

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 March 2016 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Not Present: Cllr Davison and Cllr Mitchell.

- 043/16 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Apologies from Cllr Davison, unwell, Cllr Mitchell who is working late. Reasons accepted. County Cllr Marsh and City Cllrs Robert Jones & Sharron Sonnex.
- 044/16 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None.
- 045/16 The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2016** were agreed as a correct record.
- 046/16 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** The Insurance has been updated as requested. ID cards have been received and distributed. Alice Upton, Community Caretaker seems to be settling in well and is conscientious, reports are received regularly.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO SPEAK

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

3 Present.

A resident spoke about the proposed yellow lines in Harvest Court, he said most residents did not want them. Cllr Blatherwick advised residents to send their comments to CCC, the parish council would also respond to the consultation. A resident spoke on item

064/16, she stated she did not think this was an appropriate use of tax payers' money.

Perhaps local business, schools etc could be encouraged to sponsor them.

Draw for 100 Club. No's 39 & 1

Cllr Sargent arrived at this point.

- 047/16 Chairman's Announcements. The chairman will introduce Lee Wells who applied to be co-opted onto the parish council to fill the vacancy and ask members to approve the co-option.** Members approved the co-option. The clerk told members that Cllr Wells had agreed to be a Finance Committee member.

Cllr Blatherwick spoke about the Nosh & Knowledge and thanked Mabel Wright and Ann Berry, as well as John Nicolson and Alan King.

- 048/16 Police Matters/Crime report.** None

- 049/16 Warden's Report.** A written report was supplied.

My apologies for not being able to attend tonight. Here are some of the activities I have completed since your last meeting. I have also had over a week in a/leave during this period.

- *Neighbour dispute in Broomfield. Mediated and collected information regarding boundaries etc.*
- *Completed a full litter pick of the wildlife area.*
- *Dealt with parking complaints in Street field.*
- *Referral from C.C.C re concerned for welfare. Reassurance visit completed/liased with Kent Police*
- *Referral from NHS – RE concerned for welfare. Home visit completed and relevant agencies identified.*
- *Recovered possible stolen generator in Underpass (CH23) Reported to police and collected.*
- *Continue to support Community Café /Surgery. Allows resident's access to me for two hrs a week to voice concerns etc.*
- *Visit in Broomfield RE Concern for welfare. Referred to Age UK and social services.*
- *On Friday (4th March) for "Clean for the Queen" myself and two colleagues, met up with District Cllr Jones and spent over an hour cleaning the Underpass that joins us with Greenhill.*

Over six sacks of litter, broken glass and debris was collected and City Cllr Jones kindly moved it to a location for collection by Serco. We would like to say a huge thank you to Cllr Jones and how much we appreciate all his hard work on the day.

- 050/16 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** City Cllr Jones sent a written report. *The Month has gone by again so quickly, it was good to be out last Friday with the KCC Wardens team, led by Michelle doing the Clean for the Queen. We as you probably know cleaned the underpass on the footpath across Strode Farm, Lower Herne Road, four of us took a good two hours and collected loads of rubbish mainly glass, and small gas cylinders, anyway all is good there for the moment.*

With regards to the news on Monday that Sainsburys are now not opening the store, it is a shame this has happened so close to it being opened. It's a real disappointment for the town and for employment, hopefully if the economic climate changes they will open the store later on, who knows.

We have the Aldi development in the town centre which is a plus and the town centre regeneration will continue.

Just to say I spent an evening over with Catching Lives in Canterbury just before the night shelter closed at the end of February. I met Alan King there who volunteers on a regular basis, it was difficult to see so many people who have jobs, some two jobs, who are homeless, who just can't afford to pay rent etc. very hard indeed but if it were not for the hard work of Catching Lives and Porchlight and their volunteers, things would be more difficult.

- 051/16 Planning & Highways Issues. To receive minutes of the meeting held on 25th February and discuss any issues arising from them.** All members had received a copy of the minutes. Cllr Blatherwick just ran through the main points and asked if there were any questions. She also stated that the response had been sent to the Inspector and it was likely that she would need to speak at the hearing which is very formal and quite daunting. Cllr Davis asked if anything was happening regards to road alterations at the junction with Canterbury Road and Busheyfields Road, following accidents at this spot.

052/16 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Came & Co £93.92

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

To report on income received. Newsletter advertising £350, Fun day £75, Refund £124.38, Hall hire £779.37. Total £1,328.75.

- 053/16 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.** The parish council negotiated with Terrace Hill for funding, when the new Sainsbury development was announced. Friends of St Martin and Strode Park Foundation were to receive £10,000 each and the parish council will receive £1,000 towards Local Shops signage and £2,000 towards future fun days. These cheques will be presented on 15th March by Nigel Wakefield. As you are aware Sainsbury are not opening the new store and it is likely that they will review the position in two years' time, it also means the petrol station will not open either. Whether, if they get an offer, they will sell out to another retailer remains to be seen.

