

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 on Thursday 12th March 2020 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Not present: Cllr Davison, Cllr Knight and Cllr O'Donnell.

- 36/20 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllrs Davison, Cllr O'Donnell who is with family and Cllr Knight who has taken her Dad for an appointment. Reasons accepted. Warden Mandy who is with the cubs this evening.
- 37/20 To receive declarations of interest on items on Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None.
- 38/20 The minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2020 were agreed as correct.**
- 39/20 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** Cllr Day asked if quotes could be obtained for a new secure shed. This was agreed.

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

1st 32 & 2nd 1

- 40/20 Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick reported that Cllr Davison's husband was home. She reminded members that there was a quiz night on 21st March and the What's Happening event on 28th March.
- 41/20 Police Matters/Crime report.** No report but the clerk did say she had met Gary's replacement Tom.
- 42/20 Warden's Report.** Cllr Sargent arrive at this point
'I have been settling into my dual role and have also attended various training connected to that position. I have also completed City and Guilds Dementia through Home Instead, something that they offered to all Community Wardens. My time has been particularly limited in our area due to training etc but am hoping to see everyone more as that side settles down. Roger will continue to be available during the days that I am not there, to support the Community.
We had a visit from Mike Oberbek, lead of Public Protection KCC, who came and spent the morning with me and accompanied me to the Broomfield Art group which is going strong. He wanted to spend time with frontline Wardens to see what we do on the ground, there are changes coming up with the service.
Have had a meeting with Police KFRS with a view of having more joined up working and regular meetings for the Canterbury Coastal areas. This has been positive with contact details sharing and opportunities to work at each other's events and activities.
I have also approached Sainsbury's to start plans for another Community Safety Takeover day at the beginning of the summer holidays date will be shared when that has been confirmed.
Roger and I are going to look into arranging something for the Community in the summer as a wellbeing type of event which may be at the Herne Centre.
I have shared information to my contacts regarding protecting yourself from, and managing the Corona Virus and will continue to forward info as it is updated.
I will be connecting with the new PCSO for our area Tom, and Roger and I look forward to building a good working relationship with him. There is going to be an operation around Streetfield on Wednesday 18th in the afternoon around the parking issues as part of Beep Beep and this is something that I have been informed by Enforcement, will be an ongoing activity linked to Think Park Smart, when time allows which Roger and I will support where we can. I have also been informed that Environmental Enforcement will be increasing staff numbers so when training is complete there will be more out and about to assist in any issues we may be having.'

To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh distributed two sheets of paper with the details of two requests for yellow lines, he pointed out that the officer was suggesting refusal for one but implementation for the other which had more objections. He stated that he would not be supporting the parish council on the application that they had supported. He told everyone that KCC members didn't have a vote at the Herne Bay Forum meeting where parking Regulation Review will be discussed. Any recommendations from the Forum will go forward to Joint Transport Board, who in turn will make recommendations, but they will not support the proposed yellow lines for Ridgeway Road. He circulated information relating to the corona virus. He was asked about Bullockstone Road and he said there was no further information. A bid for funding for Sturry Relief Road had to be submitted by May.

City Cllr Howes took the County Councillor to task for not giving the correct information to members and for treating a City Council officer with disrespect. There was a somewhat heated exchange of views. Cllr Marsh left at this point.

Cllr Day stated he did not think it appropriate for City and County Councillors to be having a disagreement in the middle of a parish council meeting. Cllr Howes apologised.

City Cllr Howes reported that the officer had given a full explanation of why he recommended installing the yellow lines in Ridgeway Road, he and 10 members had been out and looked at the site, all the meetings are purely consultations and it is the cabinet holder for Highways that makes the decision. He also explained that he had needed to support and defend the officer concerned and it was not appropriate for a member of another authority to criticise officers.

At the Forum meeting, members will discuss and either agree, disagree or possibly ask for further information this will then be passed on to the JTB. It was also pointed out that quite a few of the objectors did not live in Herne.

He spoke about Bullockstone Road on Tuesday the KMEP would be discussing the funding for some of the projects that had been put forward, of which Bullockstone Road was one.

There was an update on the proposed mast, no decision had been taken but the applicant had been asked to look at other sites as they had only looked at 4 sites. The officer has identified other sites; therefore this is still under discussion. CCC will be having consultations on both the Local and Corporate plans. There should also be a decision on Concurrent Funding on 25th March. There had been an issue with bin collections in Strangford Place due to posts being installed, this requires a smaller lorry to make collections. He has received numerous complaints about the charges for emptying green bins. CCC will be sending out leaflets re this. Emptying food and household rubbish will be prioritised, should Coronavirus reduce staffing levels.

