

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Herne Mill, Mill Lane, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7DR

Tel: 01227 742700

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at Herne Mill, Wootton Room, on Thursday 11th February 2016 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Rafferty, Cllr Davison, Cllr Moore, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr O'Donnell and Cllr Davis

- 020/16** To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons. City Cllr Jones CCC meeting.
021/16 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations. None received.
022/16 The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2016 were agreed as a correct record.
023/16 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only. The defibrillator item has been put back until later in the year, as the agenda for this month was quite long.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO SPEAK

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

No speakers

Draw for 100 Club 1st No 41, 2nd No 3

- 024/16** **Chairman's Announcements.** None.
025/16 **Police Matters/Crime report.** PCSO not on duty, joint report with warden
026/16 **Warden's Report.** Michelle is unable to attend tonight and has provided a written report from Sue Radcliffe and herself.
Here is a list/summary of some of the activities we have undertaken in your parish since the last meeting.
-Several neighbour disputes which have included some joint visits with Mediation Services (Sue)
-Joint foot patrol around the parish. (Joint)
-Visual audits of damage to lighting. Albion Lane, Cherry Orchard, MUGA court. (Joint)
-Reassurance visit Willow Farm Way in regards to ASB. (Joint)
-Neighbour watch/anti-social behaviour leaflet drop to two locations (Joint)
-Evening shifts to monitor the underpass plus surrounding area which also included litter picking (Joint)
-Following notification of scam call – information leaflet drop to Woodrow Chase (Michelle)
-At the request of the Parish Council a full salt bin audit completed (Michelle)
-Weekly MUGA court inspections (Michelle)
-Area graffiti audit with District Councillor Robert Jones (Michelle)
-Dementia training also Emergency planning, Rest Centre training (Michelle)
-Dog fouling signage put up at the Links plus litter pick completed (Michelle)
-Road Closure traffic management to allow potholes to be repaired in Canterbury Rd (Michelle + colleagues)
-Intergenerational Coffee morning held at the Infants School (Michelle)
027/16 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.**
Report from County Cllr Marsh. Alan reported that KCC had set their budget earlier in the day and there was going to be an increase of 3.99%, 2% of this was to cover social care, which will give them £11M. KCC will still be over budget by £5M by the end of the financial year. Services will have to suffer due to the cut backs having to be made. KCC members have had their members fund cut by £5,000 each. The Parish Council will receive £500 towards the fun day, from Alan's Member Fund. The Joint Transport Board meeting approved the double yellow lines proposed for Herne & Broomfield. Any issues with the roads will need to be resolved as early as possible in the new financial year, due to the funding restraints that are being placed on highways. He has also been in talks with Barbara Cooper who is overall in charge of Highways at KCC with regard to the Strode Farm development and the highways issues. She is well aware of the parish council's concerns. Manston is being done through Central Government and Thanet District Council

will have no jurisdiction over it. Highways are looking at the fencing on the other side of A299, to stop pedestrians getting access, to A299.

Report from City Cllr Sonnex.

The bus shelter outside The Plough has been damaged. The seat was loosened and finally ripped off. Whilst it says Kent County Council in partnership with Canterbury City Council on the shelter the responsibility for repairs falls to Serco.

Many of us have had letters from Southern Water saying we are being surveyed in anticipation of the fitting of water meters. I contacted Southern Water who advised if our property was suitable, these are compulsory.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem. We organised an informal meeting with the other Herne Bay Councillors to discuss this amongst other issues and have some ideas on how we can be more proactive in preventing it from happening in the future.

There has been some fly tipping in Bogshole Lane. There is a large pile of dead branches that is having plastics and other waste added to it. Also in the same vicinity there is what appears to be a dumped car, together with a ditched bumper. These have been reported to the appropriate bodies and will hopefully dealt with as soon as possible. .

Finally, a meeting was organised with Ann, Monica and myself to meet with Simon Cook leader of Canterbury City Council. The meeting took place in Canterbury and I felt Simon acknowledged our concerns (largely featured around planning issues) and has taken them on board.

