

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at Herne Mill, Wootton Room, on Thursday 13 October 2016 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

- 171/16 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr Wells working, Cllr Davison with daughter looking at schools, Cllr Nicholson who has to pick up his daughters. City Cllrs Jones and Sonnex. Cllr Sargent will be late.
- 172/16 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None
- 173/16 The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2016 were agreed as a correct record.**
- 174/16 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** Following County Cllr Marsh's report last meeting on the issue of access to the tip and the trialling of a system by which councils would be given vouchers to enable them to clear up any fly tips and take them to the tip. The clerk reported that she had received a call from an officer at KCC Waste Management who told her there was not anything like this in the pipeline and he suggested that if we supported the idea we complete the consultation and include that as a suggestion, which is what she has done. County Cllr Marsh told members this was incorrect officer at CCC supported the proposal but there was some opposition from KCC officers and it is still under discussion.

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 1 & No 38

- 175/16 Chairman's Announcements.** Remembrance Sunday 13 November. The service starts 9.45 am and outside 10.50am,
- 176/16 Police Matters/Crime report.** PCSO Sue Radcliffe sent in a report *I am sorry that I cannot be at your meeting, yet again). As you may or may not be aware I was on leave for two weeks and on my return we (PCSO's) are now on a new shift pattern and have to cover Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable. It has been said that where possible to spend as much time we can on our wards. As our numbers are depleting on the coast I have now also been given Reculver to cover. I will endeavour to continue to work alongside our wonderful, talented and brilliant KCC Warden as much as I can. Michelle has come up with a new project for us and I shall leave it for her to explain this matter in more detail.*
I have just been informed that we are all getting different mobile telephone numbers and when I receive mine I shall pass it on.
On to other matters. It is, once again, that time of year when we need to be mindful of our neighbours. This is in regards to cold callers and rogue traders. Please try to encourage people to report any concerns, as I prefer to discover it is an innocent mistake, than to hear that there has been a crime report taken for someone parting with their hard earned money etc.

Can I ask that we pass on the message to residents that they are able to use the DVLA website to enquire and report vehicles with no tax or mot. I am aware that this is not something that has been publicised and it is the same method that I would use to report such illegal vehicles.

177/16 Warden's Report.

During this period, I have taken two weeks a/leave. Here are some of the activities that I have been involved in.

- *Joint working with PCSO Radcliffe – Various visits, welfare related.*
- *S/Service referrals – checks on vulnerable adults.*
- *Dealing with parking issues – Streetfield.*
- *Drop kerb – Junction with Hawe Farm Way/Broomfield Rd- Accepted*
- *Follow up request for further hedge cutting between Huntsman and Horn and the Post office (Margate Rd)- Completed*
- *Speed watch – Completed in Broomfield Rd during school pick up time.*
- *Attended a Dementia Conference to meet other professionals and people living with dementia – Kings hall. Very informative.*
- *Meeting arranged with Community Payback manager- to discuss working alongside them with particular local projects.*
- *The previous evening a Stranger Danger talk with the Brownies*

Due to the Herne Bay warden being on a secondment to KCC Highways, I will be covering his area for approx. 8 months, in his absence.

- *I will be taking a weeks a/leave w.c 24th October During this time my phone will be on divert to my other Coastal colleague, Charlotte Perriss.*

Cllr Sargent arrived at this point

178/16 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. City Cllr Robert Jones has sent a written report.

Firstly on Sharron's behalf, she has managed to arrange for a bus Shelter to be installed in Canterbury Road almost opposite the cemetery, so well done to her.

This month has been busy as usual, just in our area again, fly tipping and graffiti remain a problem but we are winning to a degree, it will be a great when Alan Marsh's trial for the Rubbish Removal Scheme starts, this will help.

Abandoned cars have increased in our ward again, please report them to me if you suspect that a car is abandoned.

