

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 13th April 2017 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Not present: Cllr Davison, Cllr Rafferty and Cllr Mitchell.

- 63/17 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllrs Rafferty & Mitchell, who are both away, Cllr Davison who is unwell. The reasons were approved. Also apologies from City Cllr Jones who has sent a report.
- 64/17 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations.** Cllr Sargent 79/17
- 65/17 The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2017, were agreed as a correct record.**
- 66/17 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

1st no 40 2nd no16

A report was received from Keith Harding who has been carrying out a survey of the public footpaths in the parish. All the footpaths had now been walked and all were passable. Two of the footpaths had needed considerable clearance, but all were now in reasonable condition. Cllr Blatherwick thanked Keith for all his hard work on this project.

- 67/17 Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick thanked everyone for their cards and messages of condolence.

- 68/17 Police Matters/Crime report.** None. Rachel is on annual leave.

- 69/17 Warden's Report**

Underpass between Greenhill and Lower Herne Rd – Reports this was being used for youth gatherings. Cleared all rubbish, cans etc. Reported to PCSO Harvey, who is keeping regular checks on the area.

Scam Awareness day at Santander Bank. - Worked alongside Strode Park and Age UK, delivering advice and literature on scams.

Tru Call (scam call blocker system) - Fitted two devices to scam victims phones.

Community Centre – Spent a day clearing out all unwanted items to allow for reorganising during building works.

Hotspot areas – Continue to monitor Owls Hatch Rd and The Underpass at the bottom of Mill Lane.

Flower beds Opposite St Martin's Church – Have assisted volunteers in weeding these areas in preparation for planting.

Temporary road closure – To allow for potholes to be repaired on Eddington Roundabout.

Lifeline assistance – Received a "concern for welfare" call. Attended property and after attempts to reach the client, escalated the call to Secamb. Occupant was taken to hospital for tests etc.

Planned activities-

-Deliver a Dementia Awareness evening to Senior Girl Guides

-Meeting with C.C.C Community Safety Officer and Herne schools to discuss road safety and options for improvement

- Bus stop clean in Hunters Forstal Road with Anne (a resident).

To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.

City Cllr Sonnex reported that she monitored HB Chatter and that the graffiti at BMX track had featured on there, also the fact that so many people, apparently, did not know the Community Park was there. The bus shelter has been installed opposite the cemetery. Some of the yellow lines that were proposed in the parish had been approved. Glass in the Mill Lane underpass had been reported to City Cllr Jones and he had gone up there and swept it up. The merger of councils will not go ahead as Shepway Council voted against going out to consultation, there will be continued discussions with other councils. The hedge on the bend on Canterbury Road near the junction with Bullockstone Road has been cut right back and the visibility has been greatly improved. She wished County Cllr Marsh good luck in the forthcoming election. There was a query as to whether the newsletter was available on line, the clerk confirmed it was. Cllr Sonnex also highlighted the new email address for councillors.

City Cllr Jones supplied a written report.

Just a quick report, you will all now know that the east Kent merger is not happening, due to Shepway voting against going out to consultation, which meant the other three councils Canterbury, Thanet and Dover were not able to move forward as it was four or more or nothing. So looking forward we will all need to be aware that by 2021, when the revenue support grant ends, the council will have to look at ways of saving and generating money which I am sure will mean some difficult decisions will have to be made.

You all may have seen in the press, on television and on CCC website the fly tipping images and video, at Share & Coulter, which shows quite clearly the perpetrators, hopefully they can be identified.

Much work has been done behind the scenes by myself and Michelle, we have put a lot of effort into bringing this forward, and then the rest thankfully followed I would also like to thank Cllr Martin Rafferty for his updates and reports, this is very helpful.

With regards to fly tipping etc. the government are now taking this issue seriously, I am hoping a Full Review of the way we manage and run our local recycling centres will take place by KCC, (to my knowledge there is not one planned). As although they are not responsible for the actions of people dumping waste, one of the issues is the way they are run, the public find the rules and amounts which can be taken in is the main issue. We need this looked at, as after all we all pay for these centres and they should work for us not against us, so let's hope KCC take the lead on this and do a review.

County Cllr Marsh explained that he was now in Purda and could not make any promises or decisions for the future but could talk about things that were already in place. This did not mean that everything stopped at County, work continues up to and after the elections. In his election leaflet he has covered the fly tipping issues and what KCC have planned to address the issues. He had met with Teresa May and had discussed the shortfall of funding for social care and he was pleased to announce that KCC had been awarded an additional £55M towards this, over the next 3 years. The first payment of £26M has been received. He had been pleased to hear that pot holes are able to be filled without a road closure, KCC warden and highways stewards working together can get this work carried out quickly and efficiently. He had been in a meeting with CCC regarding the Quality Bus Partnership and the report has been passed to the clerk. He also stated that Stagecoach should be responsible for looking after the bus shelters.

