

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 Wednesday 10th September 2014 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Robert Jones, Cllr Tracey Jones, Cllr Rafferty, Cllr Davis, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Tobin, Cllr Day and Cllr Andy Harvey.

Not Present: Cllr Sargent, Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Moore

- 167/14 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr Sargent is working as they have the sale of all the farm equipment tomorrow, Cllr Nicholson has taken his son for emergency treatment and Cllr Moore is on holiday. Reasons were accepted.
- 168/14 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda** and requests for dispensations. None.
- 169/14 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th August 2014.** The clerk told members there was a small amendment to 155/14 County Cllr Marsh had said KCC did have a duty to provide schooling but not to pay for it. It was agreed to amend this.
- 170/14 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** None.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO SPEAK

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

None spoke 1 in attendance

- 171/14 Chairman's Announcements.** Afternoon Tea on 28th September at Community Centre to thank all the volunteers who have helped throughout the year.
- 172/14 Police Matters/Crime report.** Report supplied by PCSO Sue Radcliffe. *'Sorry that I will once again be unable to attend the Parish Council meeting this month. I would like to apologise to the Parish Council for not being at many meetings this year. We have had a bit of a change round within Kent Police and it seems that we have now been given permission to request shift changes to attend meetings, however they are only granted if there is sufficient staff to allow it. So watch this space as you may see me at a meeting soon. Sadly, for you all, I am not at this meeting but I am having plenty of fun with the elephants in Thailand. You can understand why I did not put in a shift change on this occasion. So now down to business. Michelle is a great warden and we have been working together on many projects on the ward and a few other locations. We are not able to disclose most of them due to data protection etc. Michelle and I have a few issues that we are currently working on in regards to Meadow View new housing estate at Talmead. We have many other agencies involved and it is hoped that this matter of the young people having no open spaces/play areas will be resolved some time in 2015. We can only keep our fingers crossed and keep nagging at the people who came make the changes. I have been working with Canterbury City Council and Trading Standards in regards to the cars that are being placed on the roundabout up for sale. You will know when I have been there as I place a nice police notice for all to see on the vehicles. It appears to have reduced the number being placed there but I cannot guarantee that it will not happen while I am on leave. I have been able to attend a few of the Community Café meetings when I am on an early shift on Friday's and I am delighted that it is growing in its success. Again this is down to Michelle. I have been working with Michelle in regards to Strode Park Foundation with the issue of some young people being a nuisance in their grounds. I was expecting an increase during the school holidays but this was not the case. As part of the Speed Watch by the volunteers in Herne and Broomfield I was able to arrange a morning whereby the Special Constables Sergeant came along to help*

out and if required issue tickets for speeding. On the day in question no tickets were issued. However I shall be making more dates for this on the ward but I am unable to tell where and when, as it is all a big secret. Thank you Sue Radcliffe'.

173/14 KCC Warden's Report. Michelle Weston reported that she had attended the Over 50's Garden Party, had resolved 2 neighbourhood disputes, assisted with some smart water marking. The Community Café has plateaued and she is looking at other ways to increase numbers. She is in the process of organising a coffee morning at the school in order to get the children involved with the older residents. The wardens are now part of the emergency planning team. She has attended the Fun Day, Beach Safety Event, CCC events in Memorial Park and Whitstable Castle. She has dealt with an aggressive dog issue, nuisance youths, underage sales and a multi agency neighbourhood day at Talmead. She has contacted Highways about the Gabion wall in School Lane regarding its proximity to the carriageway and they have said it is not an issue. The leak in School Lane has again been reported to SE Water who have now admitted liability and are supposed to be digging the road up on 11th September, provided they get permission for a temporary road closure. Highways have stated that for emergency work they do not need permission. Cllr Davis asked if Michelle could distribute Data Link pots when she attends outside organisation events, especially those with older members.

174/14 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh reported that he had attended 2 funerals since the last meeting, Jim Nock and Albert Parris. He told members it was a great Fun Day and he had been pleased to attend. He updated members on Manston, it was expected that Thanet Council would hold a meeting to discuss whether they will make a Compulsory Purchase Order for the airport. They will need to have a partner who will indemnify the council for the costs involved. There is an American organisation that has said they will pay whatever the area is valued at.

He asked that once the leak in School Lane had been repaired that a watchful eye be kept on it as the utilities were responsible for it for 24 months following work on the carriageway.

He again asked for direction from parish council with regard to an issue at Eddington and the Local Plan.

City Cllr Peter Vickery Jones told members that he was very disappointed with things at the city council planning department. Things seemed to be in a terrible mess and many big projects were being held up by the planning department. He spoke about the application to put a parking area on Protected Open Space in Eddington, which the officer had recommended for granting and he intends to speak against it on Tuesday at the planning meeting.

175/14 Planning & Highways Issues. To receive minutes of planning meeting held on 28th August 2014. 17 Radnor Close. Following the response to planning the clerk had a couple of residents who complained about this application. The clerk was asked to make further comments to take into account residents concerns. The next planning meeting will be on 25th September. Cllr Blatherwick will attend the next CCC Planning meeting to speak on the application for a car park on Protected Open Space at Eddington.