Michelle had contacted me with regards to a blocked public footpath which runs from Canterbury road down to Busheyfields Road, there was also an issue with barbed wire being used on the fence which runs alongside the path, I have spoken with the site manager and the wire has been removed. As for the blocked path the Busheyfields Road end is kept clear, as I cut this, but the rest still requires attention.

The clerk reported that Michelle had asked Public Rights of Way to clear the path.

County Cllr Marsh reported that a 50mph speed limit has been introduced on the A299 due to the undulations that have appeared. Work to put this right is being investigated but it is not clear whether the funding to repair will be available. The restriction will be for at least 6 months. Alan is meeting with Tim Reed head of strategic planning and will discuss the issues of both Herne & Sturry Relief roads, and

there will be a meeting of the officers and Cllr Blatherwick on 31st October. KCC will start looking at budgets for 2017-18 it is likely that there will be an increase of 1.99% with a 2% increase for adult social care. Alan reminded everyone that if they wished to attend the pantomime they needed to do so quickly as tickets were going fast. As stated earlier the tickets system to deal with fly tipping was being progressed. He attended a conference where grammar schools were discussed and Kent are keen to move forward with regard to a new grammar school and they are expecting this to be government funded. Everything is set for the Remembrance Sunday service at St Martins. County Cllr Marsh had intended to donate £500 towards the fun day but due to elections next year he was prevented from doing so. Therefore £450 has gone to the Community Centre tender costs. He is also having a meeting to see what the options are for obtaining a £50,000 KCC grant towards the cost of the Community Centre build.

- 179/16 Planning & Highways Issues.** To receive minutes of the Planning meeting held on 6th October 2016. There were no questions on the minutes, all members had received a copy. The clerk had also supplied a comprehensive report on the Local Plan hearing, (attached to minutes). Cllr Blatherwick told members that she had attended as much as possible and the clerk had attended every day. She was very disappointed that so few CCC members attended the hearing.

The clerk had received a complaint about parking in Norton Ave, afternoon school pick up time, Michelle will ask enforcement to attend. There had been a huge pile of sand deposited in Broomfield Road where a contractor was installing a new driveway. The police were called as it was an obstruction, and the company 5 Star Trading were given a warning. Trading standards are aware of this company, as they have been fly posting around the area. Cllr Davis asked about the leak in School Lane the clerk said it had been reported again, as it had not been fixed the first time. There were cracks in the pavement near Canterbury Fields. Cllr Blatherwick thought this might resolve as the weather gets wetter.

- 180/16 Finance**

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Westmead £672.60

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

To report on income received. Advertising £360, Events £15, Bank interest £54.90, Allotment water £15.15, Community Centre £445.21, Total £890.26.

Members had received a copy of the internal audit carried out on 10th October and everything was in order.

- 181/16 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.** Phil Charnley re works to BMX. Phil has been down to look at the track and he says 'The track is in awful condition...and unless it's sorted very soon then it will be very expensive to salvage it. I can see that there have been various attempts by the club to try and do what are essentially professional works, in order to save money. There are piles of surface material up there that are obviously cheap and sourced locally but that have not binded or worked.' The S106 funding that we are getting from CCC will cover the cost and the clerk recommended that the work goes ahead as soon as possible. This was agreed.

City Cllr Sonnex is now living in Swalecliffe.

The clerk reported that she has been dealing with the responses made to CCC by Hollamby Estates for their Appeal Hearing in December. There are a number of documents that have been supplied that need scrutinising and responses made, these responses will be submitted to the Inspector.

Following receipt of these there was one from KCC Highways, this raised issues that Cllr Blatherwick was not happy with and after several exchanges of emails, and as

members heard earlier a meeting is to be held with them to see if we can address the issues.

The next newsletter is due out early November, all the delivers have been contacted and are aware.

The thank you event is being held on 6th November and the clerk hoped that as many members as possible would attend and help out, they were also reminded to wear their ID's.

Following this on 12th November is the Race Night, tickets £8 which includes Sausage & chips and a 50p bet. Tickets are available. Michelle will be selling them until the clerk returns from annual leave. Members were asked to support the event and try to get a group together to attend. Payment must be made when booking as food needs to be paid for in advance.