He commented on what City Cllr Jones had said about the Revenue Support Grant being cut by 2021, he was confident that there would be an alternative form of support for Councils.

He spoke about the Bullockstone Road application and stated that if the Strode Farm) development did not go ahead, the roundabout could, with the funding already received from the Golf Course. Cllr Blatherwick said that there was still much work to be done on the plans for the road. She had been most unhappy with the way CCC

had dealt with this application, they had been unwilling to listen to a professional opinion and act on it. The application that has now been passed even though it does not meet standards and will still need a lot of work done on it and most likely will have to go back to planning. The chairman of CCC planning committee had pushed members into voting to grant.

She thanked County Cllr Marsh for his support over the last 4 years, he responded that the parish council worked hard for the residents and that made his life easier.

- 71/17 Planning & Highways Issues.** Approve minutes of Planning meeting held on 16th March 2017. Cllr Blatherwick spoke about the application for 91 Mill Lane and explained why the planning committee had not objected but had voiced concerns over this development. She spoke about the CCC planning meeting and how she had explained to members that the information supplied, on the Bullockstone Road proposals, was not suitable for a full planning application as there was still a lot more work to be done, especially the ground survey and ecological study which could have a significant impact on land take. The design that has been approved does not meet standards, has a pinch point going into a bend and the suggestion that taking lighting as far as the bend would address that issue was ludicrous. If lighting stops, going into a narrow section, on a bend, this is a disaster waiting to happen as the eyes do not have time to adjust. Some CCC members took on board the concerns and there was a heated discussion but the vote was for approval. Cllr O'Donnell thanked Cllr Blatherwick for her persistence.

72/17 Finance

To ratify payments made since last meeting. None

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. Payments were approved and the clerk confirmed the figures in the bank reconciliation, but explained that these would not be the closing figure for the year. To report on income received. Advertising £120, Fun day £555, Bank Interest £27.11, Hall Hire £723.35, CC Fundraising £2,540. Total £3,965.46

Approve the Annual Governance Statement.

The Finance Committee had reviewed the Review and Effectiveness of the Internal Auditor in January and members had all received a copy of this. The clerk went through the individual questions on the Annual Governance Statement for members to agree, all questions received a Yes and members therefore approve the Statement, it was a unanimous decision.

73/17 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

There was an issue regarding Listed Building consent for the doors for the Wootton Room and the clerk was fairly sure that there had to be some sort of misunderstanding. The clerk contacted City Cllr Jones and explained and asked him if he could find out what the situation was, he contacted the officer concerned who requested some photos of the existing, which the clerk took and sent to her. The situation was then resolved and everything is now moving forward.

A meeting was held with Barry Stiff from KCC Highways to discuss the Bullockstone Road application, the meeting was held on 27th March, prior to the planning meeting at CCC. The application for the road was passed at the meeting despite much information being outstanding.

The clerk thanked Kevin our highways officer who came over on his day off to help Michelle clear the unwanted items from the cupboards in the Community centre, they did several runs to the tip and also to Demelza House shop with books. Thanks were also given to Michelle for doing this. Michelle has also gone through the kitchen and disposed of anything that is not required.

There have been several meetings with contractors, one last week to meet the new site manager from BEC, unfortunately the one that had been introduced previously is having to relocate up north due to family illness. The new electric heaters are working well, plumbers have disconnected the gas heaters and will remove them soon. The gas meter has been cut off. The gas supply should have been disconnected where it enters the land, but the gas company is having a problem locating it.

The clerk thought the asbestos survey has been done and some of the enabling works have been started. The ramp has also been started this week.

Cllr Harvey and the clerk had a meeting with Conor and Kai who run the two BMX clubs. The clerk told them that if they are both going to use the track then they should be jointly responsible for keeping it in a good state of repair. There had been a severe lack of communication last year from both parties and this was not acceptable. They both agreed that they could share the facility and the repair works. There is an issue with the start gate, someone had volunteered to carry out the work free of charge but the sheets of steel were about £240 each and approx. 9 were needed, there was a discount for quantity but the price did vary from week to week. The clerk said she would ask members if they would approve covering the cost of the sheets and welding rods etc., in order for the work to be carried out. Both parties were told they needed to inform the clerk when they were using the track and a meeting would be held twice a year to check that there were no problems. The clerk said they needed to contact her if there were any concerns about the track. The parking issue was raised, both parties said that they could not hold big events if the parking issue was not addressed, they were told the parish council was trying to purchase some land for this and would continue to try to obtain suitable land.

