

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at Herne Mill, Wootton Room, on Thursday 14th May 2015 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Rafferty, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Jones, Cllr Peter Moore, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Davis.

- 78/15 **Election of Chairman.** Cllr Blatherwick was unanimously re-elected as chairman.
- 79/15 **Election of Vice Chairman.** Cllr Davis was elected as Vice Chairman.
- 80/15 **To appoint Committees** Cllr Blatherwick told members that as no one had heard from John Moore, he could not be elected onto any committees. He had not signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The clerk was asked to find out the legal position with regards to the fact that John Moore had not signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and to take the appropriate action.
The following were elected onto the committees as listed below.
Finance & Resources Committee Cllr Jones, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Mitchell.
Environment & Leisure Committee Cllr Davis, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Jones, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Rafferty.
Planning & Highways Committee Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr P Moore, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Harvey.
Community Centre Committee. Cllr Davis, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Rafferty and Cllr Blatherwick.
Policy Committee Cllr Davis, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Jones, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Nicholson.
- 81/15 **To appoint representatives to**
KALC Canterbury Area Committee. Cllrs Harvey & Rafferty
Friends of Broomfield & Herne Ponds Cllr Davis and Pam Hobbs
Street Monitors Cllr Taylor and Cllr Moore
Allotment Society Cllr Harvey and Cllr Nicholson
Herne Bay in Bloom Pam Hobbs
To Appoint
Tree warden & Pond Wardens Cllr Davis and Pam Hobbs
Newsletter Editor Cllr Davis
Press Officer Cllr Davis
Web site manager Cllr Davis
- 82/15 **To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** County Cllr Marsh who wished to congratulate all on their re-election and election.
- 83/15 **To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda.** None
- 84/15 **The minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2015** were agreed as a correct record.
- 85/15 **To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** The clerk reported that she had spoken with Jenkins Dog Services and asked them to take their vans at separate times so they do not have 3 vans parked at the Community Park at one time.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO SPEAK

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

The draw for this month's 100 club will take place at this point. The winners this month were

Cllr Blatherwick presented City Cllr Jones with a gift and certificate for his time served as a parish councillor, as he was unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

- 86/15 **Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick welcomed the new members and she told everyone although there had been an uncontested election that they had all been elected and she drew their attention to the Councillors Code of Conduct and suggested both new and old councillors should read through the document which is on the web site. The clerk said she would email it out. Members should bear in mind that they are on the parish council to represent and serve the residents. Members have a duty to attend meetings and

should do so unless there are special circumstances. Mr Moore has not attend many meetings at all during the last year, he has missed 9 full council meetings, 7 planning meetings and 2 of the 4 Finance meetings. Not attending meetings shows contempt for the parish council. Cllr Blatherwick went on to congratulate the ward councillors on their election and she also asked for formal congratulations to be sent to Roger Gale. Cllr Davis thanked members for the flowers and condolence cards following the death of her mother.

87/15 Police Matters. Sue Radcliffe reported that she had been working with Michelle on Stranger Danger and speed checks. There were problems reported in the cemetery one evening and she has patrolled but not seen anyone. Report of youngsters being a nuisance in the grounds of Strode Park which is being monitored. A loose dog was picked up by the police and eventually returned to its owner. Nuisance motor cycles have been a problem in Bogshole Lane and Beltinge on the rough ground. There have been issues in Herne Bay with underage drinkers and she has dealt with lifeline calls. The accident in Hunters Forstal Road was not speed related.

88/15 Wardens Report. Michelle reported that she is also covering Sturry as they are without a warden and is there mainly on a Wednesday until a new warden is appointed in September. She walked with the whole of the Infants School to Curtis Park Wood, has carried out inspections on the MUGA during Peter's absence, dealt with graffiti in the underpass and also carried out Lorry Watch with David Neame. She is working with Tracey Jones regarding the laying of the memorial stone. She has received some responses to the questionnaire re the Emergency Plan but was disappointed that only one councillor had responded. She went on to speak about the trial Local Warden Support Officer Scheme and the pilot will be in each of the twelve districts. Canterbury district will have a Parish council involved in the pilot. If the parish council chose to take part in the pilot scheme it would benefit for the following reasons.

