

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 14th January 2016 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Not Present: Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Saunders.

- 001/16 **To receive apologies for absence** these were received from Cllrs Saunders and Nicholson who are both unwell. These reasons were accepted.
- 002/16 **To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None
- 003/16 **The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2015** were agreed as a correct record.
- 004/16 **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 No 16 first and no 27 second.

- 005/16 **Chairman's Announcements.** The chairman told members that Tracey Jones had resigned over the Christmas period. All members have had her email and the reason was mainly work related. A meeting had been arranged with the ward councillors and council leader for Monday 18th Jan at 1pm at the Mill. City Cllr Simon Cook could not make it therefore the meeting will be rearranged. Cllr Blatherwick explained that she wanted to discuss the fact that the parish and County Council currently do not seem to be able to work together and she would like to see this resolved. There is a discussion to be had re S106 funds and the Corporate Plan. She also asked councillors to ensure that if they were talking to the press to make sure that it was clear these were personal comments and not the view of the parish council.
- 006/16 **Police Matters/Crime report.** PCSO Sue Radcliffe told members that she was covering Hersden, Westbere and Sturry as well as Herne & Broomfield. She has completed First Aid and Officer Training. She has regularly inspected the underpass. She has been told that school holidays and weekends she will be in Herne Bay Town Centre to deal with anti-social Behaviour.
- 007/16 **Warden's Report.** Michelle Weston reported that although PCSO Sue was not always on area that they do still communicate, enabling Michelle to deal with issues that arise. There have been visits by Civil Enforcement officers to Streetfield and tickets have been issued for parking contraventions. She has also been working with the schools and parents. There have been door knockers reported in the area. She dealt with a dead cat in Albion Lane, it was removed by Serco but was not chipped. She attended the Public meeting on the Local Plan at St Martin's church which enabled her to report back to residents who had been unable to attend. She went out on the Santa Sleigh on the Saturday around Herne and said it was wonderful she hopes to do both days this year. She had worked with City Cllr Sonnex on dog fouling issues at Canterbury Fields, there are issues due to land ownership, some belongs to KCC and some privately owned. She has also dealt with day burning street lights. She will be undergoing rest centre training and Dementia Awareness training. There will be a coffee morning at the Infants School on 5th February from 10am to 12noon. On Friday 22nd January she will be walking 300 Infant School pupils to Curtis Wood Park.
- 008/16 **To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** City Cllr Sonnex reported that dog fouling issues in Margate Road had been dealt with. Serco had been up and cleaned the pavements and since then it had stayed clear. She also spoke about the dog fouling issues at Canterbury Fields. She had received a request for a bus shelter opposite the cemetery, this has been agreed in principle, when funding allows. She told members that she and City Cllr Jones had asked for the School Lane Car Park to have free parking up to 9am

and this was in the parking review and hopefully may improve the parking situation at school dropping off time.

City Cllr Robert Jones has sent a written report. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

‘The public meeting held in the church on 5th January was very useful. It was a shame there were not more residents there, but, none the less I think from the people who were there, they received a very good update. It was good to note that the public saw that the PC, CCC and KCC were pulling in the same direction, that is to say, that, if these developments are to go ahead it's the infrastructure needs to go in first. We all agree on that. The local plan consultation ends January 22nd 2016 at 4.30 pm.

The parking review is in progress and with regards to School Lane car park I will leave Sharron to explain this to you.’

County Cllr Marsh confirmed he had had a meeting with Nassa & Sarrafan re the Highways issues regarding the proposed planning application for Strode Farm and it had been agreed that the necessary infrastructure needed to be put in place. He thought that even though the public meeting at St Martins was not that well attended those that did attend had a good input. All want what is best for the residents. He had attended a meeting at Sturry PC where a developer spoke and he pointed out to that developer that they would be expected to contribute to the Sturry By-Pass. KCC will increase their share of the council tax by 3.99%. They will be £111M short in the budget. It may be necessary to cut the Highways budget. Any really important issues will need to be dealt with in April before the funding is spent. County Cllr Marsh also asked that salt/grit bins are checked and a request to fill is submitted where necessary.