Conor sent an email this week

'A little update on the track for you.

Sessions on Saturdays are going well with good numbers.

The paperwork will all be in place for the club soon and I'll let you know once it is set up.

The track is in good condition. I have purchased the tarmac to repair the berms. The rabbits are still making holes as quickly as I'm filling them in.

Gate - one of the parents of the kids from the sessions, works at a local college. Part of their yearly curriculum is an outreach program. They have a welding and fabricating department and it looks like they will be willing to repair the gate for us as part of this project. It's still in its early days now. Could I just confirm with you that if they are able to do it that this is okay with yourselves? They have said that they may be able to pay for the material too!'

Members were happy for them to carry out the work on the track

Some very unpleasant graffiti appeared on the BMX track and the clerk thanked City Cllr Robert Jones who arranged for Serco to attend quickly, to clean it off.

The clerk thanked Cllr Davis for getting the newsletter to the printers and Cllr Harvey for collecting them, they have now all gone out to the deliverers, and thanks were given to Michelle for her help with this.

A car had run backwards down Albion Lane, believed to be a handbrake failure, luckily the only casualty was the flowering cherry at the bottom of Albion Lane, the owner of the vehicle has been contacted and asked to cover the cost of planting another tree.

Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk had a meeting with the architect for Hollamby Estates to see if we could reach some Common Ground with regard to their planning application. It was a useful discussion but only time will tell whether Hollamby Estates are willing to negotiate on the parish council's requests. The big issues are the highways issues, open space/play facilities and a contribution towards Community facilities in the parish. We also discussed the height of some of the proposed properties and the possibility of leaving the existing dwellings.

The leak in School Lane has been reported again and our Highways steward is also following this up.

Mike Tilson a local resident has done some clearing of the flower bed opposite the church, helped by Michelle and Phyllis, many thanks to them for doing this, also to Cllr Sargent who has taken the builders bags full of rubbish away to dispose of them. The Concurrent Funding Agreement has been filled in and returned to CCC, yet again about 18 beurocratic pages! At least it covers the next 4 years. Phil Charnley will be down in early May to carry out the rest of the work on the BMX track, S106 funds will cover this.

It is year end and the clerk is trying to close the accounts for the year, the end of year internal auditor check is on 24th April.

The Appeal hearing for Strode Farm starts again on 25th April which means the office will be closed for the duration of the hearing probably 3 days. It will also be closed Good Friday and Easter Monday. The clerk also intends to take annual leave in May. A reminder that the Annual Parish meeting is being held on 28th April in the Community Centre 7 for 7.30pm, BEC's site manager, Matt Thomas will attend to speak about the build.

A letter has been received re a judicial review due to the air quality issues arising from all the development in the Canterbury District, the parish council has been asked to donate £500 towards this cause. Cllr Blatherwick told members that we had already worked with this group from the start of the Local Plan and they had been supportive, the issues with air quality did not only affect Canterbury but also Herne Village. It was agreed to contribute £500, which would be taken from the earmarked reserve for professional advice. A revised quote from Serco for the weekly inspections on the fitness equipment, had been received and the clerk recommended a renewal for a year at a cost of £321.28.

- 74/17 **Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr Davis reported there had been a multi seated fire in East Blean woods 2 hectares had been destroyed. The following report has been received from Avenue Road Nursery who are using the wildlife area for their Forest School.

'Regarding our agreement with the Parish Council, we met Claire last week and watched her undertake the recording of frogs, newts and toads for KRAG and discussed with her how to look after the habitats for the slow worms.

We have agreed with Claire who monitors the slow worms, that we will not disturb the felts or record the slow worms but will let Claire know when we see slow worms elsewhere in the wood so she can add these sightings to her data, which she will pass on to you.

As we started attending the site regularly from September we saw a variety of slow worms of different ages and during March this year we have seen three. We have reported this to Claire.

We have started to slowly pull some of the ivy from the trees and from the wooded areas to allow the shrubs and plants to grow. We are aware of the animals in the wood and will not clear areas, just remove enough ivy to stop it damaging the plants which are trying to establish.

There has been lots of activity in the pond from the frogs and newts which has been a joy for the children to witness.

With kind regards,

Nicola,

Forest School Manager.'

Cllr Davis had recommended refusing the application to fell an oak tree with a TPO on it at a property in Forgefields.