City Cllr Dekker reported that CCC would no longer use East Kent Housing, other Districts had also done this. There was to be a cross party working group to help the transition from E K Housing to CCC, but she warned it could get worse before it gets better and is likely to take 12-15 months. It is hoped that some of the experienced staff will transfer across to CCC. She has arranged a Police Presentation which will be held at the Centre on 2nd April and there has been good interest from the parishes. The heart of the presentation is new Community Initiatives.

Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

We have had quite a few meetings this month, Michele attended the allotment meeting and the Local Plan and Concurrent Funding meeting with the clerk. Reports to follow. It's been a fairly quiet month, other than the meetings, obviously we have been keeping up with things re the Corona Virus, we have put notices up in reception, the clerk has spoken to James, the Centre manager and he has clarified how they will deal with things as they move forward. If the schools close, the Centre will close, although the parish council office will remain open unless we are told otherwise.

The work on MUGA will be completed next week, with the fitting of the back board and the replacement fence panel.

There are 9 tables booked for the quiz night so there is space for a couple more, and some spaces on some of the tables, obviously if there is a ban on meetings due to the virus situation it will be cancelled and refunds given.

The bookings for the What's Happening event have been quite good, most local groups and organisations have booked a table, about 14 to date.

The Annual Parish Meeting is on 24th April, so please put the date in your diaries.

The WI have said they will no longer be looking after the flower bed in the village.

The clerk thanked Cllr Harvey for collecting the newsletters and for putting up the sign for D Parr, also for rescuing the sign at the Community Park. Cllr Davis was thanked for getting the newsletter to the printers.

The clerk reported that Dale Corley is making good progress, he was in the Centre yesterday working on the computer and issuing orders! The clerk reported that Cllr Davison's husband was progressing slowly and we wish him all the best.

A letter had been received from Kent Air Ambulance requesting a donation of £250, it was agreed in principle that the money raised from the quiz would be made up to £250 if necessary. If that figure is not reached at the quiz, this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

45/20 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting. None

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

To report on income received. Poo Bag donations £9, newsletter adverts £440, sales donation £3, Bank Interest £34.19, Maps £6, Water cost allotment repayment £33.10, Centre hire £2,935.49, Other Centre income £2,144.85, 100 club £36; Total £5,641.63

46/20 Planning & Highways Since the introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) there have not been any planning applications! The proposed introduction of yellow lines in Ridgeway Road will be discussed at Herne Bay Forum on Tuesday. Pot holes were reported to the clerk.

47/20 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr White reported that there were more applications for removal of trees arising from insurance companies. She was concerned the companies were not very knowledgeable when it came to trees, nor very environmentally friendly. Cllr Collins reported that the task day at Broomfield Pond had gone well with about 10 people helping.

48/20 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations. Allotment committee minutes have been distributed. Cllr Harvey attended.

49/20 Update on web site. Michele reported that the hosting would be set up in the next couple of weeks and the web site from then onwards.

50/20 To agree expenditure for drop down bollard at Centre Car park entrance. The clerk explained there were more and more cars being left in the car park, to address this she had asked for a quote for fitting a drop-down bollard similar to the ones fitted at the Community Park entrance. The clerk reported she had a quote for £260 plus additional keys which would be £9.60 each. Members approved this expenditure.

51/20 Report on Allotment Committee meeting.

Michele attended the meeting with Cllr Day to put forward options for the future of the Allotment Society.

This was discussed under the agenda item "General management policy and review of Constitution/Agreement".

Cllr Day explained that under the current arrangement the trustees are legally responsible for ensuring that the Allotment Society abides by the terms of the license agreement. In their absence the individual members of the Allotment Society could find themselves responsible for any breaches of the terms of the license, such as any debts. It also means that the society still requires the Parish Council to make some of the decisions.

Cllr Day then suggested two possible avenues for the Allotment Society to take. The first was for the society to become a co-operative, the second was for the society to set themselves up as a Community Interest Company (CIC). He explained that this is a type of limited company which exists to benefit the community rather than private

shareholders. It is relatively inexpensive and can be set up online, with the current committee members as directors. It would then allow the Parish Council to form a new license agreement with the C.I.C, giving full control of the allotments over to the Allotment Society. They both pointed out that it would also enable the Allotment Society to take out a loan and apply for grant funding, if they so wished.

After a discussion the committee agreed to explore this further so that they can make a recommendation at the AGM in March for the Allotment Society to become a C.I.C.

