

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Herne Centre, St Martin's View, Herne CT6 7AP

Minutes of the meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at Herne Centre on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

- 01/19 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr McCann is working but will get here if he can, (he did not make it). Cllr Davison who is unwell. City Cllrs Jones and Sonnex are both at full council. County Cllr Alan Marsh who has food poisoning.
- 02/19 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None.
- 03/19 The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2018** were agreed as a correct record.
- 04/19 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** The problem with the heating in the centre has been sorted out, the new meter is working correctly but the display in reception has not been finally calibrated. The lights in the handrails are done.

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

21 1st & 29 2nd

- 05/19 Chairman's Announcements.** The chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and hoped that the coming year would be trouble free.
- 06/19 Police Matters/Crime report.** None
- 07/19 Warden's Report**

This months' report will be a brief overview due to the holiday period. Further information on other activities are available on request.

EVENTS

The free Christmas lunch hosted by the First and Last Pub, which Reverend Carol Smith and myself invited 30 local residents to, was a great success with Carol singing and delicious food. The group was a good mix with 3 young families and older people who were able to meet and chat to people they had not met before. This was an incredibly generous thing that the First and Last did for the Community, and hopefully will be something that we can do again next year.

I assisted with Father Christmas's float on the 23rd December to help with traffic management and it was also a great opportunity for Community Engagement. The weather was not kind to us unfortunately but it didn't dampen our spirits.

The residents of Streetfield were invited by the school to attend a Carol Concert and a colleague and myself hand delivered invitations. Only small group attended but thoroughly enjoyed it.

TRAINING

I am booked on to Suicide prevention training for adults and young people in the coming month.

DEVELOPMENT

I have meetings coming up with a representative from Action in Communities in Rural Kent, with respects to booking the coffee and information caravan for the Broomfield area for the summer. They have provisionally said that they are happy to come if we can confirm a suitable venue. With this in mind we are looking at the green area at the back of the car park and will be discussing this with the Surgery Manager. We

will also look at a couple of other options to see which might work best. The Information caravan, offers free tea and cake and a lovely area under an awning with comfortable seating for people to come and meet up, socialise and access information. I may also look in to doing some kind of wellbeing activity there each week too.

I met with Red Zebra to look how they can support our area with respects to Social Prescribing, this would be an opportunity for people to have support to access their database of what is available for them in the area. This avenue may also provide funding opportunities for me.

HIGHWAYS

Bullockstone road is due to be closed from the 14th January so we are going to utilize this time with a full Community Litter pick. The provisional date is the 16th January subject to availability of volunteers, my colleague will also be joining us to help boost numbers. I am sourcing extra equipment to use on the day.

I have been dealing with various issues around illegally parked vehicles and reports regarding specific vehicles which have all been reported accordingly.

08/19 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. None.

09/19 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. The clerk thanked members for her Christmas present and wished everyone a Happy New Year. There is a litter pick organised for the 16th January in Bullockstone Road, there will be a road closure in place, so this is a good opportunity. There was a lot going on in the Herne Centre over the Christmas and New Year period which is good as it has raised the profile. The contractor came today to put thermostats in the halls and roundel and put covers over them and the air con controls. The fitter wasn't happy with the covers that had been supplied, so has only fitted the one on the air con controls, he will source a more suitable cover and come back. A meeting has been arranged with Betteridge & Milsom for next week to go through the outstanding finances and discuss outstanding works.

10/19 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Conor O'Reilly £500, posts, Community Park.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. The payments submitted were approved and cheques signed.

To report on income received. Donation poo bags £4, newsletter advertising £276, Children's Party £35.04, Christmas fun day £1,417.89, Bank Interest £10.44, 100 club £12 Total £1,720.33

Report from Internal Auditor. The auditor carried out the quarterly audit on Tuesday, he was happy with all the checks carried out and the clerk will circulate the report when it arrives.

11/19 Planning & Highways. The clerk reported that she had been asked about a 20mph limit for School Lane, there are some repair works scheduled for School Lane and the potholes in Lower Herne Road have been done. The patching in Bullockstone Road will take place at the same time as the survey work, during the road closure. The application for Strode Farm has gone to judicial review and it is unlikely anything will be heard until March. The next planning meeting is on Wednesday 16th January. The clerk mentioned that 106 responses to The Plough in support had been submitted on 2nd January, the closing date was 21st December and all the letters were identical, with just different names. There was a request for the white lining near the pond in Broomfield to be refreshed. There is a new application for Lidl at Greenhill.