Request to use Wildlife Area as a Forest School. This is an agenda item.

KCC have contacted the parish council with regard to the fencing at the Community Park some of which is on the ground. The clerk has asked Kim Melton to look and he thinks approx. 80 new posts and 4 straining posts will be required. The cost of the materials will be in the region of £500 and about the same for putting the fencing in. Clerk told members this had to be done and there was £750 in the concurrent budget which could go towards it. Members approved this expenditure.

The clerk had a meeting with the hall manager to carry out an appraisal. All is well but Alan and his wife are doing about 60 hours a month. He has requested that their hours are increased slightly to cover the increased work load. Alans' from 25 to 29 hours per month and Linda's hours from 9 to 11. There is a lot more cleaning involved due to the increased usage of the hall and time dealing with bookings and unlocking and locking up has also increased. They both take great pride in the Community Centre and work hard to keep it at its best. They will go onto the living wage in April, this and the increased hours will cost an additional £789pa. Members approved the additional hours.

Correspondence. A copy of a letter sent to Smugglers Inn from St Martins' PCC thanking them for their help with the Christmas lights at the church. Local Government Boundary Commission Final Recommendations on the new electoral arrangement for Kent County Council. Email from Alamgir Sheriyar who is an ex professional cricketer and would like to provide and encourage young people to take up the sport. He wishes to use the cricket pitches in Cherry Orchard over the summer period to make this a hub for youth activity and participation. It was agreed that the parish council will support this initiative and the details

will be forwarded to our Ward Councillors in order to get their support.

054/16 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis reported that at the Pond AGM she had stood down as chairman and Peter Gray had taken over. She had been asked to thank the parish council for paying the Friends of the Pond Insurance. There had been issues at Hoathwood House regarding trees and tree stumps. Work had started on a massive clearance on Monday morning. CCC were contacted and an officer came out. Unfortunately the TPO that CCC had, had the incorrect address on it and the information given was conflicting. The stumps should be removed by a qualified tree surgeon not dug up with a JCB. Cllr Davis said there were concerns as to regard flooding in this area now nearly 50 trees had been removed. She had spoken to an officer at CCC who admitted he didn't know one tree from another! CCC should train officers if they are not going to have a dedicated tree officer. There also needs to be a contactable person on duty over the weekends so that if any unauthorised work is started someone can be contacted. It was far from satisfactory.

Cllr Taylor reported that there are issues with the newly planted trees in the Memorial Park, which apparently have been planted too close to the path and are going to need to be moved.

055/16 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations. Cllrs Taylor and Moore attended Street Monitors meeting. The grass cutting regime has started. A boards were discussed. It was reported that there was plenty of room in the cemeteries for the next 20 years. Cllr Harvey reported that he had attended the Allotment AGM, the minutes of these were sent to all councillors. He had also accompanied Kai Riviere to the HBAMP meeting, the BMX club chairman had applied for a grant towards replacing the fencing around the track at Broomfield. He spoke very well and the club was awarded half of what they had asked for £1,400. Kai did speak to Cllr Harvey about the lack of parking for events.

056/16 To receive minutes of Environment & Leisure meeting held on 18th February and discuss any issues arising. Members had all received a copy. The clerk said most of the outstanding issues were on the agenda. The clerk thanked Cllr Sargent for carrying out the work in the Wildlife Area and she also reported to members that she had asked Trevor Wain to remove the tree trunks etc that were still in the Wildlife area. The new signage would need to be sorted out for the Community Park fairly soon.

057/16 To discuss Strode Parks 70th Anniversary event. Following a meeting with Tracy and Michelle at Strode, they have asked if the parish council will run fun races for the children, similar to what we do at the fun day. We have also been asked if we would like to run a tombola on the day, the profit from this could go towards the Community Centre. The event will be held on 12th June from midday to 5pm. At about 3pm there will be an event in the theatre featuring music from the 40's. Tickets for this will be £7pp, otherwise entry will be free. The Birchington Silver Band will play and there will be food provided by the scouts and stalls, and the vintage tea rooms and an ice cream van. Some entertainment will be provided for the children during the afternoon. Full programme will be finalised as soon as a celebrity has been sourced for the opening. Cllr Rafferty said he was happy to do races and wondered if Paul Parker would help out. Cllr Davis and Cllr O'Donnell will work on the tombola prizes. Cllr Saunders pointed out the band would need about 40 chairs.

058/16 Report on the Nosh & Knowledge held on 5th March. Firstly the clerk thanked Mabel Wright, and Ann Berry for organising the event and Cllr John Nicholson for being quiz master. All the tables were sold out and there was a waiting list, it was a shame therefore, that one complete table did not turn up, nor did they pay for their tickets, another table had two that had not paid and they did not attend because the car park was full.

