

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 September 2020 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.
The meeting was held via Zoom.

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

- 164/20 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr Saunders his son has a band presentation before he goes away, Cllr Davison family commitments. County Cllr Marsh who is unable to attend Zoom meetings. City Cllr Howes, who has had a CCC meeting tonight. Apologies also from both wardens.
- 165/20 To receive declarations of interest on items on the Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None
- 166/20 The minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 3rd September 2020, were held as a correct record.**
- 167/20 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** The next planning meeting will be on 17th September and a Finance meeting will be on 24th September. The new bollards for the Centre Car Park have arrived and will be fitted soon. The decorator will start the painting at the Centre in November.

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

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

- 168/20 Chairman's Announcements.** . Cllr Blatherwick reported that Cllr Day had resigned for health reasons and she then welcomed the new councillors to the first monthly full council meeting.
- 169/20 Police Matters/Crime report. Circulated prior to meeting if received.**

Crimes reported

- Disturbance- Ridley Close- Evening- 01/08/2020
- Burglary- Herne Street- /Daytime- 03/08/2020
- Theft- Pigeon Lane- Daytime- 03/08/2020
- Disturbance- Herne Street- Evening- 05/08/2020
- Disturbance- Herne Street- Night- 06/08/2020
- Vehicle Crime- Hillcroft Road- Daytime- 16/08/2020
- Criminal Damage- The Downings- Daytime- 20/08/2020
- Criminal Damage- A299- Night- 25/08/2020

Other incidents

- Bad Driving- A299- Daytime- 01/08/2020
- Bad Driving- Cooper Drive- Evening- 06/08/2020
- Nuisance Youths- School Lane- Evening- 07/08/2020
- Bad Driving- A299- Daytime- 09/08/2020
- Nuisance Youths- Herne Street- Daytime- 09/08/2020
- Nuisance Youths- Forgefields- Night- 12/08/2020
- Nuisance Youths- Bullockstone Road- Day- 19/08/2020

Items of good work

Continuous high visibility patrolling using car, bike and on foot

Speed Gun in areas to prevent speeding in certain areas

Operation in place preventing ASB involving vehicles

Patrols of off-road areas where off road bikes are being used, resulting in many warnings and words of advice being given

Use of off-road bikes is on the decline after many warnings to various people.

Nuisance vehicles have declined.

170/20 Warden's Report. Mandy reported she was doing part time hours as a Community Warden and was just back from a week's leave.

She is no longer receiving referrals from Age UK, but is getting welfare visits from Social Services, NHS, and the MDT meetings.

There has been an issue with SGN works, in Streetfield, she was emailed by the Infants school with concerns about the road closure and one-way system becoming 2 way. There was initially some confusion even though parents had been informed by the schools to advise them to park elsewhere and walk in. She spoke with Parking Enforcement and Canterbury City Council about stopping parking along stretches. They were unable to do this, but they have offered assistance if it was needed. Dan from Highways attended and advised the workmen what further signs were needed and that cones needed to be placed to prevent parking. She contacted the PCSO regarding doing joint patrols but has not heard back. She has attended around Streetfield to assess traffic movement and monitor. The work should be finished by the end of the week.

Reports received of nuisance parking in various areas and dog fouling and advice has been given to residents with regards to where best to report via the correct channels. Parking issues can only be dealt with if the vehicle is parked illegally or dangerously and unfortunately many of the instances are only awkward or annoying to neighbours.

Various scams have been reported around HMRC, Paypal, Asda, TV Licencing etc and Rogue Traders calling at properties to do work or sell items under the name of Army Veterans etc. She has advised residents and shared updates to contacts.

She has been working with the Monica to put together 50 goody bags which will be given to local residents, who have been nominated for their support during the Covid outbreak. We are going to source items for them over the coming weeks.

She has worked with volunteers to paint and beautify the Christmas float which is now looking nice and bright. There are more lights, and there will be a new sound system in place. This Friday she will be decorating the sleigh with designs and is trying to source some white faux fur for the back of Father Christmas.

She has attended various training over the last month varying from Health Coaching to Domestic Abuse and spotting a Loan Shark.

171/20 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh has asked the clerk to pass on that he was having regular on-line meetings at KCC they were working on a huge deficit regarding the finances. He was also keeping up to date with developments regarding the various planning applications for Hillborough etc and Highways issues. He is available if we need him for anything.

