcome proposals from existing schools and new providers that address the needs set out in this Plan for new provision to meet increased demand and to improve the quality of education.

The clerk informed members that she would be on holiday from Monday 13th October, back in the office on 27th October. Cllr Taylor would keep an eye on the post and answer phone messages.

198/14 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis reported that a task day was scheduled for Sunday 12th October at Broomfield Pond. Cllr Davis will re-arrange the meeting with Anna Palmer regarding the issues in Curtis Wood Park. She asked Cllr Sargent if there were bulbs in the Herne flower bed, he confirmed there were and he had some more planting to do. Cllr Rafferty reported some branches blocking one of the paths in Curtis Wood, the clerk will ask Michelle to investigate.

199/14 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc). Cllr Harvey reported that he, Cllr Davis and Cllr Blatherwick had attended the first Allotment BBQ and judging. About 35-40 people had attended and it was a nice afternoon. The councillors judged the classes and awarded prizes. They were very impressed with the work done there so far. The committee thanked the parish council for their donation of £150 for the prizes. The grant from HBAMP for £2000 has now been received, it is hoped this will fund a compost toilet.

- 200/14 Update on Local Plan.** To date £1,450 has been pledged towards the cost of the QC's Opinion this includes £200 from our parish council.
Members of the groups/organisations that had agreed to contribute to the fund in order to get counsels opinion, met earlier this week to discuss the way forward. It was agreed that CCC should be notified of the outcome prior to the JTB meeting on 15th October.
The 'opinion' from counsel was that the Local Plan found that the plan was in breach of the Strategic Environment Assessment or the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. This should mean that the plan is 'unsound' and that further work will need to be done to make it comply, which will buy some time.
A letter from the parish council listing all the parties involved, along with the Counsel opinion was delivered to Eric Pickles in person by County Cllr Alan Marsh. No response has been received as yet. It was agreed that another meeting would be held with all interested parties following a response from Eric Pickles and CCC.
The details will be sent to officers at CCC and party leaders before the JTB meeting on 15th October, Cllr Blatherwick will attend this meeting and list the issues that Herne & Broomfield has with the proposals in the Transport Structure Plan and the lack of a Delivery Plan. The clerk informed members that she would send a copy of the report to all members.
- 201/14 To discuss replacing the Curtis Wood Park notice board.** The clerk reported that the old notice board had rotted away and fallen down, Andrew Brealy had removed it. Cllr Davis suggested that if a new one is installed then it should go closer to the map board. The clerk apologised that she had not had time to get prices for a new one. This item will be on the agenda for the November meeting.
- 202/14 Report on cheque presentation afternoon held on 28th September.** Just over 50 people attended the event which was enjoyed by all. Live music was provided by Leon Haswell, Cllr Davis' son in law. At about 4pm cheques were presented to Phil Ling who accepted a cheque for £1,022 on behalf of Strode Park. Phil spoke about the current project to build a hydro therapy pool for the residents at Strode Park.
Debbie Hunt attended to collect the cheque for £1,080 on behalf of Porchlight, she spoke about the work of Porchlight and how she herself had worked for them for 10 years.
A raffle was held which raised £60 for the Community Centre fund.
The clerk thanked the 8 councillors and their families who attended, and brought cakes and sandwiches and who helped during the afternoon; and some of the residents who also brought cakes along.
A big thank you also to warden Michelle who helped set up and worked throughout the afternoon making sure everyone had tea and coffee and she also helped to clear away at the end. Cllr Davis thanked the clerk.
- 203/14 To discuss the warden consultation/proposed cuts.** The clerk acknowledged that members were aware that there is a consultation on the proposals to reduce the numbers of wardens by 50%. The clerk reported that she had gone through the document with Michelle and there some alternative proposals that could be made, without having to lose so many wardens.
The main points are that there only needs to be one area manager instead of two, the number of team leaders/supervisors could be cut from 12 to 3 one for each division, East Kent, West Kent and Mid Kent, the admin posts from four to one. Wardens could be reduced from 79 to 70.
If the number of team leaders/ supervisors is cut that means that the need for vehicles will also be reduced from 12 to 3, creating more savings, not included in the consultation document.
If all 84 KCC members were to pledge £1,000 from their £25,000 member fund, then it may be possible to retain most of the wardens.
The claim in the document that a key benefit will be, '*far more Kent residents will have access to the Community Warden service*' this seems a strange claim when further on in the document it states that '*currently the warden service cannot meet the needs of some of Kent's communities*'; how is this to be achieved, if there are only going to be half the number of wardens?
It is likely that they will also be working out of the PSU in Canterbury, which will mean they have to go to Canterbury be given their work for the day, and then be transported to wherever they are going, they will then need to be transported back to Canterbury at the end of the day. This means the loss of about 2 hrs per day per warden and more for whoever is transporting them, as the wardens could be working different shifts.
The proposal is likely to mean that the taskings will be police led, which will make the

service reactive and not proactive, it is currently both. Local and geographic knowledge could be lost by different wardens being deployed to areas other than the ones known to them.