There has been an issue with the development at Jersey Farm. It was brought to the clerk's notice that the roofline was different from the drawings that received planning consent. The clerk contacted the senior planning officer and was told this roofline had been approved. It appears that an amendment was submitted and instead of notifications of this being sent out, the planning officer concerned approved the changes. This should not have happened, but apparently the person responsible has now left. It appears nothing can be done as the developer has permission.

Considering this development is adjacent to both Grade 1 and a Grade 2 Listed Buildings, the conservation and Listed Building Officer should have been consulted, again this does not appear to have happened.

The clerk and Cllr Blatherwick discussed the situation and a complaint has been made to CCC regarding the handling of this application. Not only were no notifications and consultations done following the application for this amendment but the amended drawings were not put on the web site until last week.

Complaints are still being received from residents about the water in School Lane,

the clerk told members that she was working with Highways regarding this issue and they had been out earlier this week to see what can be done to resolve this ongoing problem. The obvious concern is the possibility of the water freezing during the winter months. Following by more reports to SE Water by the warden they are supposed to be attending tomorrow to dig the road up.

The interactive sign in Broomfield Road appears to have an intermittent fault and keeps flashing up 88. This has been reported.

The new salt bin for the corner of Margate Road and Hunters Forstal has been ordered.

176/14 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. Fighting fund £230, newsletter advertising £180, Fun Day £1,818.97, Bank Interest £2.65, Allotment Rent £750, Hall Hire £650.83, Calendars £25 Total £3,657.45

To discuss and approve Insurance Renewal. Cllr Harvey and the clerk met with a representative from Came & Co to discuss insurance for the coming year and the parish council requirements.

Came & Co has compared prices with other companies and have recommended renewing with Aviva.

At no extra cost, they have enhanced the core covers of the policy by including Keyman Cover which provides insurance cover should the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Groundsman or Deputy Groundsman be unable to work due to accidental bodily injury or illness (for a period longer than 14 days) and the council needs to employ an additional member of staff/locum to cover duties. The payment to the Council would be £400.00 per week, up to a maximum of 26 weeks in one year. The cost for renewal was £1,967.06 with an additional discount of £98.35 for signing up for 3 years an overall saving of £447.96 on the current year. Since receiving the quote, the clerk also requested a quote from Zurich, which was £1,497.86 for 3 years, most of the cover was similar except the Fidelity Guarantee which was £250,000 instead of £150,000, but they do not have the keyman cover. I sent the quote to Came & Co who have agreed to amend the Fidelity cover to match Zurich's and have reduced the cost to the premium to £1,561.30 for a 3 year period. Difference of £63.44

As we have always had good service from Came & Co the clerk recommended staying with them for another 3 year period. This was agreed.

177/14 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. The clerk reported it had been a very busy month with the Fun day etc. Planning permission has now been granted for the new Community Centre and the tender documents should be back by the end of this month, ready for a decision by full council at the October meeting.

The grant application form is in the process of being completed.

A meeting has been held with Serco to try and sort out the management requirements of the Community Park. There is work that is required, areas need cutting back and spraying. Some areas will require two cuts a year instead of one and the path edges will need spraying off to stop the encroachment onto the path. The paths also need some work. Cllr Davis and the clerk will meet up with Serco again once some of the autumn cutting has been done to discuss a management plan for the coming years. It may well be that the idea of a Woodland Park is not possible as the trees do not want to grow, perhaps shrubs etc could replace these, which would make it more attractive. Cllr Davis told members the work carried out so far had been disappointing.

Cllr Sargent and Andrew Brealy are going to tidy up the area at the bottom of School Lane.

Paul Parker has been into the Wildlife area and done some clearing on the paths.

Several residents have complained about the property in Hawe Farm Way that is selling cars. The PCSO has been out and confirmed that all the vehicles on the road were taxed. Canterbury City Council planning department has been informed that there is a problem again at this address and they have also received complaints from some residents and are now looking at it as an enforcement case. Streetscene are also looking at whether they are paying business rates etc on the property and they

have also been asked to see if Hawe Farm Way can be added to the list of consent roads.

As members will have seen from the email sent out, Natural England wish to attend the next parish council meeting to give a short presentation regarding the long distance walking route along the coast, the English Coast Path. The next stretch is between Ramsgate and Whitstable.

There are reports that the warden service is going to see 50% cuts, it was agreed that the clerk would write to the leaders of KCC explaining what an important role they have within the Community.

A letter has been received from Cllr Tobin stating that he and his wife will be moving later this year and he will be resigning on 1st December.

178/14 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis had complained to Kent Wildlife Trust about woodsmen's fires in West Blean Woods, which were causing nuisance to residents. Cllr Hobbs reported that she would be attending the Herne Bay in Bloom awards where the Friends of the Ponds will receive a special award. Cllr Rafferty reported trees and shrubbery overgrowing the footpath in Cherry Orchard.