City Councillor Dekker reported that CCC were looking at changes to the Local Plan post Covid. The transfer from East Kent Housing is continuing. The taking over of the refuse collections by CCC is continuing, negotiations regarding the bin lorries is still under consideration, CCC need to ensure that any bins lorries purchased are safe and fit for purpose. The budget will be under discussion in the next few months with CCC trying to claw back some funds. The Covid Emergency Committee has been terminated, if needed another will be formed but there would be changes to the delegated powers. Members have attended training for the Planning White Paper consultation document. They have concerns regarding the

changes from S106 to CIL and the affordable housing (which is not affordable in this area). Also, social housing, members want to see developers provide the 30% that they should and not continually reduce the percentage. The Local Government Strategy team are looking at the consultation for Code of Conduct. CCC has a new leader who is Ben Fitter Harding, the new Mayor is Pat Todd and the Sheriff is Anne Dekker. Cllr Davis asked if the food bins could be placed inside the other bins on collection day, Cllr Hill also asked about the amount of litter that was left lying in the road on collection day. City Cllr Dekker said they were dealing with a variety of issues on collection days.

172/20 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. Report from Assistant clerk. Circulated prior to meeting.

The clerk reported that the refusal by CCC planning for part of the Hillborough development will possibly help the parish councils situation when the application for Strode Farm goes to planning, although at the moment, the decision to refuse may result in the loss of funding for Bullockstone Road, which means there is no guarantee that funding for the relief road will be forthcoming. Survey works for the improvement scheme are still going ahead.

Christmas Float painting has almost been finished; Mandy has this in hand. There will be a new sound system on the float when it goes out.

Centre contract negotiations are still ongoing. There are a few hiring's at the Centre, Slimming World has started back, and we had a Pilates class this week, the diabetic eye clinic has also started again.

The barrier for the front of the Centre hadn't got the fixings in the right place when Steve came to fit it, it is going to be changed and he will come back when he has got the correct one.

The phone line went down last week, all calls were transferred to the clerks mobile, the line was back in use on Friday.

It is good to see so many training events being attended, it seems the online ones are preferred.

The clerk has been contacting advertisers, as Cllr Davis is getting the next newsletter ready for the printers.

There was a bit of an issue with a resident in Herne who was threatening to go out and paint the white lines etc in Bullockstone Road, he was advised against doing this and told that the lining was in hand.

There is a Planning White Paper Information events being hosted by KALC & CPRE which the clerk will attend tomorrow morning, it is being held on Zoom. She has started to complete the online questionnaire for the Planning White Paper, so this event should be useful.

There is also a KALC training session on Effective Communication and Engagement in lockdown on Tuesday. CCC Local Plan event online on 22nd September at 2pm, this is Herne Bay specific Our Future District, which is open to all.

The clerk covered the office while Michele was on annual leave for two weeks.

The Covid signage has been ordered this will be paid for from the KCC grant.

The Notices from CCC regarding the resignation of Cllr Day, have been distributed for web site and noticeboards.

Assistant Clerk report

Short update.

1. Website.

- Continuing to add old minutes of committee meetings.
- Updating information, e.g. councillor's details, committees.
- Setting up email accounts for Cllrs Debbie Checksfield, Tony Strong and Paul Cheeseman.

2. Webinars attended and booked.

- KALC Website Accessibility Regulations Workshop on 12th August 2020

- this covered the basics.

Report circulated.

- SLCC VAT For Local Councils: The Basics on 17th August 2020.

No report as webinar was incomplete. A revised one will be scheduled for a later date.

- SLCC An Introduction to the Planning System on 7th September 2020.
- SLCC Preparing to Meet Website Accessibility Guidelines on 9th and 11th September 2020 – these are in-depth webinars where participants will be working on their own website.

Reports will be provided for next meeting.

3. Herne Centre.

- Continuing to work with West Faversham Community Association (WFCA) on a suitable financial proposal to put forward for the contract review.

Supporting the Clerk, and Cllrs Ann Blatherwick and Carol Davis with reviewing amendments to the contract.

173/20 **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. The clerk informed members that the pay award had been confirmed by NALC and was back dated to April, this had been paid in the September figures. The clerk went through the other payments and all were all approved. No queries were raised on the bank reconciliation.