On 26th November there is a Bingo night and it would be good if as many people as possible could attend as it improves the atmosphere. All proceeds from these events will go to the new Community Centre, we needed to show that we are actively fundraising and that residents are supporting events. There is also the Strode Park Christmas Fair, Michelle will do crafts with the younger children while they are queueing for Father Christmas. Cllr Davis will run a Hook a Cuddly stall.

Pam Hobbs is in hospital she is on intravenous antibiotics and being fed through tubes, hopefully she will make a good recovery.

The clerk is on annual leave for 2 weeks the office will re-open on 31st October.

182/16 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis reported that the wildlife event in August was cancelled as only 2 turned up.

183/16 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations. Cllr Mitchell attended CCC meeting on the possible merger of 5 councils including Canterbury and these are his notes on the meeting. Previously distributed to all members.

Meeting notes.

A meeting was arranged, at the Guildhall to table the proposal that will separate Kent into 3 distinct economic regions comprising East Kent, North and West Kent.

The merger group outlined key objectives,

- 1 To deliver opportunity and increased prosperity.
- 2 Achieve better social outcome and reduce inequality.
- 3 Improve value for money
- 4 Empower communities

The meeting was presented by the Leaders of 3 of the 5 Council namely, Canterbury, Dover and Thanet.

The current position relating to progress on any potential merger was outlined, acknowledging the group has commissioned a Business Case to investigate whether a merger had collective benefits and this report would be available early next year. The report is to be prepared by an independent organisation and was charged to identify benefit and value.

The Group were at pains to stress that no decision had been taken and this was a process of exploration but it was clear that they judged that with changes to Council funding in 2020 the way Councils function will need to change and the suggestion was that this was more than purely an exploration but acknowledged a new reality.

Sadly the Group were light on detail, preferring to state the position and that no decision had been made, consequently they failed to answer questions meaningfully, trying to reassure everybody that this wasn't a debate but information sharing and consultation would follow if judged appropriate.

It was stated that the 5 Councils had yet to agree the terms of reference that would bind the group and that the KCC were party to all discussions

There was the constant reminder that something had to be done in the face of changing funding positioning that any changes will provide greater value for money, clout and control.

It was equally clear that the Group had no clarity on the powers that would be divested to them by KCC. They acknowledged that Highways and transport may not be part of their remit and the Group would be reliant on others regarding their brief and their opportunity to deliver.

The Local Plan should be more strategic acknowledging that the area of review is greater and the plans could be more comprehensive.

It is felt that any changes will lead to Communities being more empowered. There was a suggestion that Localism will be strengthened with, in particular Parish Councils considered to be authorised empowered to grant planning consent on small schemes. There is a trial program running by Windsor and Maidenhead Council who are authorised to grant consent for projects of maximum 2 dwellings.

The Group confirmed their commitment to consultation although it was stated that Canterbury amongst others hadn't a tradition of listening.

There was also concerns that in spite of a declaration on Localism the impact that can be brought to bear by a Parish as a voice in a much larger Group will be diminished and the success of the merger will hang on the Groups ability to delegate effectively. It was stated that funding to Parish Councils will not alter although some functions may alter. They didn't elaborate.

The Group stated that the creation of a new Unitary Council for East Kent is not under consideration.

It was confirmed that the report will go to Ward Councillors for debate and consultation.

There was no clarity given to this new structure but it was clear there will not be a need for 5 leader of Council and one senses that value for money is a euphemism for job loses.

There was a commitment to give greater power to Town and Parish Councils although it was recognised that Parish Councils in some areas are poorly represented and the Group will need to address this point.

Summary

My sense was this merger will go ahead as it is judged that it was the only way forward, based on a clear premise of value for money/viability.

I also wondered whether discussions were further developed than was shared and that the consolation may be less inclusive and more exclusive.

I worried that the Group failed to clarify how they would judge success in terms of the merger bringing benefit.