Those that did attend enjoyed a great and sociable evening. The food provided was good and there was also fruit juice and a bottle of lemonade on the table. Each table had a recycle sack and they were asked to take their rubbish home at the end. Thanks must also go to Alan King for setting up and clearing up at the end. With the Raffle and Heads & Tails approx. £700 was raised on the night towards the community centre fund. Mabel has said she won't do anymore, so we will need to look at whether we are going to organise the next one.

059/16 To receive nominations for Outstanding Contribution to the Community award. There were some suggestions put forward. This will be an agenda item next month when a final decision will be made.

060/16 Results of the consultation, for the increase in precept, to cover the cost of the loan for Community Centre.

YES	166	
NO	70	
invalid YES	21	15 not H & B
invalid NO	12	6 in twice

Yes votes 70.3% No votes 29.7%

Therefore the parish council has a mandate to increase the precept to cover the cost of the loan repayments to allow it to build the new Community Centre.

The clerk reported that she had received 3 phone calls regarding the increase in precept and when she explained what the increase was for, they were all supportive.

- 061/16 Update on Community Centre progress and approve further payments in order to produce Bill of Quantities for the tender documents.** A further meeting was held with the Design Team attended by Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk, employer's agent, architect, structural engineer, building services consultant and building approved inspector. Various aspects were discussed drainage, lighting, ventilation, renewables etc. The parish office will be made larger. The main toilets will be upstairs, as they are in many buildings these days, however there will be two toilets on the ground floor, one for disabled people and a family toilet. It was pointed out during the meeting that the School Lane Car park has issues with water during heavy rainfall, the gullies do not take the water to the drains and it flows across the road. This needs to be addressed before any work commences. There needs to be a drainage survey. The architects fees were discussed and they have been negotiated to 5% overall. A great deal of detail is required for the Bill of Quantities. Cllr Blatherwick told members if they had suggestions and ideas now is the time as once it has gone out to tender alterations will be costly. She also told members that no one would be able to go on site and start suggesting alterations etc, anything that needed to be altered would have to go through the employer's agent. Payments would be presented to members at meetings for ongoing costs. Cllr Harvey told members he had attended an EcoBuild Exhibition where there was great enthusiasm for storage batteries for renewable technologies. Alarms, CCTV etc were also discussed.
- 062/16 Report on history of Community Centre project, examine the Business plan, estimated costs, financial planning to fund the loan repayments and the steps/options the Council has in place to mitigate the risk for not being able to afford the loan repayments.** All members have received a copy of the business plan, this will need to be amended as things change. Members agreed this was comprehensive and were happy with the document. As members are aware the overall estimated cost is between £1.2 and £1.5M. Members have taken the step to consult with residents regarding taking out a loan and this has now been agreed, which therefore means that the parish council can afford to take out a £1M loan and the repayments will be covered by the precept. It is unlikely in this case that the parish council would be unable to repay the loan. The clerk stated that she considered that any risk had been mitigated regarding repayment of the loan. The loan repayments must not exceed the amount precepted.
- 063/16 To pass a resolution to apply to seek the Secretary of States approval for the proposed borrowing for the Community Centre.** Members are asked to approve the resolution to seek approval for the loan from the Secretary of State. Members approved this resolution.
- 064/16 To discuss the purchase of a defibrillator.** The clerk reported that most defibrillators are over £1,000 plus cost of fixing and connection to a power supply. There does not appear to be any grant funding available at the moment as the British Heart Foundation one has closed. British Heart Foundation will re-open their grants for this but match funding of £400 will be expected. Members were generally in favour of providing one of these, it was thought it would be better sited at the new Community Centre and provision should be made for this. Cllr Sargent will ask FA if they could fund one to be sited in Cherry Orchard.
- 065/16 To discuss the request from Avenue Nursery to use the Wildlife area as a Forest School.** Members approved the request in principle, they did ask how the children would get to the Wildlife area. It was suggested that perhaps instead of a fee the PA for the Fun Day could be provided free of charge. The clerk will ask.
- 066/16 Members Reports.** Cllr Nicholson highlighted a spate of thefts from outbuildings at the schools. Cllr Sargent said a resident had asked for directional arrows in the School Lane car park. Cllr Davis thanked members for their good wishes following her operation. Cllr Rafferty said there was a camera in Herne Street. Cllr Blatherwick thought this was to do with traffic survey. Cllr Moore spoke about the speeding issues in School Lane and Broomfield Road. Clerk will pass on to Michelle Weston and Sue Radcliffe.
- 067/16 To confirm the next meeting of the parish council will be on 14th April 2016 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.**

Meeting Closed 9.35pm