52/20 Report on works carried out at Herne Centre. The clerk reported that the drains had now been sorted out, the reason that the water was backing up in the drain at the entrance to the car park was that there was a membrane which hadn't been cleared. This has now been done and the water is clearing, the gullies and traps have all been cleared. Thanks to Cllr Blatherwick for overseeing this work. Cllr Day has very kindly cleared the gutters and is keeping the garden area tidy.

The door closer on the main door, has been replaced and there will be a barrier installed outside the door to stop it opening too far back and breaking the opener again, in the meantime when it is windy the door will be kept locked. A local company Safe & Sound has been asked to come and look at whether it is possible to sort out a management system for the heating and cooling and if so give a quote. The Centre had an inspection and received a 5 star rating food hygiene certificate from Food Standards Agency..

53/20 Reports on Concurrent Funding and Local Plan meetings

Simon Thomas and Andrew Thompson attended for an informal meeting to discuss the new Local Plan.

A call for sites has gone out, this is not just for development land but also community facilities, open space, retail etc.

The consultation will start in May 2020 to look at the key issues, evidence etc and responses will be looked at over the 6 months following the consultation, hopefully the broad options will be published early 2021. This will be followed by further consultations. Some funding/loans are available from Homes England for some projects.

It was suggested that a Herne Conservation Appraisal needed to be carried out.

Members advised that there needed to be suitable sites for Assisted Living, bungalows etc, as well as low cost, affordable homes. Simon told members that if plots were made available for low cost home there was a benchmark figure of £150,000 per acre. There was a discussion on trees and their protection and that this protection should be more robust.

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) has now been approved by CCC and will apply to any proposed developments that take place after April 1st2020. Parishes will receive 15% of all CIL payments collected in by CCC. Those with a Neighbourhood Plan will receive 25%.

The council needs to strike an appropriate balance when charging CIL

- The desirability of funding infrastructure required to support development from CIL receipts
- The potential effects (taken as a whole) of the imposition of CIL on the economic viability of development across the District.
- Setting the rates too high would impact on the delivery of other policy requirements such as affordable housing.
- CIL won't apply to the strategic sites allocated in the Local Plan.
- It will apply to smaller residential developments, which have more limited specific infrastructure requirements.

It is not totally clear how many properties can be built before S106 takes over from CIL.

Industrial and warehouse developments are not sufficiently viable to sustain CIL charges, but retail is more of a mixed picture.

CIL will not be charged on Rural Exception sites. CCC has various levels of charges for CIL. CIL becomes due once development commences.

Full details have been circulated via a link from CCC.

Following the meeting Simon Thomas has been in touch and has said a meeting with Hollamby Estates and the parish council will be arranged but they want to wait until they have appointed a developer.

Concurrent meeting 27/02/2020 at Guildhall

The concurrent funding grant is awarded to parishes to cover the cost of provision that would normally be covered by District Council. It covers cemeteries, landscaping, grassing cutting etc.

Currently H & B receive £5,524.97, which goes towards Annual Safety Inspections, landscaping work at Broomfield and ??

Officers from CCC explained that the current round of funding is due to finish March 2021 and they wanted to discuss with the parishes what will happen from then on.

Those attending were split into three groups and there were informal discussions between the groups as to how the loss of the funding would impact on the parishes, how they might cover the additional costs, the question of double taxation was raised and it was reported that Tonbridge & Malling are trialling a scheme whereby the money for looking after the facilities etc in the urban area is removed from the council tax for everyone and only charged to those properties in the urban area. The clerk asked how Herne & Broomfield would be treated as CCC couldn't make up their mind if we were rural or urban! Also, Cherry Orchard is already maintained by CCC?

The budget currently is £134,500 and is split between 24 parishes. CCC needs to save £5M by 2023/24 the proposed budget and savings will hopefully reduce this to £2.5M by 2023/24. It is only Canterbury, Maidstone and Dartford that have a Concurrent Funding Budget.

The general feeling was that this funding will go, but most parishes asked, that if it did, it should be phased out over a period of 4 years, if it then goes on the precept it is a gradual increase for residents.

It is not a huge amount for H & B and if there is CIL funding coming on stream, along with the additional properties being built, will not have an adverse effect on this parish. Smaller parishes who have recreation/sports grounds and cemeteries will suffer the most.

54/20 Discuss Positive person award for APM. Members were asked to think about who they would like nominated and the warden will also be asked for suggestions.

55/20 Members Reports. Cllr Hill offered to carry out work on the flowerbed in Herne. Cllr Harvey asked for residents to be kept informed when it came to the Coronavirus epidemic.

56/20 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 9th April 2020 at 7-30pm at the Herne Centre.