There is also the uncertainty on the issues that this Group could deliver, bearing in mind they will need to agree with KCC to take on certain powers that are currently the domain of KCC.

There was uncertainty on how they would deliver benefit and how funding would be distributed bearing in mind the social disparity across the 5 Districts.

One does wonder whether Parish Councils should also consider collective working to strengthen their voice but only with like-minded groups with similar aspirations whether this be the neighbouring Parish or Town Councils.

Cllr Mitchell did say he thought it was a done deal and that due to changes in government funding that are coming in in two years' time it was a way of cutting costs, it is likely to result in job losses. It was likely parishes could have devolved powers to deal with things like planning applications, but as Cllr Blatherwick pointed out there was unlikely to be any additional funding to cover the parishes costs. Cllr Mitchell did say that being part of such a large group it will be difficult for parishes to make themselves heard.

Cllr O'Donnell reported that she had attended the meeting at the Kings Hall for Herne Bay Retailers. They discussed the spending of S106 funds that had come as a result of the Sainsbury development. They have made a Herne Bay Promo film called What can you get in Herne Bay for £10? This will be shown locally. The Bay Card is to be reintroduced. There will be a big promotional event on 1, 2, 3 December, and some late night shopping on a Thursday in the town. There will be an official opening of the new town square on 2, 3 December with stalls etc.

Cllr Harvey reported he had attended an allotment meeting. All was going well, there was only 1 plot available and some of the more untidy plots had been dealt with. Trevor is standing down as treasurer and more committee members are needed. There are plans to repair the entrance road.

184/16 To discuss a No Cold Calling Zone.

Michelle Weston reported In Herne and Broomfield, like other areas, we have experienced an increase in businesses "cold calling" residents to seek work. A number of these are regarding repairs to their homes, driveways and roofs.

Despite the majority being reputable, we have experienced an increase in "hard sell" and substandard work by some companies trading this way .

With this type of work on the increase, I would be keen to get the Parish Council's view on exploring, in principal, a "No Cold Calling Zone"?

With that in mind, I have set up a meeting to discuss this option, with Trading standards to explore the legalities etc

If this is something that the council is keen to support, I will give a full explanation when all the facts are available to me, for the council to make an informed decision.

Members asked Warden Michelle to look into what needs to be done to create a No Cold Calling Zone all the implications and report back at the next meeting. Michelle has arranged a meeting with Trading Standards and they should be able to give most of the information required.

185/16 Update on Local Plan hearing. Report distributed to all members.

186/16 Update on the New Community Centre tender. The tenders have not gone out yet, the clerk was advised by the auditor that the tender needed to be advertised on the government web site Contracts Finder. The parish council is now registered and Betteridge & Milsom will upload the documents onto the site, as soon as possible. Westmeads rep called in this morning and has brought samples of the lighting to be used in the new building, Cllr Blatherwick talked members through the proposed lighting fittings. Cllr Davis reported that she was updating the business plan

187/16 To resolve to seek the Secretary of States approval for the proposed borrowing of up to £1.6M. No application can be made until the quotes have been received and the parish council has decided on a contractor but it is necessary for the parish council

to resolve to apply to the Secretary of State for the funding. It was resolved to seek the Secretary of State's approval for the proposed borrowing of up to £1.6M. The clerk informed members that the current precepted amount of £80,000 would mean that repayments would need to be over a period of 30 years for the £1.6M.

188/16 Members Reports. Cllr Moore reported that there was a wasps nest in the hedge near the chicane in Broomfield Road, Cllr Davis said they would die off in the next few weeks.

189/16 The next meeting of the parish council will be on 10th November 2016 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.

Meeting Closed 9.05pm

Report on Local Plan hearing September 2016

Cllr Blatherwick spoke on Tuesday regarding the information that is still missing with regard to the Infrastructure and Delivery. There are grave concerns that there do not appear to be any restrictions on the local developments, allowing them to build as much as they want regardless of what infrastructure is in place. It is a little puzzling that CCC and KCC had a Position Statement at the end of 2015, stating no development could take place until Sturry Relief Road had been built, now that has all just disappeared.

