

HERNE & BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Herne & Broomfield Parish Council held at Herne Centre, St Martin's View on Thursday 14th November 2019 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Day, Cllr Davis, Cllr White, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Collins, Cllr Davison, Cllr O'Donnell and Cllr Saunders.

Not Present: Cllr Hill and Cllr Knight.

- 175/19 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** County Cllr Marsh on holiday and Cllr Hill who has another commitment and Cllr Knight, who has taken her father for a hospital appointment. Apologies accepted from Cllr Hill and Cllr Knight
- 176/19 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None
- 177/19 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2019,** were agreed as a correct record.
- 178/19 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** Cllr Day spoke about the Policy Review, he suggested that the working party met and dealt with 5 policies per year, starting with the oldest and then they could continue to review in rotation. Model Standing Orders are up to date. Terms of Reference should be dealt with by each committee.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO SPEAK

Members of the public to identify themselves, and confirm they are resident in the parish. 2 residents attended, one asked a question about taking the lead on the traffic issue and Cllr Blatherwick pointed out it was on tonight's agenda. There was a question from another resident regarding emails from highways re the air quality, the clerk confirmed all members had already received these. There was also a question regarding grant funding.

Draw for 100 Club

No 10 first and 28 second.

179/19 Chairman's Announcements. None

180/19 Police Matters/Crime report. None

181/19 Warden's Report

'This has been a busy month with the launch of the signs and banners for my road safety competition and progress with the beautifying of the float. The float is still a work in progress and is very weather dependent, we have plans to do it again this tomorrow, but it is weather dependant. I have done training with Catching Lives in Canterbury around Safeguarding, equality, diversity, unconscious bias and counselling.

I will arrange with the Parish Council re Dementia Friends session when it suits. The Broomfield coffee morning at Broomfield URC church has started and has had a slow start but we are starting to get some new faces come along. I managed to get some Community funding from City Cllr Dekker for some banners for the church to display on the fence to publicised it, Age UK have put it in their newsletter, and I have been publicising it widely.

Coming up - have an interview with Herne Bay Community mag, good opportunity to publicise things in the area and share what I have been doing.

I finally had the launch of the signs and banners for the road safety competition that I have been running with the school. Councillors Alan Marsh and Anne Dekker were my guests at the school assembly along with Dan from KCC Highways. We unveiled the winning signs and gave prizes and certificates to the winners. The banners have been put up either side of the zebra crossing and address the parking and driving around the schools. 2 smaller versions have also been given to the Infants and they will be displayed around the gate and parent

waiting areas. The signs will hopefully be up in Mill Lane this week in time for National Road Safety week next week. This will all be publicised on the Public Protection media and information has been sent to a local Herne Bay Community Magazine to raise awareness with the issues that prompted the project. The signs encourage people to slow down and drive safely along Mill Lane.

There have been some incidents recently in the area with bogus callers calling on vulnerable people, one where a man entered a lady's property uninvited and when confronted, asked if she had change of a £20 note. I am advising people to be extra careful and ensure they have chains on their doors before opening them to strangers.

There are ongoing issues with parking and people allowing cars to idle when parked. I have patrolled and asked people to switch engines off, but this is short lived unfortunately. There is an article addressing this in this month's newsletter, and I am working with Anne Dekker and the schools to try and maximise the message to try and bring home the implications for this to the wider community and the parents children while they sit with engines running during these colder months.

I will be attending, the Christmas event at Strode Park, the Children's Christmas party, the Parish Christmas Fun Day, one of the float evenings and various Nativity plays and Christmas activities with the schools.'

182/19 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors Howes and Dekker

Cllr Dekker reported a busy month with lots of meetings. She had been asked to take a look at The Plough application, she had been on site and spoken to the officer dealing with the application and talked through the issue, she will not be calling the application in and will leave it to the officer to make the decision. The applicant had been very pushy, which she did not appreciate. She has attended AGM HB Trust which now has 11 new trustees. Fordwich, Sturry and Hersden parish councils all had concerns regarding highways, which was raised when she attended their meetings. As they all have issues relating to highways and would like to work together to address the issues. Anne had attended the meeting at the school which Mandy has already spoken about. She has had a meeting with tenants to discuss the housing issues and all support CCC taking over the management of the housing. The Remembrance Service at St Martin's was very well attended, and the vicar is very approachable. She had a meeting at the University re engine idling, the idea is to produce posters to encourage people to turn off their engines. There is a lot of research into this problem. She has now distributed her available funding to 4 recipients and the next round will start in May 2020.