Residents know their warden and contact is on a regular basis and information comes in to the warden often allowing them to deal with issues before they escalate. If necessary a warden could be deployed to another area for one or two days a week but retain their current base.

As for the suggestion that volunteers could be used this does not seem practical, residents are unlikely to talk to a volunteer, there are issues around data protection and also the wardens work closely with their local police officer/PCSO and information is shared this would not be the case with a volunteer. The parish council is aware of how hard it has got to get volunteers, especially as people are working longer and those that have retired are often looking after grandchildren etc. There are incidents where parish councils are taking over village halls because volunteers are not available to run them.

There may also be an opportunity for parishes to contribute towards the cost of a warden.

Members were asked if they were happy for the clerk to complete the questionnaire with the suggestions made. This was agreed .

Cllr Robert Jones raised the issue of the parish council contributing towards the cost of the warden; Cllr Day thought that the service could still be cut but the parishes might also have to pay! Cllr Blatherwick had concerns about double taxation. Members all agreed that it would be devastating to lose the warden she is very much part of the community and the wardens often covered for social services and as these were all being cut back, they were even more important. The clerk added that they are also an integral part of the Emergency Planning Resilience Team. They are part of the Evacuation Process.

204/14 To discuss the possibility of the hall being registered as a Charity with parish council as sole trustee. The clerk and Cllr Davis will be attending a seminar on 30th October to hear about becoming a charity and trustees etc. It may be that the parish council will need to register the Community Centre as a charity and be the sole trustee, this would make grants more accessible. The clerk reported that she had received emails from 3 or 4 other clerks whose parishes either have a hall that is registered or are looking to do the same. It appears that it is possible although the Charity Commission is not keen on having a parish council as a sole trustee, they do allow it. The important thing is that members do not attend meetings for the community centre as parish councillors they are trustees for whatever is happening with regard to the Community Centre. One parish clerk has said that once registered the Charity Commission leave you alone as long as you send in the reports etc that they require, if the turnover is not big the paperwork is not onerous. There will be a report on the seminar at the November meeting.

205/14 To discuss the tenders received for the building of the new Community Centre and approve one of them prior to submitting the grant application. This item will 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. It was agreed that due to commercial confidentiality this item would be heard without members of the public/press present.

Due to Epps, who were the chosen contractor, stating they could not do the build for the chosen design, for the figure that had originally been quoted, it was necessary to go out to tender. Four companies tendered, the quotes ranged from £1,168,462.40 and £1,494,998. Betteridge & Milsom who are the employers representatives have taken the tenders and are completing a report. This follows meetings with two of the companies who tendered to clarify some points and meet the representatives etc.

The report on the tenders is not yet ready but will be by the next meeting. The grant application can go ahead as they want at least 3 quotes but the parish council does not have to have made a decision on who will carry out the work, any grant will be based on the lowest figure. Betteridge & Milsom are going to normalise the figures and also look at some value engineering. As stated previously there will be a separate meeting to discuss this when the information is available. The grant application will be submitted to Viridor as the quotes have now been received and it is hoped that a response will be received by the end of this year.

206/14 Members Reports. Cllr Hobbs reported that the overgrown shrubbery between the Huntsman and Post Office had been cut back. The clerk confirmed that highways had carried out the work but they are not responsible for it. Residents are also complaining about speeding near the post office. Cllr Rafferty asked if there was any news on when the

bins would be removed from the car park. The clerk hasn't been told. Cllr Robert Jones reported that a member of the public had filled in a hole in Curtis woods. There was also a report that now the footballers were back in Cherry Orchard the rubbish left behind had increased. Campers had been caught in Curtis wood Park and had been advised of the no camping sign, they were polite and cleared everything away when they left.

207/14 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 13th November 2014 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed 9.20pm