

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 10th December 2015 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

- 217/15 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllrs Blatherwick and Mitchell at school concerts and Julia Davison who has had an operation, Cllr O'Donnell whose husband has had an operation today.
- 218/15 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None.
- 219/15 The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2015** were agreed as a correct record.
- 220/15 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.

Draw for 100 Club

First No 11 and second no 17

- 221/15 Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Davis chaired the meeting, having no announcements she wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and she presented the clerk with a card and present from all members and thanked her for all her hard worked throughout the year and wished her a Happy Christmas.
- 222/15 Police Matters/Crime report.** No report from PCSO.
- 223/15 Warden's Report.** KCC Warden Michelle attend although not officially on duty, she reported that she had been finding some Nitrous Oxide Canisters, these are the new legal highs, there are a few of these being found around the Herne Bay area. Michelle showed members what the canisters looked like, there are also findings of small plastic bags with animals on, these are often used for drugs. She has emailed the addiction department to report her findings. She asked members to report it if they came across any. Serco have lifted the branches of a tree in Cherry Orchard, which youngsters were congregating under, as this was causing concern to residents. She has attended the schools Nativity plays, and attended for Road Safety Week, promoting safer, smarter parking. County councillor Alan Marsh had paid for A boards to go outside the schools. She was also asked to attend in Herne Bay and Canterbury for the Christmas Lights switch on. She had attended, on the request of the parish council, the Children's Christmas party. She also dealt with some neighbour disputes and also social service referrals. A local resident was concerned about anti-social behaviour in the under-pass and she had looked into a Mosquito device, these cost around £600 and emit a high pitched sound which only teenagers can hear, unfortunately KCC have banned these as there have been issues as to whether they are against the youngsters human rights. Michele will accompany the float when it tours Herne on 19th December.
- 224/15 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** County Cllr Marsh told members he had asked for the lights in the underpass to be checked, the clerk had reported that they were back on but there were 7 out. He had funded the Reindeers to attend Strode Park's Christmas Fair and it had been very well attended. He told members that there had been no level of co-operation with Canterbury City Council with regard to the Local Plan. He again stated that KCC's position was that car parks in Canterbury should be retained, there are 17,000 homes planned for the Canterbury District a large proportion of which are in his area. He reported that he had

had a conversation with a City councillor who spoke about the 'By-Pass' for Herne, he pointed out that a By-Pass was not what was planned, nothing like. He told members that KCC were going to be insistent that Hollamby Estates would have to do the road to a proper standard. If they go to appeal Cllr Marsh thought they would lose and have to pay the costs. He was due to have a meeting with Tim Reid and Nasa Sarrafan re the Highways issues in Herne with regards to the Local Plan. Cllr Davis thanked Cllr Marsh for getting new bollards installed on the A291 near Firwood Court, the speed signs have also been changed for square ones to make them more visual.

Ward Cllr Robert Jones sent a written report. Any way if you can as part of my report wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

This month is the busiest of the year so far (Tracey can confirm that)

With regards to ward work, I have been called out to round up an escaped pig in Norton ave, I was on the beach dog walking at the time I got a call, went home got the trailer and sure enough there was the pig happily walking about I managed to get it near the trailer with food, but the pig decided to walk home with the owners back to the ridgeway, so a happy ending

I am now the Herne bay liaison person with regards to litter, graffiti etc a link between the council and Serco , the idea is that one person from each area works with Serco with regards to these issues other cllrs etc feed the info to one person and hopefully things will be more streamline with regards to refuse collection cllr Pat Todd is the council link with Serco and this so far has worked well. Cllr Pat Todd will remain as the link person for refuse.

At the last rural area advisory committee meeting we had a presentation from planning with regards to a neighbourhood plan, I know we have a parish plan but if you are either needing to,update it or needing to have a complete new plan this may well be worth considering, there is funding available up to 8,000 and there would be support from CCC with regards to a referendum etc, if you would like further information please let me know.

And lastly I know you have done a consultation with regards to the community centre which I have as a former parish councillor and now as a city councillor I have always supported having a community centre ,and I am fully aware of the current lack of funding grants available, with regards to increasing the precept to pay a loan over many many years is something I cannot support, the precept in my view is not meant for this. .I support having a new community centre and if grants are not forthcoming at this time my personnel suggestion would be with the monies in the current reserve would be to refurbish the building, new kitchen, toilets, and roof and when in the future when things improve with grant funding then go for it then. These are just my own personnel opinions.

225/15 Planning & Highways Issues. To receive minutes of planning meeting held on 3rd December. (Minutes have been circulated). No questions on the minutes.

Cllr Blatherwick, the clerk and representatives from Harbledown and Blean Parish Councils met at the Mill with Tim Middleton and Andrew Westward from KCC Highways on 30th November. The meeting was to have a follow up on the lorry/HGV routes. It was explained that action was limited, if more restrictions were put in place, the police will not enforce them. They only have 2 officers to cover the whole of Kent, to deal with lorry issues and their priority, quite rightly is safety, exceeding driving hours, condition of vehicles, tyres etc.

