

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 8th October 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 Saunders, Cllr Collins, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Strong, and Cllr White

- 191/20 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr Cheeseman family crisis, Cllr Davison family commitments. Cllr Hill is working. County Cllr Marsh will try to get access.
- 192/20 To receive declarations of interest on items on the Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None
- 193/20 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.**
- 194/20 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** Kent Wildlife Trust have opened their car parks with the exception of East Blean Woods which has a history of anti-social issues, fly-tipping and other misuse, they currently don't have the resources to be able to manage it if they were to reopen the car park now.

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

No Speakers

Draw for 100 Club, the April, May, June draws were postponed due to Covid-19 and moved forward 3 months. The following were drawn:

July 1st No 1, 2nd No 55 August 1st No 62 2nd No 1 September 1st No 50 2nd No 16

- 195/20 Chairman's Announcements.** The chairman congratulated the clerk on serving 20 years as parish clerk. The clerk thanked members for the flowers she had received.
- 196/20 Police Matters/Crime report, supplied by PCSO Thomas Ralph**

Crimes of note:

- Vehicle Crime- Window smashed and items stolen- Broomfield Road- Morning
- Disturbance- Shouting and banging- Herne Street- Afternoon- 04/09/2020
- Disturbance- Shouting- Herne Street- Early morning- 06/09/2020
- Criminal Damage- Window smashed- Herne Street- Morning- 10/09/2020
- Drugs- Dealing- Peartree Road- Afternoon- 10/09/2020
- Theft from post- Willow Farm Way- Morning- 11/09/2020
- Burglary from Shed- Bullockstone Road- Evening- 19/09/2020

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- Bad Driving- Speeding- A299 Thanet way- Evening- 06/09/2020
- Drug use- Arden Road- Evening- 08/09/2020
- Nuisance Vehicle- Quad bikes in park- Curtis Wood Park Road- Afternoon- 12/09/2020
- Nuisance Vehicle- Quad bikes in park- Curtis Wood Park Road- Afternoon- 19/09/2020
- Nuisance Youths- Throwing stones- Forgefields- Evening- 21/09/2020
- Nuisance Youths- Climbing on buildings-Forgefields- Afternoon- 23/09/2020

Items of good work:

Continuous high visibility patrolling using car, bike and on foot
Speed Gun in areas to prevent speeding in certain areas

Updates of previous reported issues:

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

Nuisance vehicles have decreased due to Operation SWIM

197/20 Warden's Report.

The Christmas float is coming on brilliantly and is more or less finished. We worked with volunteers to repaint, decorate and improve the lighting. The Reindeers now have faces and the sleigh is covered with a Christmassy design. Cllr Liz White is making cushions for Father Christmas to sit on and there are new speakers for the sound system. There is an article in the Newsletter thanking all the volunteers who helped out.

I have donated some of my artwork to Strode Park Foundation for an art auction they are having to raise money. I also painted some fairy doors for them to display in their new sensory garden in Canterbury.

We have been out and about delivering more goody bags with Rural Kent to 10 residents because the pop-up café was not able to attend the surgery grounds this summer. We deliver these bags every month or so to reassure the residents we are still thinking of them, this is a great opportunity to catch up with them and check on their general wellbeing.

I have been working with the Parish Council to put together goody bags for members of the Community who have been nominated for their thoughtfulness and support during the Covid crisis. We are just gathering items to put in them including things such as hand creams, home-made marmalade, tea and coffee etc as part of the Covid funding from KCC. There is an invitation in the Newsletter for people to send in nominations.

I have been working with Canterbury City Council, Parking Enforcement to have a presence around the schools regularly. I am now sent out a weekly list of when they will be attending local schools so I can liaise with them. I have also met with Streetscene and Graffiti Enforcement, so it is great that we are working more closely now after a couple of years of trying to build a partnership with them.

PCSO Tom and I did a speedwatch in Herne and Broomfield recently with the speed camera after reports of ongoing issues with cars speeding in hotspots now the school is open again. We plan to try and do this regularly at random times as and when we can so we can publicise these checks will be happening intermittently. Hopefully this may make people more cautious when entering the area just in case.

We have been assisting with putting up the Covid info signs around the Parish and I have also dealt with some issues around overgrown vegetation and complaints regarding parking.

Roger and I continue to split our week between our Warden and Connector roles, we have recently done Health Coaching and Social Prescribing Link worker training.

We are still covering Welfare visits we are referred but prescription deliveries etc have tailed off now people have other things in place moving forward. This may change again if people are requested to self-isolate or shield again but for now this has taken less of a priority.

198/20 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh asked the clerk to report that he was following the progress of the larger planning applications with regards to the highways issues, he also said that the proposed road improvements for Sturry are not progressing at the moment, as the planning application has yet to be approved.

