

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business. The meeting was held virtually using Zoom.

Present: Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Davis, Cllr Collins, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hill, Cllr White, Cllr Saunders and Cllr Sargent.

- 120/20 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr Day is taking a two month sabbatical due to ill health and Cllr Davison, caring for her husband. Members approved the reasons for absence. County Cllr Marsh, won't use Zoom and City Cllrs Howes and Dekker at CCC meeting.
- 121/20 To receive declarations of interest on items on the Agenda and requests for dispensations.** Cllr Davis personal interest 136/20
- 122/20 The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020,** were agreed as a correct record.
- 123/20 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** The clerk reported that all the paperwork has gone to the external auditor. The resident who cut the trees in St Martin's View has had a visit from CCC.

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

Members of the public to identify themselves if they wish to speak. 2 members of the public attended and spoke on 139/20.

Draw for 100 Club will be postponed until we meet in person and then we will draw for the months missed.

- 124/20 Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick thanked the clerk and assistant clerk for keeping things running during the current crisis. There had been quite a lot going on.
- 125/20 Police Matters/Crime report.** None received.
- 126/20 Warden's Report. Circulated prior to meeting.** 'Work continues during Covid 19 with welfare checks, referrals, prescription runs for Age UK and general reassurance.

*Contact with local residents who have experienced potential scams, one was a letter stating the resident had won £300,000 on the Postcode Lottery, which she had not entered. One lady stated she had a call from an 01227 number which was subsequently a false number, even though she is ex-directory, from someone offering to do a free insulation check in her loft. We have also been supporting a resident who has had a company charge thousands of pounds for poor and unfinished work, which we have been working with Trading Standards to investigate and fit equipment for her reassurance.*

*I will be returning on and off over the coming months to my Community Connector Role as before. Roger has also agreed to take up a Community Connector role in the Maidstone area so we will be covering the Canterbury Coastal area and doing our Connector jobs in our respective areas.*

*We went out and about with Kathy from Rural Kent to deliver lovely goody bags to 10 local residents that I had nominated to receive them. Rural Kent are the organisation who run the pop up café coffee caravan in the grounds of Broomfield Surgery and because they are not able to do that again this summer, they have used funding to provide these goody bags to help keep connected with people and help them feel a little less isolated. They will get another one in a couple of months.*

*I have been in touch with Serco regarding the play area on Cherry Orchard after a call from a resident with concerns about children being seen playing in there. They stated that initially there are 5 local playgrounds that are going to be opened in the District, after deep cleaning and opened by this coming weekend there will be monitoring to see how it works. I have requested for some signage to go up there explaining this and for Canterbury City Council to release a statement about this on*

social media, as many of the local residents around the Herne Bay area have been commenting about places not being open yet.

**127/20 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.** Circulated prior to meeting if received.

County Cllr Marsh reported that he has a Highways meeting next week re Hillborough planning development, etc and also that Manston has today been approved.

City Cllr Dekker reports *'Report wise as you know there is not that much going on with the exception of EKH (East Kent Housing) work and the LATCo (Local Authority Trading Company. The new domestic waste disposal unit of CCC.*

*Scheduled March/April '21). The former takes up most of our time, the latter not quite as much.*

*Even the CEC (Covid Emergency Committee) meetings revolve around these two issues with Housing more at the forefront because of timings and areas involved.*

*Ref; Planning for Hillborough (Taylor Wimpey development) Decision(s) delayed until site visit(s) for Cllrs. can be arranged.*

*Locally, several issues have been cleared up and only a couple of things are slowly progressing including*

*1) Heart in Hand Rd. Instructions have been handed out and the landowner has only a couple of days left now to apply for permits etc.*

*2) Blue bin inserts still awaiting Serco comments/instructions.*

*We are busy looking at several consultation papers including*

*1) NALC consult on Code of Conduct*

*2) Coastal Management Strategy*

*More to tell you on these after August. '*

**128/20 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.** Circulated prior to meeting.

The clerk thanked Cllr Davis for producing the newsletter, and Cllr Harvey for collecting them from the printers and for collecting the two new signs for the planters in Canterbury Road.

Mike Tilton and Cllr Hill have been working on the flower bed and planters, many thanks to them for their efforts. Cllr Hill said Mike had done most of the work. Mike has also offered to clean the bench by the lychgate, which the vicar has welcomed.

There have been a couple of enquiries regarding the parish council vacancies.

We have been trying to keep people out of the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and BMX track, not totally successfully and the signs keep getting ripped down, which is very annoying.

The clerk is currently working on the grant from Alan Marsh re Covid-19 funding. There are suggestions of distributing goody bags to deserving residents, plaques for our local shops to acknowledge their efforts during lockdown. Masks and gloves could be supplied for any local residents that require them, hand sanitisers provided to some households. Provide some social distancing signs to go around the parish as reminders. It may well be some of the grant can help the church with installing some of what is needed to re-open, I am taking advice on this from KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils).

There was a complaint about the shrubbery at the bottom of Albion Lane and Dan Highways has been asked to get it cut back.

Numerous emails regarding the pond have been received and responded to, with as much info that is available.

Complaint about a parking issue in Lower Herne Road, Mandy and Roger attended.

Complaint about storage of fishing boxes causing a smell in Norton Ave.

Various emails from James Browning at West Faversham Community Association.

Complaint about broken glass in Cherry Orchard and fly tipping. All reported to Serco.

Thanks to Michele Nicholson, who has been working on Risk Assessments and spreadsheets, as well as training sessions and webinars and the new web site.

Water leak in Broomfield Road reported, the road is closed between Gorse Lane and the pond.