12/19 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr Davis reported that the pond group were meeting on 11th Jan and will discuss how to take things forward. It is hoped that the group will sort out getting some work done around the pond by a contractor and they can then keep it under control in the future.

- 13/19 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.** Cllr Harvey reported that the Allotment Society was ticking along nicely and that all the plots were taken. They were going to implement some minor changes and were going to restrict the planting of fruit trees as these needed to be dwarf ones. They have said they would like the judging to be earlier this year to allow them to show off more produce. The AGM is on 27th March. The padlock on the water cover has gone. The clerk reported that she had audited the allotment accounts over the Christmas holiday.
- 14/19 Report on the Float.** The Saturday went well and was it reasonably on time, donations collected were £258.42. The weather wasn't so kind on Sunday and everyone got very wet, however £230.83 was collected which was good considering the weather, so a total of £489.25. The float was behind time on Sunday and didn't finish until nearly 9pm by which time Father Christmas had gone home. He did well and was very popular with the children and I think he really enjoyed it. A letter has been received from him, which Cllr Davis has been asked to put in the next newsletter. (The clerk read the letter out). She thanked all those who helped out with the float. It has been agreed that the float needs a revamp for this year. Cllr Blatherwick picked up some new lights in the sales after Christmas and Cllrs Knight, McCann and Moore have said they would be willing to help with sprucing it up and re-doing the lights, we also need to look at the music side of things. It should be possible to have the float in the centre car park to carry out the work before it goes back into storage to come out again for Christmas. Further discussion on this at the next E & L along with any other issues raised by the helpers etc. Cllr Knight raised the issue of giving out lollies. Members were asked to contact the clerk with any comments, before the meeting.
- 15/19 To discuss Broomfield Community Park and BMX club plans.** The clerk reported that she had had a long talk with Conor regarding the BMX track, the club has a new container on site, this is for the bikes they have bought for the youngsters who don't own a bike to use for practice sessions. They were talking about cladding the containers in wood, but this was not considered a good idea, as it might go up in flames. They are still working on the pump track and they hope to get everything ready for the competition later in the year. Conor has installed the posts at the entrance gate, but he still must weld a piece of metal onto the main entrance gate to stop it being opened outwards. He intends dealing with some of the rabbits as soon as he can, as the rabbit holes are causing problems on the track.
- Trevor Wain has keys for use in an emergency, temporary signs have been put up to this effect, new metal signs will need to be sourced. The travellers have smashed the camera on the track, do members wish to replace it at a cost of about £60? Members agreed this expenditure. The fencing along the entrance road needs repair, the clerk has asked Kim Melton for a quote for repair, quite a few posts appear to be rotten. Some of the paths need remedial work and we are looking into possibly getting grant funding for this.
- Cllr Sargent is going to do some spraying on site as some of the paths have shrunk and the tarmac areas are starting to look green. The clerk reported that she had received a complaint that all the screws and nails had not been cleared away, these had been left in one particular spot by the travellers, she reported that she had taken a dustpan and brush to the site during the Christmas break and swept up as much as possible. Overall the site isn't too bad.
- 16/19 To discuss staff issues (This item will be preceded by a resolution Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude the public and press due to the confidential nature of the business being discussed).** The Resolution to exclude public and press was agreed. After much discussion it was agreed that HR Services Partnership would be employed to take forward the HR issue. This company was

recommended by KALC. The initial cost is £345 for 5 hours. Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk left the room during this part of the discussion.

Following this, members were told the Kirsty Ash had resigned and that she had asked for her resignation period to be reduced from two months to one. Her resignation was accepted, and it was agreed that the notice period would be reduced, ending on 31st January, members also agreed to give her a neutral reference. She has said she is owed holiday, which the clerk disputed and this needs to be looked at, there was also a query as to whether she needed to provide a sickness certificate to the end of the month, Cllr Harvey will check this.

17/19 Members Reports. Cllr Mitchell raised the issue of pavement parking. Cllr O'Donnell spoke about the goal posts that had been left in the children's play area in Cherry Orchard, the clerk will pass on to CCC.

18/19 The next Parish Council meeting is on 14th February 2019 at 7-30pm at the Herne Centre.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Signed

Date