Many developers were stating they could not afford 30% affordable homes as they were being asked for such large contributions towards infrastructure. Cllr Blatherwick pointed out that if that was the case the developments were not viable and should not go ahead.

Cllr Blatherwick said that H & B had had a lot of development and no new facilities and this could not continue.

CCC & KCC had agreed on Heads of Terms for Sturry Relief Road. There were queries as to why the VISUM modelling used 2008 data, also that student vehicles were not included in the figures. Several people stated that people will not walk, cycle to the station but will drive, if they cannot park they will get dropped off and picked up, doubling up on journeys., the statement that rail demand had remained unchanged was challenged. Ruth Goudie disagreed that the base model was wrong. The Transport Strategy has not been up dated, we were told this would be done when the LP had been adopted! How some of the infrastructure was to be funded was not clear. The VISUM highlighted problems but did not give any solutions. CCC stated that £5.9M of funding had been secured from government funding. It was stated that the Herne Relief Road would be completed by 2020. There was a query raised as to whether this was just Bullockstone Road or the whole length through the development as well. The answer was the Bullockstone section would be completed and that the section through the development would be completed later, that a bus route would need to be in place when the first phase had been completed. There were no guarantees the route would be open to all traffic. Cllr Blatherwick thought the time frame very ambitious and said it was very unlikely that the road could be delivered in 3 years. As yet there were no designs in place, the topographical work had not been done and there were no definite costings for the work required. There was also the issue of CPO's which would be required and these all take time.

There were only 650 homes to be built to enable the Sturry relief Road to come forward, but no such restrictions on building in Herne Bay. KCC were also designing the road through the development in Sturry/Broad oak but they are not through the Strode Farm development.

There was a lot of discussion on deliverability, with complaints about the amount of employment space CCC were allocating.

Employment and Tourism etc was discussed on Wednesday morning. There was discussion on the employment allocations and in particular Atira Park, much centred around the delivery of the infrastructure. Whether it was achievable and deliverable, and the transport implications.

Omission sites were also looked at along with the provisions for the Universities and schools and also Whitstable Harbour. There was some discussion on the unimplemented planning consent at Altira and it appears that their cost for renting units are too high.

Wednesday concentrated on Employment allocations. Several developers stated that the employment situation, particularly in Herne Bay and Whitstable wasn't good and they thought CCC had too much employment land in the plan.

Thursday covered the Five Year Housing Land Supply, this also included a discussion on sites being removed from the plan and parking in Canterbury. There was a conflict with regards to CCC proposals for

the car parks in Canterbury and that of a decision made by KCC Cabinet Member Matthew Balfour who stated KCC did not support further reductions in City Centre parking allocations. CCC are still looking to build on some car parks, they are also set to increase parking fees to cover the cost of moving the Wincheap Park & Ride. As many brownfield sites as possible should be developed. The increased use of the stations would generate more traffic in the city. There were comments that not all the sites would be deliverable and if one didn't come forward what would happen to the proposals for the infrastructure.

This was followed by the development in the countryside, looking at isolated dwellings and what was classed as isolated. Building on agricultural land, there are obviously concerns around developments on Grade 1 land and the amount of development on farmland in general. The last session on Wednesday dealt with Landscape and Biodiversity. There were discussions on AOB's, High Landscape areas and Conservation areas. The main issues were whether these were consistent with National Policy etc and justified.

Friday was based on sub national Household Projections. The government figures indicate that there needs to be higher numbers than first considered. There were discussions on how accurate some of the predictions were, in the past there has been an over estimate. It was pointed out that if the evidence shows, then figures can go down as well as up. It was stated that student population projections for 2012 were similar to those for 2014, but more students appear to be staying at the end of their uni term, which is driving the increase in population in that age range. It is difficult to track the International students.