Training reports circulated.

**129/20 Finance.**

To ratify payments made since last meeting. None.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation

supplied. Circulated prior to meeting. All payments were approved and the clerk went through the reserve details.

To report on income received. Adverts £356, Bank interest £33.73 Total £389.73

- 130/20 Planning & Highways.** To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020. These were accepted.

- 131/20 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.** Cllr White had met with residents of Canterbury Fields and hopefully the issue of removing more trees had been resolved. She had also checked all tree orders 495 applied for, said no comment received when the parish council had commented. Cllr White will take this up with the ward councillors.

Cllr Davis reported that a tree within the conservation area at Broomfield Pond was over-hanging the road by the cottages.

She contacted CCC planning to inform/ask for permission to make it safe.

They said it would take 5 days and they were told it was dangerous and needed doing straight away. Carol Gray was asked to contact Trevor Wain, Tree Surgeon at Broomfield to take a look.

The tree is on the boundary of the land belonging to the Friends and the common land. Its roots had been undermined where the water was so high and then so dry. The bank had eroded around the tree base. Trevor Wain had a look and said that the root system has failed and although the tree looks alive, it cannot be saved.

He said that it was an emergency as there is a threat to public safety and the Council shouldn't need to give permission to address this under emergency planning laws"

So, they went ahead. It cost the Friends £200, which was been paid by Carol Gray.

Also, Cllr Davis has been in touch with Debbie Checksfield regarding a management plan for Broomfield pond based on the draft started by CCC in 2008. Debbie will consult members and organise a meeting outside or Zoom meeting.

Cllr White and Cllr Davis will meet up to discuss the way forward and ask for the Friends input, so we can prepare a draft for consultation and then the Friends will get quotes and try to get grant funding if this is what they want to do.

- 132/20 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.** None

- 133/20 To receive minutes of Environment & Leisure meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 and discuss any issues relating to that meeting.** These were accepted and the clerk said it might be possible to have a race night instead of the quiz night planned.

- 134/20 To discuss dealing with illegal parking at the centre.** Members generally were not in favour of fines. The clerk will look into posts that lay flat in a groove when not in use or posts that can be locked down as well as up.

- 135/20 Update on Centre heating and cooling system and meeting with James Browning re contract.** The Monodraught has been part serviced and information downloaded to check it is working correctly, this report has not been received yet. While they were at the centre the engineers from Safe & Sound arrived to look at connecting the systems up so they work as one system rather than having to switch heating and cooling etc. They were able to speak with the Monodraught engineers to discuss linking the system. A quote is awaited along with a report. We were originally told that the systems couldn't be linked but the engineer said that was nonsense and they could be.

Cllr Blatherwick reported on her meeting with James. Cllr Blatherwick reported that she had discussed the lack of communication which had caused numerous problems. There were discussions around the contract renewal and the VAT issues. It was suggested a monthly meeting would be useful to discuss any problems that had arisen, this could be with a dedicated person, not necessarily James. There was also a suggestion that WFCA could take on some of the utility bills and there could be a change in the percentage split. He was asked to send an example. A business plan for the next three years was also requested. There were discussions regarding payments and James asked for longer to pay the invoices 21 days instead of 10. WFCA has recently taken on Aylesham Community Centre but James said they did want to continue with Herne. The reopening of the Centre was brought up it was thought Slimming World may start soon and the eye clinic, he was asked about what preparations would be in place regarding the reopening.

Cllr Blatherwick also raised the issue of safety measures in the parish office, screens, cleaning etc.

- 136/20 To discuss the parking on verges in Mill Lane and around the pond.** The clerk had received a requested for posts in the gaps along Mill Lane. Highways had been asked but would not fund approx. cost of £120 per post, the clerk was asked to see if the parish council could fund. Posts around the triangle at Broomfield had also been requested to stop people parking on the grass, she said she thought Highways viewed that as a safety issue and would not agree but she would check again.
- 137/20 To discuss Herne Centre garden fencing cost.** Cllr Day is getting a quote for this but it has not been received yet.
- 138/20 To discuss removing the twitter account for parish council.** Cllr Davis asked if the Twitter account could be discontinued as it didn't get a lot of use, members approved this, she also asked if it was OK to refuse multiple application to join our Facebook page and members agreed that only single applications should be accepted.
- 139/20 Report on the current situation regarding an allotment holder. 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 issue with the allotments has been ongoing with emails to a plot holder and the solicitor and liaising with Allotment Committee. The notice to quit was issued and the final date for the plots to be vacated is 17<sup>th</sup> July. Members had heard from the person concerned but said the Notice would stand. Cllr Blatherwick told members that there had been informal mediation had been held with the person, with herself and the clerk. City Cllr Dekker had also been involved. When asked about contributing to the cost of arbitration, no funds were forthcoming or agreement to pay. The parish council had been advised by their solicitor that this could result in a considerably high cost and that it wasn't good use of public funds, it was therefore decided not to continue. Members felt that they had heard both sides of the argument and that there was no reason to change the decision made.
- 140/20 Members Reports.** Cllr Davis reported that Cllr Harvey would try and sort out the RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) payments. Cllr Sargent reported he had been asked about the bins in Plough Court, which had not been emptied. The clerk reported an ongoing issue as the lorry could not get access due to parked vehicles. Cllr Sargent thought the bins had been taken to the entrance of the Close. Cllr Davis reported that Bison will be going into East Blean Woods in 2020, under the Wilder Blean project, she also asked if parish council would again give Friends of the Ponds a grant towards the cost of the insurance. Clerk will put on agenda for next meeting.
- 141/20 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

Meeting closed 9.30pm