Cllr Howes reported that he had met with Cllrs White, Harvey and Blatherwick to discuss rural exception sites, an officer from CCC is willing to come and speak to members about these. A Housing Needs Survey would need to be carried out and CCC have staff to do that. He confirmed that land would be available for this. Parish Council's need to be involved in Community Led & Housing association, allocation policies. He had been in touch with Cllr White regarding the tree problem and considers that it is very important to preserve trees. He is having a meeting re the Hillborough development on 2nd December to discuss Highways issues. He stated that Homes England confirmed that funding is available for infrastructure, if housing developments are held up because of it. He is speaking with others to see what can be done, needs strategic planning for developments.

183/19 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Not much to report, the main things have been the Children's party and fun day preparations. The clerk was on holiday for two weeks following the last meeting and is pleased to say that Michele coped very well, as you have seen she attended the KALC Finance day which she really enjoyed and she has written a report on the day which has been circulated to all members. Newsletters have all gone out, thanks to Cllr Hill for collecting from the printers and to Cllr Davis for getting it them in the first place. Following the issues we have

had with the Co-Op online banking I am talking with Edge to see if we can use Unity instead, there was a problem with the co-op as they cannot set up the account with two councillors to authorise payments, which is what we have currently with Unity. One councillor to authorise does not comply with our Financial regulations. The lights on MUGA stopped working, Serco have been out, and the time clock was broken, they have fitted a new one and hopefully the lights are working now. There was an excellent attendance of residents at the Remembrance service, unfortunately only Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk representing the parish council. County Cllr Marsh again supplied refreshments at the Smugglers.

A resident in Streetfield has complained re engines idling, the clerk has explained that both the parish and city council are doing what they can to address the situation, but it's not actually illegal to do this. So, education is really the way forward.

184/19 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting. None

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. All payments were approved, and the clerk went through the bank reconciliation and the earmarked reserves.

To report on income received. VAT refund £124.33, Poo bags £5, Donations £6, newsletter advertising £288, Race Night £782.80, bank interest £1,108.42, Centre £1,550.86, Total £3,865.41

185/19 Planning & Highways. Receive the minutes of the meeting held on 31st October, and answer any queries arising. Cllr Blatherwick reported that one application that the parish council had objected to, was going to be officer approval and the parish council was asked if, as there hadn't been any objections from residents, if the objections could be withdrawn in order that it didn't have to go to committee. After consulting the members of the planning committee that had attended the meeting, it was decided that we would let it be an officers' decision, provided all nearby residents had been consulted.

(Circulated) Including any updates on Air Quality in the village. The details of the air quality results had been sent out just after the last parish council meeting and members had been informed that the safety audit was almost complete, and details would be sent out soon. Cllr Blatherwick explained that a safety expert carried out the audit, but she did not know what areas the audit covered. Cllrs Blatherwick and Davison attended a meeting, arranged by City Cllr Dekker, at the University to discuss the air quality issues. The psychology department is working on ways of raising awareness and getting drivers to turn off their engines when stationary. It is not only a problem in Canterbury but in rural areas as well. There is a paper that has been published on this, which is on their web site. They are looking at placing signs in areas where traffic stops, to get engines turned off, these signs will change on a weekly basis. The way forward is to work with CCC & KCC Highways looking at the Local Plan in particular.

Report on Highways Parish Seminar held on 13th November. A report on this meeting has been circulated Cllr Blatherwick had asked about signage on major routes to direct large vehicles away from the village and for Sat Nav's not to have Herne village on their routes. She had spoken to the road safety unit at the meeting, but they couldn't offer any short-term solutions, they have said it is a case of raising driver awareness, and they will have a drink/drugs driving campaign over the Christmas period. They also stated that the majority of accidents were caused by driver error and not the road.