However there was work being done to encourage these vehicles to use the A290 and A299, they are working with Freight Gateway web site to help plan routes and also with the lorry Sat Nav companies.

New signage will be installed to encourage the preferred routes. A consultant will be brought in to do the design, probably in January. It is hoped that the signs etc. will be in place by late February, the funding for this is already in place. Existing signs to be cleared and missing ones to be replaced. Cllr Blatherwick thanked them for working with the parishes to try and reduce the lorry impact on the villages affected. The clerk handed over the lorry watch sheets completed by the wardens in Herne, and KCC

requested that this be repeated around April next year. The proposals went to the Joint Transport Board on 1st December.

226/15 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. None

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. The clerk apologised that there was not a bank reconciliation but the bank statement has got lost in the post, a replacement has been sent out but has not yet been received. The clerk will send the bank reconciliation out once she has the statement. Payments were all approved as per the schedule.

To report on income received. Advert £60, Hall income £1,035.42, 100 Club £24, Donation CC £3.40 Total £1,122.82

227/15 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. The clerk reported quite a busy month with getting newsletters out, the Children's Party, and numerous meetings at CCC etc.

Members were all informed that Evelyn Bissett had passed away in November, she had been both a parish and ward councillor for Herne & Broomfield for many years, sadly also, Pat Watson passed away in November, she had previously been a parish councillor and had been very involved with setting up the youth club.

The Christmas float has come out of storage, the clerk thanked Cllr Sargent and the group of helpers who got it ready for the Children's party, She also thanked Cllr Davison for storing it until it goes back into permanent storage. The float will tour Herne on 19th December and Broomfield on 20th December, hopefully with parish councillors in attendance.

The clerk told members that she did intend to start her retirement process in 2016, initially by reducing the working hours to around 15 per week, by about August time. She did intend to see through the Local Plan to its end and will of course continue with the new community centre for as long as possible. How the council will deal with appointing a new clerk will initially be discussed at the next Finance & Resources meeting.

The clerk gave the Christmas Closing for the office, it would be closed from 21st December and re-open on 4th January. She will keep an eye on the emails during that time. The clerk said that she would like to wish all members a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

228/15 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. None.

229/15 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations. Cllrs Taylor and Moore had attended the Street Monitors meeting at CCC. There were not many attendees for the presentation on tree diseases which was very informative. They asked about the replacement of bin lids when they go missing, and Serco's policy is that they will replace the lids free of charge. There are still a few red bins available for those residents that would like them.

Cllr Harvey reported that he had attended the KALC AGM, there was a talk from SECAM and they requested that it would be most helpful if residents could ensure their house number or name was clearly visible, this would be of great assistance to the emergency services. They also praised the installation of defibrillators and said they definitely saved lives. The CEO of NALC reported that there was funding available re the Transparency Code. Cllr Harvey also reported that the allotments now have a septic tank and hopefully they will soon have a shed to house the toilet. Linda White has taken over the position of Secretary

230/15 Report on CCC Policy & Resources meeting at which Cllr Blatherwick spoke regarding the issue of Herne & Broomfield being within the urban boundary.

Cllr Blatherwick spoke at the meeting to object to the additional 80 dwellings proposed at Golf Driving range in Bullockstone Road, which were to go into the Local Plan as an addition. She asked for the allocation for Strode Farm to be removed from the plan, one of the officers told members sites could not be removed, which was untrue as they had removed Kent & Canterbury Hospital site from the plan.

Cllr Blatherwick spoke about the fact that CCC had decided Herne was not a village and that the residents were very concerned at the loss of identity. She had previously submitted a petition signed by over 500 residents supporting the request to remove Herne & Broomfield from the Herne Bay Urban Boundary. Following much discussion by the committee they finally passed the motion that they supported this request.

Cllr Blatherwick also objected to the removal of the conservation area around Herne Mill.

Report on CCC full council meeting at which Cllr Davis spoke.

At the full council meeting Cllr Davis asked a question of members regarding the removal of the urban boundary around Herne & Broomfield. Following discussion members were told that details provided to date, would go to the Inspector and it would be his decision (the clerk said that she did not think this was in the Inspectors remit). There would, apparently, have to be robust evidence to support a boundary change. After some discussion, the motion was lost.

231/15 To receive minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee and respond to any questions. (Minutes have been circulated). The meeting mainly dealt with the Children's Christmas party and the float, there were no further questions.

232/15 To discuss the proposed budget/precept for 2016-17 following the consultation with residents.

The results of the consultation were Survey Monkey received 76 responses

48 voted YES (63.16%)

28 voted NO (36.84%)

56 newsletter forms were received

34 voted YES (60.71%)

22 voted NO (39.29%)

26 Emails were received

18 voted YES (69.23%)

8 NO (30.77%)

There was a total of 158 responses, 10 were invalid.