009/16 Planning & Highways Issues. A new application has been received for Strode Farm, Steve Musk dropped it off this morning, but, apparently, there are no changes. Hollamby Estates has gone to appeal and therefore have submitted a new application to run alongside the original. Cllr Rafferty reported cut milk bottles being thrown into trees on the slip road near the Links development. Michelle will investigate. Potholes in Lower Herne Road had been filled.

010/16 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. 100 club winners, 2 cheques for £12 and 2 for £5.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. One cheque on the list for Councils Advisory service clerk queried whether this was required. Members decided not to renew this membership, it could be renewed if required at a later date.

To report on income received. Newsletter advertising £180, Float £366.99, Bank Interest £68.31, Hall Hire £501.04, Total £1,116.34

Auditors Report All members have received a copy. The clerk told members she would look at the cost of increasing the insurance cover.

011/16 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. The clerk wished members a Happy New Year and thanked them for their donation towards her Christmas present of an Apple iPad Air. Work has started on the responses to the Local Plan and other consultation documents. There was a public meeting regarding the Local Plan and a report on that is to follow. The clerk reported that she had audited the Allotment Accounts and all was found to be in order.

John Bennett had called into the office he was representing St Martin's Church, the church has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant and is required to try and involve more residents other than church goers. In order to do this they are holding a photographic competition on 3rd July 2016 and an Open Weekend 16-17 July. This will be open to Local Groups and Organisations to have a stall, in order to let local residents know what is available within the area. The clerk suggested this is a good opportunity to update residents on the Community Centre progress. The scouts will run a BBQ, and Goody Ales will produce a special ale. It is also intended to hold a service in memory of Captain William Charles Woollett on 16th September.

The clerk had received a NALC Legal Topic Note on Procurement, this will need to be incorporated into Financial Standing Orders. These are due to be updated and the clerk will produce an updated version for the Finance & Resources Committee to approve, this can then be ratified by full council at the February meeting. There is also an updated version of Council Standing Orders, these will be sent out to all councillors before the next meeting, for approval at the February meeting.

The clerk had looked into obtaining a defibrillator via the British Heart Foundation who had received government funding to provide these, unfortunately, applications are currently closed for this. The clerk asked if members wished to have the purchase of a defibrillator on the agenda for the February meeting. This was requested. The clerk had received a letter from a Broomfield resident regarding this.

Clerk reported that a meeting has been arranged for the Garden Safari people on 26th January at 7pm at the Mill. The initial application form applying for permission to use Cherry orchard for the Fun Day has been submitted. Notices re the resignation of Tracey Jones have been put in noticeboards and on the web site. Interviews were to be arranged for the Community Caretaker position.

012/16 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. The Friends of the Pond AGM will be on 16th February 2016.

013/16 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations. None.

014/16 Report on Community Centre Committee meeting, and discuss any issues raised. Draft minutes distributed to all members. The clerk asked members to confirm that they were happy to action what was recommended, to move the project forward. She will produce a report for the February meeting to allow the loan application to be discussed and a decision made on the application. There was much discussion regarding extending the consultation period to 29th February, and Cllrs Harvey and O'Donnell volunteered to take forms to the schools for parents to complete. It was agreed to extend the consultation. There was then some discussion on the changes to the internal design to incorporate a parish office. The clerk explained that if external alterations were made it would complicate the planning consent and be costly. It was agreed to accept the changes suggested by the architect. There was then discussion on the cost and the amount that the parish council would need to borrow, the clerk explained that until the tender process has been completed and grants applied for, it was not possible to put a figure on it, but it was expected to be in the region of £1.2M. It is not a cheap build due to the design as it has a lot of aspects incorporated for use by people with disabilities, it also has high end noise and heat insulation, due to its position, close to residential properties.

015/16 Update on Local Plan meeting. Parish Council Chairman Cllr Ann Blatherwick chaired the meeting held in St Martin's Church on 5th January 2016.

She told attendees, that the Parish Council had worked hard to fight the development proposed in the Draft Local Plan. The Local Plan hearing Stage 1 lasted until the end of July and there was a parish council representative at every stage of the hearing, usually the parish council chairman and or the clerk. Prior to the start of the hearing the parish council joined forces with some of the other organisations in the District to obtain a legal opinion stating that the Draft Local Plan was unsound. Even though the Barrister came up with a good legal argument, stating that in his opinion the procedure etc was unsound, the Inspector did not take any action. The parish council also employed a Highways Consultant, who pointed out many errors and omissions in the draft Transport Strategy, these were highlighted at the hearing.