- To control feedback and accurate recording of feasibility of scheme
- Clerk respected by KALC to give constructive and transparent feedback
- If scheme was rolled out it would be delivered in line with our local expectations, here, in Herne and Broomfield.
- Clerk has excellent knowledge of the community and the warden's role within it.
- All "pit falls" could be addressed and documented for discussion
- To make sure the parish council maintain an involvement in recruitment, tasking's and allocated working hours.

If we chose not to engage

- No control over how it operatesNo input to problems and concerns of how it is set up.

She would support the parish council taking part in the Pilot if that's what they decide to do.

Cllr Harvey asked a question regarding some fly tipping and also reported a complaint from a resident regarding speeding in Margate Road near the Post Office.

89/15 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh had asked the clerk to pass his congratulations on to all councillors as he was not able to attend the meeting.

City Cllr Sonnex told members that polling day was interesting and upbeat. Parking issues in Forgefields are being dealt with, the trees opposite Broomfield Post Office need cutting back and Highways have been asked to look at this. She and City Cllr Jones are again trying to get free parking in the public car park in School Lane, at school drop off and pick up times.

City Cllr Jones told members he was delighted to have been elected and to be able to continue to work in the parish.

90/15 Planning & Highways Issues. To receive minutes of planning meeting held on 30th April 2015. There had been concerns raised about the traffic in the village the difficulty near the Catholic Church where vehicles approaching Herne from the Canterbury direction were meeting head on with those travelling in the opposite direction. Cllr Blatherwick told members that the parish council had asked for the yellow lines to be put outside the Catholic Church but CCC had said that the current situation creates natural traffic calming. There were also issues with cars not stopping at the mini roundabout. All members had received a copy of the planning minutes, no questions were received on that meeting. There has been damage to kerbs in School Lane outside No. 85 where cars are driving over them to park. There is also an issue with builders vehicles parking on double

yellow lines in School Lane near no 83.

91/15

Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. British Gas £80.52.

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

To report on income received. Concurrent funding £6,244.38, VAT refund £206.20, Sponsorship £250, advertising £420, Fun Day stalls £50, Bank Interest £25.44, Hall Hire £1,334.28, 100 club £60. Total £8,590.30

To receive minutes of Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 28th April 2015 to discuss and approve any recommendations. Members had all received a copy of the minutes and the recommendation to approve the accounts and sign the Annual Statement, and Annual Governance Statement, the Statement of Internal Control has been signed by the internal auditor. Members agreed the signing of the Annual Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Internal Control.

Internal Auditors report: Cllr Harvey confirmed that the auditor had not found any issues when carrying out the end of year checks.

To resolve the Co-Operative bank continue as our bankers in accordance with the original application and to approve the new cheque signatories and removal of retiring councillors. This was resolved.

92/15

Pond Tree Wardens Report. Cllr Davis reported that the next pond day will now be on 31st May at Curtis Wood all are welcome. The Green Flag inspection of Curtis Wood Park will take place on Tuesday and Pam Hobbs and Kay Heyward will be attending as Cllr Davis is unable to go.

93/15

Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

The clerk congratulated Cllrs Robert Jones & Sharron Sonnex on being elected onto Canterbury City Council, they have both worked very hard for the parish in the past and hopefully will continue to do so, and she was looking forward to working closely with them.

Congratulations also to parish council members on their re-election and a warm welcome to the new councillors. She told them not to hesitate to contact her if they have any questions or need any advice, she is more than happy to explain procedures etc.

It's been a busy month, once again. The year-end audit has been successfully completed.

The Annual Parish meeting held this year at the Community Centre on 24th April was quite well attended, with 19 local clubs/organisations giving reports on their year. The meeting started with a talk from Kent Fire & Rescue on fire safety in the home. This was followed by the chairman's report and a financial report by the parish clerk.