179/14 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc). Cllr Harvey reported that he had attended an Allotment meeting, everything was progressing well and there were still a couple of plots vacant. He was going to chase up the HBAMP grant which has not yet been received. The weeds were a problem and they were strimming areas to reduce these. A second bath tub has been placed by the container, for water. They were hoping to spend some of their funds on a composting toilet. On 14th September they will be holding an open day and BBQ. The AGM will be held on 17th March 2015.

180/14 Report on suggestions for dealing with Local Plan and expenditure relating to this. At the request of our Planning Consultant Wendy Le Las, a meeting of the interested parties was called, to discuss the possibility of engaging a QC to get an opinion on the legality of the Local Plan. The meeting was held in the Wootton Room and seven of the interested parties attended plus Cllr Blatherwick and Wendy Le Las.

Wendy put the case that an opinion from a QC carried a lot of weight, she had spoken to Richard Harwood an expert in this field and he has agreed to carry out the work at cost. The amount is £1,600 plus VAT. There was much discussion as to whether this would be a good way to spend funds and it was agreed that it would be. It was suggested that as Wendy was working for Herne & Broomfield that the QC could invoice the parish council as, being VAT registered, we can claim the VAT back.

It was suggested that a donation of £200 from the interested parties would cover the cost. Of course there is always the possibility that the QC will not come back with a positive outcome, however that was considered highly unlikely.

The clerk had been concerned that Wendy Le Las had been doing quite a lot of work supplying the QC with information etc and that this was increasing the cost to the parish council, but Wendy has confirmed that she is carrying out this work on a pro bono basis, therefore there is no extra cost to the parish council.

The parish council has committed to taking whatever action they consider necessary to fight the proposals in the Local Plan and getting a qualified legal opinion on the draft plan would seem a sensible action to be taking, especially as other interested parties are willing to contribute. However the parish council will need to agree to asking Wendy to engage Richard Harwood and agree to cover the whole cost, contributions from other parties will then come to the parish council. Due to Richards future commitments a decision needs to be made quickly.

After discussions around what was being targeted, mainly the Sustainability Appraisal, and the possible outcomes of not having a plan in place, members agreed to ask Wendy Le Las to engage Richard Harwood to get his opinion.

181/14 Report on Fun Day. The clerk thanked members who helped out on the day. It was very disappointing that nearly half the councillors were not available to help for the day. It increases the work load on the councillors that are there, and in future it is important that members do commit to attend for most of the day, obviously there are always unexpected things that happen to stop people doing this. Everyone who is there on the day is a volunteer which includes the clerk and her husband Mark

and it is important that no one feels overwhelmed, which is why there must be enough help to do what is required.

Despite the rather inclement weather, the air show in Herne Bay and the Car show in Whitstable, the day was once again well supported by the local residents and approx 2,000 people attended during the afternoon. Rotary coped well with the car park this year and they have been thanked for attending. The wardens did a great job on the gate and keeping the main entrance for exhibitors vehicles only, seemed to work well.

There were plenty of food stalls and they all seemed to do reasonably well although the ice cream van didn't do as well as in previous years due to the weather being cool. There were a variety of outside stalls as well as the parish council stalls which all seemed to do quite well on the day.

The displays went ahead despite the rain, and the challenge, although chaotic was fun and enjoyed by the spectators. The fun races were great despite the helpers being changed and a lack of equipment.

Surprisingly even though it rained heavily for sometime during the afternoon, people stayed and carried on after it had stopped.

The number of classic cars was down on other years, probably due to the car show at Whitstable.

There was an offer of pony rides for next year.

Although the figures won't be finalised just yet the profit will be in the region of £2,000.

The clerk stated that she thought the number of parish council stalls needed to be reduced as did the number of gazebo's that the parish council had. It was too much work to put up 12 gazebo's on the day and also the clerks husband had to load everything and transport it as well as unload again at the end of the day and it was too much. Cllr Davis gave a special thank you to the clerk's husband Mark for all his help at the fun day.

182/14 Report and receive minutes of Environment & Leisure meeting held on 26th August 2014. Members have all received a copy. Cllr Taylor told members that they needed to commit to next year's fun day early on as it was an election year and no one would know who was going to be in place after the elections. It was likely that the date of the fun day next year would be 9th August.

183/14 Report & receive minutes from Community Centre Committee meeting held on 4th September 2014. Members have all received a copy. Cllr Davis told members that she would like to thank all those who had supported the project so far, especially those who gave up their time to speak at the planning committee.

184/14 To discuss post box stolen from Ridgeway Road. Post box in Ridgeway Road was stolen on 1st Sept the clerk reported that she has been trying to get Royal Mail to agree to replace it, and after being given the run around, they have now confirmed that a replacement has been ordered.

185/14 Members Reports. Cllr Tobin told members he was sorry to be leaving later in the year and that he had enjoyed his time as a councillor. Cllr Davis asked the clerk to check what was happening with the road surface in Braggs Lane. Cllr Robert Jones reported that it had taken Environmental Health almost 2 weeks to respond to an enquiry. Cllr Harvey asked members if they had any suggestions for the Embrace Your Space to let him know.

186/14 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be on 9th October 2014 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed 9.15pm