Cllr Blatherwick spoke on many sections of the Local Plan, pointing out missing information and lack of detail, inaccuracies, as well as the issue that residents did not wish to see this area of green space, developed, as Strode Farm was the only green space left between Herne Village and Greenhill.

It was at one of these sessions that Ian Brown stated Herne was not a village, Cllr Blatherwick stated that Herne Village should be in the Village Hierarchy, to which Ian Brown said 'of course you can call yourself what you like', to say the least, this did not go down well.

Following this statement the parish council started some research on why the urban boundary had been placed around Herne & Broomfield in the first place. It appears it was done during the days of Herne Bay Urban District Council and was never challenged. We were told it was historical and could not be changed. It allows development within the urban boundary which is why there has been so much development over the past years in the Herne & Broomfield Parish.

It was decided to start a petition to reinstate Herne as a village, over 500 signatures were presented to Canterbury City Council as well as letters of support. Cllr Blatherwick presented the petition to CCC and was told the request would be dealt with by the appropriate committee.

It duly came up on the Policy & Recourses Committee, who supported the parish council

to have the urban boundary removed. This had to be ratified by full council. Unfortunately, CCC legal representatives gave members reasons why this should not happen, and sadly, the vote was lost.

The consultation on the amendments to the Local Plan has now been published along with several other consultation documents some of which tie in with the local plan. There is still little clarification regarding the Position Statement which impacts on the deliverability of the 5 year supply, County Cllr Marsh stated that it was still in place.

Once again the parish council is disappointed to find that Highways issues, surveys etc have not been published along with these documents, as they have not yet been completed. The addition of 80 homes on the golf driving range and adjacent land will be opposed, traffic, schools etc will all be highlighted, but the arguments are not strong. The parish council will object to the urban boundary being extended in Herne.

The information that residents need in order to respond to the various consultations was put on leaflets and made available to the attendees and was also put on the web site. Cllr Blatherwick urged everyone to respond.

Cllr Blatherwick stated that when the Local Plan hearing Stage 2 starts, we will find any argument we can to fight the Strode Farm development. There is the issue that the land currently is outside the urban boundary. We also hope to speak on the other matters such as, Development in the Countryside, Built and Historic Environment, Community Facilities and Health, and Open Space.

County Cllr Alan Marsh and Ward Cllr Robert Jones answered questions from the floor.

During the meeting Cllr Blatherwick spoke about the Community Centre and the consultation carried out by the parish council to increase the precept, to obtain a loan, towards the cost of the building, this consultation had closed but Cllr Blatherwick was proposing to re-open it until the end of February to try to get some more responses. There had been a response of about 5% which was quite good but she thought it would be good to have more.

She answered some questions raised about the cost of the building and the proposals to raise the funds through the precept.

34 people attended the meeting.

016/16 To Discuss a Face Book/Twitter Accounts for the Parish Council. Cllr Davis told members she had set up accounts and they were ready to go. Members felt that these social media sites would reach out to, particularly, the younger generation and help keep them informed as to what was happening in the parish. This was approved. The situation will be monitored.

017/16 Report on the Float and collection received. Apart from the heavens opening on Sunday 20th the float toured both Herne and Broomfield and was extremely well received, and all went without a hitch. Times did not over run to any great degree. The route and stopping places will be discussed by the Environment & Leisure Committee, as it appears there is little interest in the Curtis Wood Park area. The amount donated is £461.69, a large amount of this came from Willow Farm Way for enabling Father Christmas to distribute presents to the children. This compares with £403.85 collected last year. The clerk suggested donations could go towards any work needed on the float and the children's party. This was agreed. Cllr Moore told members that there had been residents waiting to see the float, in Lower Herne Road near the triangle but unfortunately it doesn't go that way. It was suggested that Lower Herne Road need to be taken off the route, Cllr Davis suggested she may be able to produce a map which would help.

018/16 Members Reports. Cllr Rafferty raised the issue of the hedge at the school, Cllr Blatherwick will speak to headmaster. Cllr Moore asked about traffic calming for Margate Road, the clerk told members there wasn't any funding at KCC for these projects at the moment.

019/16 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 11th February 2016 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting closed 9.50pm