Yes 95

No 53

Total 148

64.19%

35.81%

Therefore if members are in agreement to go ahead with the project, the parish council will set the precept at £144,950 for 2016-17, this includes allocating £80,000 towards the Community centre and will cover the cost of the loan.

It is hoped that the precept figure could be reduced next year once the loan is in place, if grants etc. are successful it may be that it will not be necessary to borrow as much.

The clerk explained to members that the precept request had to be sent to CCC before Christmas, therefore the decision to borrow funds to enable the Community Centre to be built had to be made at this meeting. If not then the project would be on hold until April 2017.

Cllr Jones told members that she felt the response was quite low, and only equated to 5% of households. It was pointed out that the national average for responses of this type is 2.2%.

Cllr Davis told members that there had been 3 ways to respond and the majority of people she had spoken to about it, didn't think that it was a lot of money to get a purpose built Community Centre with good facilities. It was generally accepted that those who didn't respond were not against. Some members felt that the Parish Council needed to get to the younger residents via social media.

There was much discussion on how the project could be taken forward, Cllr Jones thought perhaps more consultation over the next few months. The clerk explained that the parish council did not have a few more months, as if the precept request did not include the extra for the Community Centre, it could not be added later. The danger with not doing it now was that build costs could escalate which would mean that the build could not go ahead at all. There was also the issue of the planning consent running out and having to be renewed.

Members were generally disappointed, that borrowing the funds was about the only alternative, in order to get the building up and running. However with virtually no grants available for this project and fundraising only producing relatively small amounts, it seemed there was little choice.

Cllr Davis put the motion to increase the budget to £144,950 this includes enough funding to cover the cost of a loan towards the new Community Centre. There being 8 votes for and 1 abstention, the motion was carried.

It is likely that the tendering process would need to be repeated due to the amount of time that has passed since the tenders were received. Once this has been done the information can be put together to apply for the Public Works Loan. This will need a motion approved at a full council meeting.

- 233/15 Update on Local Plan consultation.** The information has now been published, the only real change for Herne & Broomfield is the additional developments in Bullockstone Road. The Transport Strategy has not been updated to take into account the additional housing provision proposed in the Canterbury District. When the clerk queried this with Ian Brown she was told ‘. The purpose of the Transport Strategy is to provide the transport policy framework for the next 16 years. The strategy approach is explained in Local Plan chapter 4, it sets out the way KCC and CCC will jointly tackle existing traffic issues as well as managing and mitigating the effects of additional travel demand from Local Plan allocations, including investments and policies.

This approach (modal shift, improving traffic flow, new infrastructure etc.) won’t change because of the additional sites that are now coming forward.

So we don’t believe a change to the Transport Strategy is needed. We’ve discussed this approach with KCC and they are happy this is the correct process’.

The public meeting will go ahead as planned on 5th January at St Martins Church, where it will be possible to answer questions from residents and update them on what has been done in the last 6 months, explain what has been done so far to try and fight the development on Strode Farm and she will advise residents on how they can contact the Inspector with their views.

The consultation on the amendments to the Local Plan will run until 22nd January. Cllr Blatherwick will look at these as soon as she can, members have all been sent the link. The fight against including Strode Farm in the urban area and to try and retain the green gap will go on.

- 234/15 Report on Children’s party.** The party was attended by 54 children plus some little ones. Most of the parents stayed with their children and enjoyed it as much as the children did. There was enough food for the parents to be able to mop up what the children didn’t eat. Paul & Bunny Parker did a great job keeping the children up and dancing from 3pm until they sat down for their food and when they had finished Pip the Clown took over with her magic show. At 5pm Father Christmas arrived to distribute presents to every child after which they left for home. A really big thank you to all the helpers. Andy Harvey, Carol, Trevor & Sue Davis, Bill Whiffen, Doug Hobbs, Pat Brealy, Kay Heyward & Carole Clark, Linda White, Sheila Day, Ann, Tim, Lucy & Alex Blatherwick, Annelise and Jennifer Nicholson, Geoff, Clare and Evie Mitchell, Sarah O’Donnell, John Nicholson and Ian Sargent. A special thank you to Paul & Bunny Parker for providing the Disco FOC. A great time was had by all and the compliments as parents left were great, also had 3 emails from some that attended saying how good it was and how they all enjoyed it. The clerk also thanked Michelle, our warden, for checking children in and out.

- 235/15 Members Reports.** Cllr Rafferty reported there were still parking issues at the school. There was also the issue of the hedge which needed cutting right back to aid visibility at the crossing. Cllr Blatherwick will be asked to speak to Headteacher, Mr Saunders. Cllr Taylor asked if Cllr Sargent could put some clear mastic on the Perspex on the noticeboard as it had come loose.

- 236/15 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 14th January 2016 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.**

Meeting closed 9.10pm