The PCSO and Warden gave a very entertaining account of their year and this was followed by the organisations, clubs, schools etc. 19 in total, who gave an account of what had been happening during the year.

The evening ended with questions from the floor. Refreshments were served throughout the evening and the clerk thanked both Sue Radcliffe and Michelle Weston for their help.

The clerk and Cllr Blatherwick attended the executive meeting on 23rd April where a request to reduce the housing numbers in the local plan was put before the committee. The request was refused.

The Garden Safari plans are well under way. Flyers have been distributed to Garden Centres and the gardens that are opening. The signs have been put up, thanks to City Cllr Robert Jones for doing those.

Preparations are ongoing for the Fun Day and the additional information requested by CCC has been submitted. Cllr Rafferty is sorting out the Fire Risk queries.

The new computer is up and running following some initial teething issues!

Lots going on regarding the Local Plan with the discussions with other organisations that are involved and the pre-hearing held yesterday. The full hearing starts on 14th July and runs until the end of July and then starts again in September. A meeting was held on 12th May with Wendy Le Las to discuss the pre-hearing and look at what will be needed for the hearings in July.

An advert was spotted in the local paper by County Cllr Marsh who contacted the clerk. It was notification of an application to CCC by Hollamby Estates for alterations to Bullockstone Road. CCC didn't appear to know much about it and Hollamby said they weren't aware. Following further discussions with the planning department it appears an application has been submitted but has not been validated, therefore no details can be released into the public domain.

The new application for HB Golf Course has been received, a very large box full of documents will need to be looked at alongside the previous application and will be discussed at the next planning meeting.

Most of the work on the trees in the Wildlife area has been completed, and the scouts and guides now have a key. There is one tree still to be removed but there is a bird box on it and they were nesting. As soon as it is empty the poplar tree will be removed. Hopefully this will reduce the amount of tree work required in future. Cllr Sargent very kindly cut up the fallen branch that was in Cherry Orchard and removed it.

The Highways steward is getting the lining, bus stops, roundabout and zebra crossing markings re painted in Herne Street, but this will be after the patching has been done by the bus stop.

The clerk thanked Cllrs Sargent and Harvey for filling in the pot holes in St Martin's View, also Alan King, and wardens Michelle and David.

The clerk thanked Jenny McGookin from 3 Pond Cottages who was filling the dog bin with bags and picking up litter and dog poo at the Community Park.

Correspondence

Letters from Mabel Wright and Ann Berry thanking parish council for giving them their award at the Annual Parish meeting and for the vouchers.

94/15

Reports from council representatives on outside bodies (KALC, Street monitors, etc).

Cllr Harvey reported he had attended a KALC meeting all members had received a copy of the minutes of the meeting. He had also attended the Allotment AGM, there had been a change in their constitution and Alan King had stood down as chairman. There were plans to hedge the boundary at the rear of the site. The building of the toilet had been delayed as building regs were required. They intend putting up a noticeboard. A Nosh & Knowledge is organised for 6th October and they will be opening for the Garden Safari on 14th June. A BBQ will be held again this year on 6th September when prizes will be awarded. The parish council has been asked if they would donate again this year. It was agreed that £150 would be reasonable, this will be ratified at the next parish council meeting. They have also cancelled their membership of the National Allotment Society and now belong to the Royal Horticultural Society.

95/15

To discuss the latest information on the Local Plan and further action to be

taken. Report on the Pre Hearing held by the Planning Inspector on 13th May attended by Cllr Blatherwick & the clerk.

The meeting was held at the Guildhall and the procedures for the Hearings were discussed. There were many comments about the fact that CCC had told residents who had responded to the original draft plan, that their comments would go to the inspector, therefore there was no reason for people to send in the responses again. It appears that this is not the case and that a summary of the responses were sent to the inspector. The last consultation showed only 2,500 responses compared to the previous one which was 7,000. This is a big issue as it is not considered to be correct procedure and that CCC has misled residents.