The census in 2011 showed that the estimated figures were too high by 4,000. UKC has 11% of its students from EU. CPRE raised the issue of Brexit and whether this would have an impact of the numbers of overseas students coming to the Canterbury area. The universities were building more student accommodation freeing up housing stock.

There were likely to be new demographics and perhaps there needed to be an in depth look at the student situation. Need to establish the student need. The Peugeot site has been developed for student accommodation, to accommodate 1000, but this is privately owned and not in the ownership of the University.

If numbers need to be reassessed this would be a major undertaking and could lead to the LP being suspended for at least a year. CCC did not see this as a pragmatic solution for looking at the figures and they do not consider that they have got it wrong. The Inspector agreed it could be a high risk strategy. Some of the Omission sites are already at the planning stage.

Most supported moving the plan forward and not doing any reassessment. There was a comment on CCC's delivery rate, to date, which is not good. It was suggested that the plan be reviewed after 2 years, if adopted, to see if it is on target. There needed to be trigger points with a quick conclusion. Perhaps a new SCHMA needed to be produced 3-4 years later.

Clearer wording on what will be produced and timescales was requested.

2nd Week

Tuesday covered Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change

There were questions as to whether energy statements were required. In future some areas would get less protection from sea defences, areas such as Seasalter, where no further actions are being taken. There had been a new ministerial statement which states Sustainable drainage must be consistent with National Policy re major developments.

The afternoon session covered Built & Historic Environment.

There was a question from the Inspector as to whether the LP included robust and comprehensive policies to set out the quality of development for the area. CCC consider it is compliant. There was some discussion on residential intensification and space standards. There is a requirement when it comes to the evidence of need, this should be local need not national.

There was also a comment about provision for the growing older population. There were discussions based mainly around Canterbury and the visual amenity of the Cathedral and Heritage sites and their protection. Wednesday covered Community Facilities and Health. There was a question about a Health Impact Assessment which doesn't appear to have been done. There was some criticism of CCC for not complying at times with their own Open Spaces Strategy. One of the speakers told the hearing that the plan failed on the provision of health care. There were also comments that cumulative effects of developments were not always taken into account.

There was much discussion on air quality issues mainly around Canterbury, there needed to be an up to date air quality plan.

Wednesday afternoon session covered Town Centre and Leisure. Much of this discussion was about Wincheap and the proposals in that area. There was some criticism of CCC as they had stated that it would not be necessary to have an Impact assessment, as the owners of the site, this was not considered ethical. The Inspector asked for a plan showing exactly what CCC owned with regard to the Wincheap development, and also a Capacity Study.

‘Wincheap & St Dunstons have a ‘village’ character and their residents identify with a distinct sense of place and community’. One of the other speakers raised the issue that CCC recognises the importance of larger villages but not Herne, as it had not been listed as a Local Centre in the Hierarchy. The response from CCC was that they did not consider that it was necessary to include Herne.

The Policy in TLC6 Main Town Centre Uses, needed to be clearer. It was also stated that phasing was not linked to infrastructure.

The last day Thursday covered Open Space, there was discussion on Green Gaps and Protected Open Space. Cllr Blatherwick did manage to bring up the green gap between Herne/Greenhill/Herne Bay and that we were going to lose it if the development of Strode Farm went ahead, we wished to retain the identity of Herne Village. She also highlighted the amount of development that had happened in the parish with no additional facilities. It was stated that open space should be reasonably close to the area it serves. 1.3 hectares of amenity space should be provided for every 1000 people. There should also be space for children to play within 300mtrs of their home.

There had only been a desktop study done to allocate green gaps and some site visits, they had looked at the urban boundaries particularly settlements and neighbourhoods.

Following this session the Inspector said he would put together a list of information for CCC to supply to him and that it was likely they would need to make amendments and then re-consult for the 6 week period. Cllr Blatherwick requested an extended period should the consultation span the Christmas period. The Inspector thought that was a reasonable request. Following consultation CCC would put together the responses and this information will go back to the Inspector.