To report on income received. KCC grant £1,000, Advertising £216, Interest £9.25, Allotment payment £14.48, N Power refund £533.45, 100 club £72, Total £1,845.18

174/20 **Planning & Highways.** To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27th August 2020. Cllr Blatherwick asked the clerk to find out what the status of property alterations in the conservation areas is currently.

175/20 **Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.**

Cllr Davis reported she had attended a NALC Leaders Talk – Putting trees at the heart of your community – on-line Tuesday 8 September. There were 99 participants.

The meeting was chaired by NALC but there were two people from the Woodland Trust that did the presentation and answered questions at the end.

They talked about the England Tree Strategy consultation, to which she had also responded, in a personal capacity. She agreed that every local authority should have a Tree Strategy.

UK only has 13% tree coverage compared to our European neighbours who have around 38%. Only about 2% of the UK's original forests remain.

It costs more to maintain mown grass than areas of trees. Perhaps the City Council would be interested in planting areas of trees in Curtis Wood Park. This could help with pollution control in the village. Developing Local Plans should be mapping where the important trees are and their condition to protect them in the future.

Apparently TPO's are improving and they spoke of the importance of including trees in Neighbourhood plans.

Trees help to reduce flooding.

As part of the Govt. Environment Bill, they are talking about a duty to consult on felling of trees including on private land.

For new tree planting they recommended Trees & Design Action Group guidelines and to consult on where trees should be planted and what species.

She has asked for a copy of the talk, so if anyone would like to watch it she can

forward when it arrives.

Comments have been sent on the application to fell a Robinia (locust) tree, in the garden of a cottage in Herne Street. The tree appears to be under stress and she has suggested if it is felled another tree is planted with the garden to help mitigate pollution in the village.

She has booked up for a free Tree Warden Conference for Sat 26 September.

Residents who own properties adjacent to Blean Woods had received a letter from Kent Wildlife Trust who are going to graze animals in the woods and want to make the fences secure. Cllr Davis said that there were concerns that the public footpath CH4 permissive diversion could be blocked.

Cllr White reported that she had been able to listen to the Tree course which she was unable to attend. She has now attended several tree courses which hopefully would make her a better tree warden.

The Friends of the Pond committee along with Cllr Davis help will update the management plan. The cost of the public liability insurance is £138.32. The clerk suggested that the Friends pay for their insurance, and once quotes have been received for the work that needs doing at the pond, they could then apply to parish council for a grant, if its needed.

176/20 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations. None attended

177/20 To discuss holding Face to Face meetings again.

KALC and NALC are at the moment still supporting online meeting's the clerk had considered it would be possible for committee meetings to be held as the numbers are much lower, but due to yesterdays' announcement of meetings of 6 people that now doesn't seem likely. Members agreed that for the immediate future online meetings will continue.

178/20 To approve the updated committee list to include the co-opted members.

The clerk has circulated the list, which needed amending following Cllr Day's resignation. Cllr Checksfield has been added as a Friends of Pond representative, as she is acting chair.

179/20 To discuss having someone to carry out the gardening at the Centre.

Cllr Sargent has done a tidy up in the garden area, the clerk thanked him for doing that, he has offered to give a price to get things back under control and then regular maintenance will be required, the clerk asked if anyone knows of someone else who could give us a quote to let her know. Cllr Sargent did suggest carrying the willow fencing that we have at the top end of the outside area down the side instead of making up a closed fence with planks. The clerk was asked to investigate shorter panel for that area.

180/20 To agree that Rotary can use the float for delivering parcels ay Christmas. It was agreed that the float could be used by Rotary, any damage must be repaired on return.

181/20 To resolve as to whether the parish council supports Manston as an airport.

It was decided that more time was required for members to research the consultation documents. The proposals, especially for flight paths will go to public consultation and that will be the time that the parish council can decide on a response.

182/20 Members Reports

Cllr Collins reported that fake £5 notes are in circulation

Cllr Checksfield asked if a request could go to KWT to open their car parks

Cllr Strong reported phone scams supposedly from BT

Cllr Harvey asked for photo's to be sent to him for the new councillor passes.

183/20 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 8th October 2020

Meeting closed 9.45pm