There had been a Pond task Day on 2nd April with 13 volunteers arriving to help. Cllr Davis had received a report of a tree being felled on CH39, the clerk said she had also received the complaint, Cllr Blatherwick had been to look and it was on the edge of the ditch on the farmers land, and no permission would be required to fell.

Cllr Davis had received a request from the Forest School to plant willows, but after some discussion it was decided this was not a good idea.

- 75/17 **Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.** None.

- 76/17 **Confirm the appointment of the contractor to build the new Community Centre, and discuss any issues pre start and confirm programme for build.** The contractor now appointed is BEC. The contract has come back from BEC and is currently with Betteridge & Milsom who are checking it before the Parish Council signs it. As reported previously the enabling works have started and work proper is due to start on 30th May.

- 77/17 **To approve applying for the loan of £1,425,000 from the Public Works Loan Board.** It is hoped that the loan application will be submitted early in May. There

- needs to be a resolution approving the exact amount that is to be applied for this will need to be submitted to PWLB. Members unanimously approved this resolution.
- 78/17 To discuss approving the purchase of steel to repair start gate at BMX track.** As has been stated earlier it may be possible to get this work done free of charge. Cllr Harvey advised members that although the club are looking to do this work there should be an agreed amount allocated to this as it may still be necessary to purchase the steel. It was agreed that an amount of up to £1,000 would be set aside, this would come out of the earmarked reserve. The clubs would also be asked to wire brush and Hammerite any remaining metal.
- 79/17 To approve the expenditure for the tree works in Forest School and the annual charge for maintenance at Community Park.** Dave Parr will reduce the cost of the survey by 50% if he gets the contract for the tree works, also the Nursery has asked to carry out some of the work themselves, the clerk is liaising with Dave Parr on this. The cost of the work required will be no more than £1,684, but for insurance purposes the work needs to be carried out. Members approved this expenditure, which will come out of the earmarked reserve for the wildlife area.
- As stated at the last meeting only one quote has been received for the maintenance contract at Broomfield Community Park. This is from Ian Sargent and is for £4,035, additional items have been added to ensure that spraying and cutting is sufficient to keep the area looking good. The majority of the cost will be met by the Concurrent Funding Grant. As the parish council had been unable to get other quotes for this work, members approved the quote received and appointed Ian Sargent to carry out the work for the figure quoted. Cllr O'Donnell asked whether the council could employ a councillor. The clerk explained that as a contractor, yes he could be asked to carry out paid work, he could not however be an employee.
- 80/17 To discuss the proceeds from Garden Safari.** There is a meeting scheduled for 25th April to discuss a charity with those who are opening their gardens, Cllr Davis requested the other half go towards the Community Centre. Members fully supported this suggestion.
- 81/17 To discuss the provision of new signs at Community Park.** Cllr Harvey has taken one of the old signs to Heron workwear to get a price for re-doing the signs. Cllr Harvey reported that the old signs can be re-used and that Heron workwear will come back with a price.
- 82/17 To discuss planting the flower troughs.** The troughs and flower bed will need planting up once they have been cleared, it needs to be decided what plants are to go in them, we have had an offer to pay for some of the plants for the flower bed, but they will need watering once they are done. It was suggested that a small working party could deal with this, Cllr Davison will be asked if she is able to be involved, Cllr O'Donnell, Mike Tilton and Michelle are all willing to help. Some of the troughs could be watered by local residents, other means would need to be sourced for the rest. The outer area of the bed in the village needed to have shrubs but the inside part would need to be colourful with plants. Cllr Sargent said the soil needed attention before planting, some manure and compost would improve the soil quality. Trailing geraniums would also do well in there. Funds for compost etc will come from the sponsorship of the planters.
- 83/17 Nominations for Positive Person award for Annual Parish meeting.** Three nominations were put forward Mike Tilton, Keith Harding and Michelle Weston. After much discussion it was decided that Michelle would receive the award this year. She does an enormous amount in and around the parish and is extremely positive.
- 84/17 Members Reports.** Cllr Harvey reported that the pier would be lively this weekend, with many of the beach huts open. Cllr Moore reported that the roundabout in the children's play area was very hard to move and Cllr White said the tyre had been removed from the swing. Cllr Wells told members more people were leaving rubbish such as fridges in their gardens hoping they would be picked up, this was encouraging the wrong sort of people into the area. Cllr Blatherwick said she wasn't sure anything could be done about it.
- Cllr Moore gave apologies for the APM as he will be away.

**85/17 The next meeting of the parish council will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting
on 11th May 2017 at 7-30pm at Wootton Room Herne Mill.**

Meeting Closed 9.30pm