To also discuss the way forward regarding traffic issues in the village. The parish council restated that it will pursue any area it can and use any measures available to it when considering the traffic issues through the village, possible traffic calming through the village, there was a suggestion that there could be a diesel ban on rush hour traffic similar to Bristol. There are serious concerns about the two roundabouts

on A299 and the access for cycles and pedestrians, especially children getting to and from Herne Bay High. Members agreed that the Parish Council was already taking the lead on the traffic issues, and will continue to do so, as they have for many years. If it wasn't for the parish council intervening the improvements that have now been agreed for Bullockstone Road, would not have happened, there have been many meetings with all the parties involved and our County Councillor has been very supportive. The parish council will not take direct action i.e. blocking roads etc. They will continue with the ongoing dialogue with the organisations involved and press them to get the improvements, it is necessary to keep up the pressure, but will only do what it legally can.

It was agreed that following the election a letter will be sent to our MP, regarding the proposed housing numbers and the issue with the lack of infrastructure and the fact that councils have to argue with developers to get the funding required.

- 186/19 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllrs White reported on the tree forum she attended with Cllr Davison, both trees and hedges have a value, 30,000 new trees need to be planted every year for 30 years to put the number of trees back to what they were in 1987. There is a push to record the value of trees. Cllr White reported that a number of trees had been removed in the Canterbury Fields area, which have been removed illegally, CCC have been notified. Cllr Howes will also get involved with enforcement regarding these issues.

- 187/19 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.** Cllr Harvey attended the allotment meeting where they still have an issue with one of the plot holders, the committee will meet again to discuss how they are going to take it forward. They have reported a rat problem on site which they need to deal with, and they are going to flatten the mound to give two more plots which they are hoping will be suitable for disabled use as they are near the car park. They would like to know the contractor that cuts the hedge on the field side in order to ask if they could cut the allotment side next time it is done.

- 188/19 To approve budget and Precept for 2020-2021.** CCC has not yet supplied the tax base. The proposed increase will be about 2%. The budget was approved as proposed. The clerk reported the web site provision will need looking at as the one currently used will be stopping as it is not compliant. Members should have all received the email from KALC regarding this, they sent a list of possible website hosts and we will need to investigate these. Costs are unknown at the moment, but the clerk suggested that any expenditure on this should come out of the earmarked reserve for parish office which currently stands as just under £29,000. This was agreed. Members will look at the precept figures at the December meeting and hopefully the tax base figures will have been received by then.

- 189/19 Report on Parish Plan groups progress.** Cllr O'Donnell reported that there had been a meeting, an informal brainstorming session to discuss assets and the things people most treasure in the parish. Barbara Flack attended the meeting and has offered to help. There will be another meeting at the end of November. They are also hoping to include Community led housing.

- 190/19 Update on the float.** As Mandy has mentioned the float is not yet finished, Cllr Day is sorting out the electric plugs and hopefully it will be possible to get the lights on and then try and sort out the music. Cllr Day offered to put the lights on the float. Cllr Harvey was asked if he had approached the brewery to ask about storage, but he hadn't.

- 191.09 To discuss Children's Party.** Preparations are going well, there are 75 children booked so far, the clerk asked councillors to help at the party as some of our usual volunteers are unable to attend.

- 192/19 To Discuss Christmas Fun Day.** The clerk reported that preparations are going well and there have been some good donations of toys for the toy stall. Help on the day is

needed as we have quite a few stalls. West Faversham have agreed to provide the food, and they will provide staff to keep the children occupied with arts and crafts.

193/19 To discuss and approve which members would like a council dedicated email address. The clerk recommended put this on hold for now as the parish council will need to sort out a new web provider. KALC has sent out some that deal with parishes and there is a meeting on Saturday where Cantium, who are one of the providers will be discussed. Cllr Blatherwick and the clerk will be attending.

194/19 Members Reports. Cllr Harvey reported that the restaurant Toast would quote for providing food at the quiz night. Cllr Davison asked if Community assets could be discussed at the next planning meeting.

195/19 The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be changed from 12th December to 5th December, due to the Centre being used as a polling station, at 7-30pm at the Herne Centre.

Meeting closed at 10pm