CCC have changed to google mail and the email address is going to change to Sharron.sonnex@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk there are however teething problems at the moment. City Cllr Jones will be the local contact along with Richard Davidson with regards to fly tipping and graffiti.

Report from City Cllr Jones (written report supplied)

Michelle and I have been around the village looking at the graffiti which has been photographed and now sent in to CCC, some of the graffiti is on KCC Property which CCC, when they have the money, will remove hence the reason it is still there!

Hopefully in a few weeks with the new budgets etc this will happen, very frustrating.

Also the changing rooms in the Cherry Orchard have still not had the graffiti removed and when it does happen, due to the building material used, there will still be the outline of the graffiti, as it is a concrete block construction and it has absorbed the image.

I am asking for this surface to be coated, so this does not happen again. So let wait and see.

028/16 Planning & Highways Issues. Receive minutes of the meeting held on 28th January.

All members had received a copy of the minutes, Cllr Blatherwick ran through the applications that the parish council had objected to and also encouraged members to respond to the new application for Strode Farm. This application is the same as the previous one but there is now more information on the website from statutory consultees to be found under the previous application number, which helps with the response and also for a letter to the Inspector.

The clerk said she had received a request to make the access ramp to shops in Hawe Farm Way, less steep. This is privately owned, she will try to speak with the owner. The plan to change the kerbs in the centre of the village cannot go ahead as the road is not wide enough. The bollards will be replaced, but this will require a road closure. Ford Road will be closed to allow the potholes to be filled. Cllr Davis reported that the new bollards by Firwood Court on Canterbury Road are not visible after dark when you are walking along the pavement towards Herne village, she asked if reflectors could be put on the pedestrian side. Cllr Harvey urged members to respond to the Thames crossing consultation as another bridge over the Thames was badly needed.

029/16 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. 100 club £12, £5

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

To report on income received. Float £94.70, Hall Hire £1,038.13 Total £1,132.83

Receive minutes of Finance Meeting and approve recommendations (Financial Standing Orders, Increasing Insurance cover for Employee Dishonesty) Copy supplied.

The Financial Standing Orders were approved. Members agreed to increase the cover for Employee Dishonesty, Cllr Davison asked if this also covered members. The clerk will check.

030/16 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

There have been several meetings with contractors to try and find the best people and prices for the various aspects of what is necessary to get to tender stage for the Community Centre.

There has been quite a good response to the extended consultation and the results will be ready for the next meeting.

The response to Strode Farm's latest planning application has been submitted and a response to the Inspector for the Public Inquiry is in the process of being put together.

There has been damage to lights in the ball court. Serco have replaced where necessary, Michelle cleared up all the glass. Michelle has carried out the inspections on the MUGA up to 1st February.

Report on meeting with CCC members Simon Cook and Sharron Sonnex 18th January 2016

Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk attended the meeting, City Cllr Jones was unable to attend. Cllr Blatherwick told Simon how disappointed she was that the Parish Council and the City Council did not seem to be able to work together, also KCC and CCC did not seem to be able to agree. She wanted all the local authorities to work together in the best interests of the residents. Simon agreed that this was also what he would like to see happen.

Most of the issues raised at the meeting were planning based, issues with planning officers, which Simon was aware of and Sharron had had an issue with one particular planning officer which she spoke about. The clerk said she thought there could be a little more flexibility from planning officers, re closing dates for comments on planning applications. She was not looking at a couple of weeks but perhaps a couple of days to tie in with parish council meetings. Simon did agree, and could not see why this should not happen.

Cllr Blatherwick was concerned about the lack of consistency with regard to planning applications. Simon said that there was a new head of planning, Simon Thomas and if there were any issues he would be willing to discuss them.

The clerk raised the issue of design, especially at the consultation stage, the issues that have materialised at Talmead, must not be repeated. The design is appalling and as a result there are constant anti-social behaviour issues. Play areas are not in place on some developments until completion.