The Inspector laid down the rules for the hearing and also what is required in regards to comments that are going to be made by consultees on the additional information that CCC has supplied to the inspector after the LP was submitted. The problem with this is there are a lot of documents and all the responses have to be with the inspector by 17th June. There are also questions to be answered on all the sections of the plan, the requirement is to have answers to any sections that the parish council made comments on. The Inspector has set these questions. There were 3 City Councillors in attendance at the meeting two spoke, one was Cllr Eden Green the other was a new councillor but both voiced concerns over the handling of the consultation. City Cllr David Hurst was also at the hearing. Adrian Verrill who was mainly responsible for putting together the LP has now left and CCC have retained a barrister to speak on their behalf, she is, not local and has to keep consulting with Ian Brown in order to answer questions. Some of the questions asked by the Inspector, she was not able to give a response and will need to put them in writing to the inspector by next Wednesday.

The hearings start on 14th July and runs for two weeks and starts again in September.

Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk will have meetings with the other groups involved in fighting the plan, it is considered sensible to try and cover various issues where all parties are in agreement and give one answer on behalf of all. This will save the Inspector time when going through responses. Things like the duty to co-operate and whether the plan is sound, housing numbers etc could be put together by CPRE and the Canterbury Society and we could just say we are in total agreement with their submission. We do of course

need to make sure that our issues are made clear.

One of the other groups has asked if we can get our highways consultant to ask for a copy of the Visum modelling as KCC and CCC don't consider it appropriate to make it available to individuals as they and I quote 'won't know what they are looking at'. He has been asked if he would do that. The more work that can be done in conjunction with the other groups the less we have to pay our planning consultant. She will be helping with the parish responses and will of course attend the hearings where required, Cllr Blatherwick will attend and speak if required, this is likely to be necessary when talking about the status of Herne Village and how the development will join us with Greenhill and totally ruin the area. The Inspector will carry out site visits and there is an opportunity to ask him to view areas from certain vantage points etc.

Having spoken to Wendy Le Las it may be necessary to employ the QC again to either give an opinion on what has happened to date, procedural wise or possibly to attend the hearing. We have been very lucky to have Jeremy Baker and Revd Paul Wilson who have put in so much time looking at the documents and have such good knowledge of the procedures etc, as well as other people such as CPRE, who are also helping with the responses and giving advice. A meeting has been arranged with the planning consultant to look at the parish councils responses re the Highways side of things and there will be another group meeting with Wendy Le Las, who has also given a lot of time to this without charge. This will then be followed with a meeting with Wendy and Cllr Blatherwick and myself to go through the Inspectors questions and deal with the responses.

96/15 To receive minutes E & L meeting held on 5th May 2015 and approve any recommendations. Cllr Taylor said all members had received a copy of the draft minutes and she asked if there were any questions. Kent Firefit hopefully will be attending the fun day which will be something different.

97/15 To discuss advertising the vacancy for a new councillor. Members agreed that this would be advertised but asked the clerk to find out the position with John Moore and get advice from the Electoral Officer at CCC and take the appropriate action.

98/15 To discuss the proposals for a Local Warden Support Officer. Following on from what Michelle had said in her report, members asked the clerk if it was going to increase her workload. The clerk thought it would be Michelle that would be much more involved and that they would just discuss the progress of the volunteer during the trial. It was agreed that Herne & Broomfield Parish Council would put themselves forward to take part in the trial.

99/15 Members Reports. Cllr Rafferty told members that the cars were still parking on the grass in School Lane. He also asked about the recycle bins in School Lane car park. The clothes and shoe banks etc would not be moved, it was only things that now had a kerbside collection. Cllr Davis reported that she thought there had been a really good atmosphere at the Annual Parish Meeting and it was wonderful to hear what so many organisations were doing within the parish and working together. Cllr Harvey reported that the new contractor was doing a good job at the Community Park. Cllr Sargent reported that the ruts on the grass verge in Lower Herne Road were not causing a problem.

100/15 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 11th June 2015 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm