

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 on Thursday 10th December 2020 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Davis, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Davison, Cllr Strong, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Hill, Cllr White and Cllr Cheeseman.

Not Present: Cllrs Sargent and Saunders.

Prior to the start of the meeting Leader of Canterbury City Council Ben Fitter Harding addressed members of the council and answer questions raised.

Ben spoke about the budget shortfall and how the Canterbury Council would need to restructure and focus on core areas. Waste, housing and Enforcement have been taken in house. They wanted to support the economy, making better use of assets and having third parties run cafes etc. They had agreed to protect Concurrent Funding until another way can be found. The Local Plan and Transport Strategy is under way, the vision is a Radical approach, with a lot more housing, they will want to hear from parish councils as to how they will be affected by proposals. He was asked if there was a possibility Canterbury would have trams, he said at this stage nothing was being ruled out. A suggestion that some of the branch lines that were closed, could be re-opened. They would like to keep traffic outside of the city centre. There was a question as to why every application to fell trees had been approved, even though there were objections. This is not good for pollution levels. A question as to how CCC were going to meet the demand for self builds, Ben said this was being looked at. Cllr White said homes needed to be sustainable and affordable, not densely packed in and be of good quality. Cllr Blatherwick raised the issue of designations changing over time. Ben said they were looking at ways of making sure that green gaps were protected. The problem is there is a huge presumption in favour of development. Hopefully the new plan will be better this time around. Infrastructure should go in first with forward funding. There was a request for triple SI's to be marked on plans.

Cllr Blatherwick thanked Ben for attending.

- 233/20 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr Saunders who is collecting his son, and Cllr Sargent who will not get back from work in time. Reasons were accepted.
- 234/20 To consider the co-option of Jeremy Wilson as recommended by the committee chairs.** Members voted unanimously to co-opt Jeremy Wilson onto the council.
- 235/20 To receive declarations of interest on items on the Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None.
- 236/20 The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2020, were agreed as a correct record.**
- 237/20 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** Cllr Davis reported that she had not done her recording yet.

ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mr Harding gave a report on his Footpath inspections, this report had been circulated to all members.

Draw for 100 Club, the draw will be for December 1st 31 2nd 9

- 238/20 Chairman's Announcements.** The chairman thanked everyone for their hard work during the year, especially the County and City Councillors who had worked hard during what has been a very difficult year, she also thanked clerk, Monica and Assistant clerk, Michele for their hard work during this difficult period. She also welcomed Jeremy to the council.
- 239/20 Police Matters/Crime report.** None received.

240/20 Warden's Report

Mandy reported she and Roger took part in the Parish Nativity film and made guest appearances as shepherds. Filming took part in a windy field full of sheep for us, but the film stars many local faces in various locations around the area. Roger excelled himself with action shots and hopefully it will help cheer up the local community after a horrible year.

We have had multiple issues over recent months regarding graffiti around our Parish. I have been working closely with the Graffiti Officer at Canterbury City Council to keep on top of its removal in key areas and volunteers around the village have also kindly cleaned several tags off of street furniture and one of the Parish signs. There has been graffiti in various places on Cherry Orchard which has been reported several times but there had been issues with the team gaining access through the gate which has hopefully been resolved now.

I continue to liaise with Parking Enforcement who are attending our school areas most weeks. I had previously booked the PCSO to do a speed check along Broomfield Road during one of these operations, but he had to cancel at the last minute, so we are looking at organising another one, in the near future. The plan is to do these regularly where we can and to publicise this as a random activity to encourage people to be careful just in case we are in the area but it is dependent on other commitments that come up in the meantime for both of us. I have been delivering the first batch of thankyou goody bags around the Parish. I have been working with Monica to put them together, source contents and publicise them and now we have been sharing images of people receiving them to encourage more nominations. We have up to 50 available and have decided to hold nominations open with no end date currently. Residents I have awarded them to have been genuinely delighted and moved to receive them and they seem to have made a real positive impact on them. I have also continued with delivery of the Rural Kent Goody bags (they inspired us to do the Parish ones). This has been happening once a month and there is another due later in December.

Even though we had a National lockdown all month, our welfare visits did not increase as people seem to have things in place since the last lockdown so thankfully have not needed as much assistance. We have been engaging with people who have been feeling anxious and mentally drained and have been at the end of the phone for anyone who wants a chat, advice or support in some way.

I have been talking to an organisation called Voluntary Arts England and am looking into doing some kind of creative project with the community in the new year. This would encourage everyone to do something creative which could be art but also cookery, poetry and writing, knitting and sewing, photography and film making etc – anything really. If this happens, we may take part in a creative festival in May, so I will update you on this.

The Canterbury Coastal Community Warden team, (me, Roger and Charlotte) appear in an edition of Net magazine in November and I have just sent off an article for the December edition. This has been a good opportunity to share potted information of the wider Warden service and publicise things such as Trading Standards Checked, Kent Together and the Knock and Check scheme and advice during the current COVID-19 situation but it will also enable us to publicise upcoming events and activities in the future and report good news stories.

241/20 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh reported he was looking forward to working with Canterbury City Council especially on planning matters. Kent County Council had successfully applied for additional funding from the government and he reported that the budget for the coming year was secure. He spoke about Brexit and the HGV traffic using M2, and M20 there is a strategic plan for the end of December. There is currently an increase

in HGV's as some are trying to beat the system and some don't have the correct paperwork. He said there would not be shortages in the new year, we will have sovereignty and our own identity. He said it was good that a COVID-19 vaccination was being rolled out but everyone should be careful as it was likely there would be a third wave after Christmas. He finished by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New year.

City Cllr Dekker said she had not been so visible this month due to personal issues, but has also been busy with the Local Plan. The Community meeting agreed that the Concurrent funding would continue for two more years and in the mean time there would be an audit of equipment and volunteers and parish councils should have plenty of time to produce this. Canterbury hoped to keep the council tax increase to around 2.5% as it will be a hard year for all. The Park & Ride contract has been renewed and all buses will be Euro 6 Diesel. They hoped there would be more consultation with residents in the coming months. Anne had a meeting with the company who were proposing to build a crematorium in Herne. It will be modern and practical and will have the latest technology. They are willing to meet with the parish council, the plans will be submitted early in the new year and it is hoped it will be completed in 12-18 months. Cllr White asked if there could be a meeting for residents and Anne said she was sure that would be fine.

Anne went on to speak about the planning meeting, she was disappointed in the result for Selwood Cottage, planning officers and members considered that a pergola is treated the same as a brick construction, the application was granted. There is a meeting on Monday for parish councils, this is in place of the forum meetings. She wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

242/20 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Once again quite busy with various zoom meetings etc. Details of the Pension Forum Conference have been distributed.

The float is ready to go out and thanks to Cllr White for making the cushions. We have a new snow machine and lights purchased with the grant from City Cllr Howes. I need someone to be responsible for cleaning the snow machine ready for storage after the float has finished touring.

The Christmas edition of the newsletter is out for distribution thanks to Cllr Davis for getting it to the printers and to all our loyal deliverers, also to Cllr Harvey for collecting them from the printers.

The Goody bags are being distributed and nominations are still coming in, thanks to Wardens Mandy & Roger for helping distribute them.

I was also roped in by Sarah Bingham who on behalf of St Martin's Church was filming a Nativity and had called on many local people to do their bit, this included our chairman and the wardens, I was a wise man! The end result will be really interesting.

Details of the Kent Wildlife Trust presentation have been circulated.

Only one barrier has been installed at the centre. Connor and his workforce have all had COVID-19 and Connor was quite poorly for a while, he will contact me when he is back at work.

Rotary used our float for their usual delivery of Christmas parcels, as always, the donations were well received. Thanks to Cllr Sargent for getting the float ready to go out.

The report on the footpaths has been distributed and thank you to Keith Harding for checking and clearing, as well as reporting paths that needed work.

The Kent Wildlife Trust Zoom presentation was very informative and the report has been circulated.

The Annual Safety Inspection report for the MUGA, Fitness Equipment and BMX track has arrived.

There are a few minor things that need dealing with at the MUGA, some of the fitness equipment needs some remedial work and at Community Park some of the fence posts around the track are rotting at the base and will need replacing. There is also algae and moss that is growing on the track which will need spraying off.

Thanks to Cllr White for putting up posters and delivering leaflets regarding the Bullockstone Road application.

PKF Littlejohn have now signed off the audit, the only comment was that the form had to be amended due to a typo.

Assistant clerk's report

1. Website.

- *Cllr Saunders and I have not managed to arrange another meeting to work on the website, as I am waiting for a response from Eyelid. I will contact them again.*
- *I will continue to keep the website updated in the meantime.*

2. Webinars attended.

- *SLCC VAT For Local Councils on 3rd December 2020. This replaced the webinar that was not completed.*

Report circulated.

3. CiLCA.

- *I attended the third virtual session on 24th November 2020. This covered Unit 3 Finance and Unit 4 Management for Local Councils.*
- *I now have access to EMMA, the online portal to upload my work. I can start to put the work I have completed on there.*
- *The next session is on 15th December 2020.*

243/20 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Ian Sargent payment for netting for tree protection £92.10. Liz White £227.55 Trees, Vincent Nursery Posts £66.24 tree protection. These payments were ratified.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. Circulated prior to meeting. All payments were approved and the clerk also went through the reserves.

To report on income received. Donations £79, Grant £200, newsletter advertising £288, Npower refund £624.16, 100 club £24, Refunds £126 Total £1,341.16

244/20 Planning & Highways.

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2020. Cllr Blatherwick spoke about the discussion on the Bullockstone Road Improvement Scheme at the meeting and the concerns that were raised. She intends to ask for a meeting with the engineers in the new year. She was concerned about the position of the lagoons and the missing link for the footpath. The clerk reported that she had received a request from a resident to refresh the white lines at the junction with Millview Road and Strode Park Road. This had been passed to Highways.

245/20 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Carol Davis attended the following training sessions since the last Parish Council meeting

Nov 18th - Maintaining your pond this winter

Nov 25th - A Review of the Miyawaki method of Tree Planting (Mini Forests)

Dec 9th - How should Tree Wardens advocate with councils, organisations and individuals for retaining urban trees?

All very informative and interesting.

Cllr White reported she had measured the allotment plot and the materials for fencing it had been purchased and she had some volunteers to help. There had been a report on the FaceBook page explaining what was planned and it had received a good response and some volunteers had come forward to help with planting. The Silver Birch trees have arrived and have been held in until they can be planted. The hedging is expected towards the end of January and it is hoped to get the volunteers together to plant 30/31 January. It is planned to plant the Silver Birch on 16th January. She has attended several training sessions. She spoke to Kent Wildlife Trust raising concerns that some of the path would be lost when the Bison arrive, but she had a good and positive response from KWT. Cllr Davison has been liaising with CCC regarding Gold Spots. Cllr Blatherwick reminded councillors to stay safe and obey

the rules. Cllr Strong told members that due to the COVID-19 there was no toilet available at the allotments.

246/20 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

The minutes of the Canterbury KALC meeting have been distributed. Cllr White reported on KALC AGM spoke about budgets, Climate Change parish councils were praised for the way they had taken on the challenges that emerged due to the COVID-19 emergency. They spoke about the Strategic Plan. Swale are proposing new laws to deal with Litter Blight, takeaways such as McDonalds can be fined for litter from their premises. This proposal is going to NALC for approval.

247/20 To receive minutes of the Finance meeting held on 27th November 2020. The minutes dealt with the budget and precept which is being discussed later in this agenda.

248/20 To discuss and decide on the budget for 2021-2022. The proposed budget was £202,898. The clerk reported that she had received details of the tax base from CCC that afternoon and that it had been reduced, this meant there were less properties paying the full council tax. The result of this is that the percentage increase for the precept would be higher than originally estimated. The clerk suggested a couple of reductions to two items which reduced the budget by £3,000. Members approved this therefore the agreed budget is £199,898

249/20 To discuss and decide on the precept for 2021-2022. The precept proposed was £182,808. This was estimated to be an increase in the region of 1%. The new agreed figure for the budget reduced the precept request to £179,808. This figure was agreed.

250/20 Update on the plans for the Community Christmas for residents. James from WFCa has had contact with the Family Liaison officer for the schools and he has been given details of 37 families who will receive a Christmas Hamper, Taylor Meats in Herne Bay are donating 37 turkey crowns and a number of pigs in blankets. Morrison have promised a delivery of items. James has collected activity packs, items to make such as cookies, but it will be necessary to purchase fresh food just before Christmas and for that we need donations, we have had a very generous donation of £200 and two donations of £10, and one of £20, which is fantastic. James estimates they will need in the region of £600 to cover the fresh produce, for both groups of people. A plea on Facebook and the web site for people to donate will be good. It was agreed that the parish council would cover any shortfall up to £500 for items that needed to be purchased. There are also the hampers for older residents, no nominations had been received so far, so again we need names and addresses, these hampers will contain items for baking as well as other treats and puzzle books etc, also jigsaws would be good to include. Donations of food are also coming in. Very appreciative of the effort James has put in, with regard to getting this organised. The packages will be given out on 23rd December. Cllr Harvey asked that the donation from Taylor Meats be acknowledged.

The clerk reported that lights were now going up around the parish, to cheer everyone up for the festive season.

251/20 To report on Christmas Closures for the parish office. The office will be closed from 2.30pm on Tuesday 23rd December and will re-open on Monday 4th January 2021. The clerk will check emails and answerphone during that period.

252/20 Members Reports Cllr Cheeseman reported some of the schools had closed due to COVID-19 numbers and they are likely to stay closed now until after Christmas. He will be self-isolating as he is due to go into hospital for an operation after Christmas and will be out of action for 6 weeks. Cllr Davison asked everyone to join in ringing a bell at 6pm on Christmas Eve this was being done all over the world. She is attending a Climate Change Workshop and will report to the group.

253/20 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 14th January 2021

Meeting closed 9.35pm