Parish councils are well aware of issues in their areas and do feel that planning officers do not always take much notice of the comments made by them. The parishes then have to deal with the fallout.

Enforcement with regard to planning has been non-existent and Simon assured us that this was now being dealt with and the situation should improve soon.

Cllr Blatherwick spoke about Infrastructure issues as it seems that in a lot of cases CCC are not good at ensuring the infrastructure is in place. Cllr Sonnex spoke about Blacksole Bridge and how developers will split their developments into phases and not completely finish a phase before moving onto the next, in order to avoid putting in the infrastructure associated with the first phase.

The clerk raised the issues of play areas which need to be a suitable size, fit for purpose and in place before the whole development is completed.

S106 and CiL were discussed Cllr Blatherwick told Simon that Herne and Broomfield had seen very little S106 money in the past, even though there had been a huge amount of development in the area, but no additional community facilities to cope with it, other than those provided by the parish council.

Simon told us that a Neighbourhood Plan was a good route to go, although it could be costly there were some grants available towards it. The clerk said due to its size Herne & Broomfield would need one each.

Simon asked if the parish had heard about the Clean for the Queen, this was a litter pick, being held over the 4th 5th 6th March in order to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday. The local authority will help by supplying equipment, the clerk said she would talk to the warden.

Cllr Blatherwick thanked Simon and Sharron for giving the parish council a chance to air their views re the issues that have arisen over the last few years and the meeting ended on a positive note.

Michelle is organising a Clean for the Queen Day on Friday 4th March from 2-4pm, the area outside the shops in Hawe Farm Way and the Greenhill/Strode Farm underpass, will be cleared of rubbish etc.

Report on Garden Safari meeting 25th January 2016

Cllr Davis and the clerk hosted the meeting.

About 6 of the gardeners attended, one of which was a new garden. There are 13 possibly 14 opening so far including the schools. The date was discussed and everyone was happy with that. The Charity to receive 50% of the profit was agreed as Motor Neurone Disease, this follows a request from the daughter of a gentleman in Woodrow Chase who has the disease. A general overview of the day was given for the new gardeners and details of toilets and refreshments were discussed. Following this meeting Strode Park announced that their celebration for its 70 year anniversary is going to be on the 12th June which clashes with the Garden Safari. If members are in agreement it might be better to change the date of the Garden Safari to 5th June; if all those taking part are able to do the earlier date.

The date for the Annual Parish meeting has been set for 22nd April at the Community Centre we will need nominations for our person of the year. Warden Michelle, PCSO Sue Radcliffe and Trading Standards will speak about Scams, these have a major impact on vulnerable residents.

An election was not called following the resignation of Cllr Jones. Notices advertising a vacancy have been put in noticeboards, web site etc. so far there have not been any applications received. The clerk reported that she had received several emails from a resident regarding the new hall and the consultation, the resident seemed happy with the responses. The hedge at the school has been cut.

031/16 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. AGM for the pond group will take place on 16 February at the Wootton Room.

032/16 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations. Cllr Harvey reported that he had attended the allotment AGM, the cesspit for the toilet was in place and they now needed a shed and loo. They were going to approach Quinney's and Johnsons to see if they could get a shed donated. Linda White is taking over as secretary. The committee were going to fill the potholes that have appeared in their car park.

Cllr Harvey also attended the KALC AGM where the Area Police Commander gave a talk, he was asked if crime had increased following the overnight switch off of street lighting overnight. Apparently it was difficult to say as reporting methods had changed. He spoke about mobile police stations being available to attend events in the area. KALC reported that NALC were increasing their fees but KALC would hold theirs at last years. KALC had sent out a satisfaction survey to all member councils. There had been a consultation regarding proposed sites for a lorry park to deal with operation stack. The cost of setting up a lorry park and taking it away again was £1.3M.

Cllr Davison reported on the Herne Bay in Bloom meeting, there were less volunteers to carry out the work therefore it was suggested that a working party could do the planting up of the tubs and flower bed in the parish. She asked if this could be discussed at the next Environment & Leisure meeting. Herne Bay in Bloom will still be involved in the Giant Picnic in the park

033/16 Update on Community Centre progress and approve architectural costs and other costs required to move forward to tender stage. It is necessary to employ various people to put together a list of what the requirements will be for the project to go out to tender. Various companies have been recommended by our Employers agent as suitable both for what they do and cost; this expenditure has to be approved by council. Cllr Blatherwick answered questions from members on what had been discussed to date. Cllr Mitchell asked if it would be possible to carry out a two stage tender. Cllr Blatherwick thought this could be discussed at the next meeting with Betteridge & Milson. The clerk suggested that members agreed to the expenditure for Stage 3 approx £20,058 and the next stage could be discussed at the next meeting. It was important to move things forward in order to get to the tender stage. Members approved this. 1 member abstained.

034/16 To approve updated NALC Standing Orders. (Copy distributed) Members agreed to adopt the updated Standing Orders.

035/16 To discuss Facebook and Twitter accounts. Cllr Davis said both accounts have been set up but members agreed to just promote Facebook for the time being.

036/16 To discuss training for councillors. Cllr Harvey attended a LGA Leadership course and he told members that training was very important and they should try and attend as many courses as possible. Devolution and Powers are changing, the DCLG representative was keen to involve parish & town councils. S123 is a list of buildings that could get financial

help from District Council. There are many training days available Chairmanship, Planning, Finance, Good Councillor. Cllr Blatherwick did ask that members ensure they can attend when booked on a course because the cost is not refunded if people don't attend. She told members that it was a great opportunity for networking, meeting up with other councillors and hearing the issues other parish council's have. Cllr Taylor would like to attend a planning training day if anyone else is going as she would need a lift.

037/16 To discuss ID for members. Cllr Harvey thought it would be a good idea if councillors and staff had ID cards, the cost of this would be approx. £4 each. This was agreed and Cllr Harvey will organise this.

038/16 To approve the appointment of Alice Upton as Community Caretaker. Alice was the only person to attend an interview regarding the Community caretaker's position. She is young and enthusiastic. Cllrs Blatherwick, Taylor and Harvey conducted the interview. It was agreed to recommend her appointment to be ratified by full council. She will initially be on a 3 month trial period. Her appointment was ratified.

039/16 To discuss web site for Community Centre. The clerk told members that there needed to be a way that hall users could look at the bookings for the Community Centre to be able to find empty slots, this would save the hall manager quite a lot of time. Cllr Blatherwick's daughter had done a project to produce a web site for the hall in order to allow anyone to look at the hall bookings, but it needs to be hosted. Cllr Davis said that the web site that currently hosted the Community Centre web site could host this, and it was agreed Lucy would be asked to take this forward. Cllr Rafferty said that the Google calendar could be viewed by those who had access. The clerk told members that following a discussion with the hall manager it needed something detailed with slots that were available easy to see.

040/16 To discuss including main points from Public adjournment in the minutes. The clerk suggested that as we have updated Standing Orders that it would be a good time to discuss the public adjournment. She suggested that brief points made by speakers are anonymously included in the minutes under the public adjournment section of the agenda. This was agreed.

041/16 To discuss an incremental rise for the clerk. This would equate to an additional £889pa plus increased pension contributions of £228.48pa. Members approved the incremental increase.

042/16 Members Reports. Cllr Davis requested that when members have done things in the parish that they notify her, so they can be included on the website and newsletter. Cllr Harvey told members that he was helping the BMX club apply for funding towards the fencing around the track and the start gate repairs. This would go to the next HBAMP meeting. Cllr Davison asked if she could put the notices in the board in two sections one for parish council and one for other organisations. Members were happy with this but parish council notices must get priority.

043/16 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 10th March 2016 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed 9.40pm