City Cllr Dekker reported that she had been busy especially now that CCC had taken back the housing stock from East Kent Housing and officers are now in training, there will be a review after 100 days to see what is working well and what is not. She had attended the CCC Local Plan meeting to discuss Herne Bay Town Centre. Anne had also attended a meeting with the armed forces and attended a conference initiated by a consultant at Kent & Canterbury Hospital on Brain and Spinal Injuries especially looking at rehab. It was a two day conference and she had attended for a morning. She

had attended parish council meetings and was still working on getting the advertising hoardings removed at the Links. She now had the council's solicitor dealing with this. Hopefully planning enforcement will be able to remove them.

City Cllr Howes spoke about the Governance meeting and how if the new system didn't work and residents weren't happy the council would look at alternatives

The council had now brought in a charge for those launching crafts/jet ski's etc in Herne Bay the cost for a licence for a year is £150. This has been introduced to improve safety. Canterbury has introduced a new graffiti policy, a tool kit for this will be available by the end of the month. The Council members have been given £1,000 to be split into £200 grants for organisations/groups to help with Covid recovery. Any queries please contact Cllr Howes. There will be a meeting on 19th October to discuss Concurrent Funding and a report will go to Policy & Resources in November when a decision will be made. Parishes will be informed by early December to enable them to do their budgets and submit their precept requests. The JTB will meet in the new year to discuss the Parking Regulation Review.

Cllr Davis asked about the change to planning call ins and was assured that any City Councillor could call in an application if the parish council requested it and there were planning reasons to do so. Cllr White suggested it would have been better to give training to the parish council members that didn't have the knowledge to respond correctly to planning applications rather than penalising everyone else. Cllr Howes told members that he was on the committee where this decision would be ratified which would be held on Thursday at 2pm, he was happy to pass on any concerns the parish had, so please contact him before then. It was also hoped that public meetings could be held by city councillors to enable residents to air their views and concerns.

199/20 Clerk's Report/Correspondence. Report from Assistant clerk.

Well it has been a bit hectic the last couple of weeks, newsletters to distribute, many thanks to Cllr Davis for getting the newsletter to printers and to Cllr Harvey for collecting them. There was a problem with the shed at the mill, we could not get in, lots of spraying with WD 40 and eventually got the lock to work.

The new notices regarding Covid and social distancing etc are being put up and if anyone has any suggestions as to where we can put them please let us know, thanks to Mandy and Roger who have put some up. They are also in Cherry Orchard, the Community Park and near the shops in Hawe Farm.

The repairs to the fencing in the MUGA have now been done. A message was received to say the post with the Broomfield sign near the pond had snapped and was on the ground, Cllrs Harvey and Sargent went to look but couldn't move it, Trevor Wain was contacted and he agreed to move it and get a new post in so the sign could go back up, in consultation with Cllr Blatherwick he was asked to go ahead, and the sign is now back in its place. The seat at the community park which had a large wooden top, needs repairing, the top has been stolen and Trevor Wain has quoted £200 to replace it in oak. He also suggested making a new planter at the pond as the one that is there is rotting, I will ask for a price for that. Cllr Harvey has looked at the post with the Herne sign on at Curtis Wood Park and thinks that post is rotting and needs replacing! The pedestrian gate at the entrance to the community park was off its hinges and I managed to get it back on, someone had tried to remove one of the Covid advisory notices, so that has been replaced.

The safety inspections on the play and fitness equipment has been booked.

The planning meeting scheduled for 6th October had to be cancelled as CCC Planning portal was unavailable as it was having maintenance work on it. The meeting is rescheduled for 13th October.

We are trying to get a TPO on the tree on the land corner of Hunters Forstal Road and Arden Road. This is the area of land that has a planning application on it and is now up for sale at auction! Thanks to Cllr Davis for contacting CCC planning.

The consultation on the governments Planning proposals has been submitted, it was not possible to save it or print it off, but Cllr Blatherwick was able to access it on line and made a few amendments before it was submitted.

The new barrier for outside the main entrance to the Centre will hopefully be fitted next week and we are waiting for Conor to confirm when he can fit the posts at the entrance to the Centre car park.

We have had some computer issues in the office this week which has been stressful. The Poppy Wreath has been ordered for Remembrance Day.

There was a Governance meeting on Wednesday 7th October at CCC where it was discussed that parish councils will no longer be able to call in planning applications to go to committee, the parish council had raised objections to this with Ben Fitter Harding and Anne Dekker but they are looking at streamlining the system. They also want to stop the Forum meetings.

The response from Ben *'The proposal is absolutely not to stop Parish Council's from calling in planning applications. It is only to ensure that Ward Councillors, as the elected representatives of the Planning Authority, are involved in planning matters as early as possible.'*

Early involvement of ward councillors helps ensure that appropriate mediation, conditions and S106 agreements are included in planning applications before they get to committee. Without this, it is often too late to secure the best outcomes at committee itself, which can be counterproductive for everyone concerned.

All councillors can call in, not just the ward councillors elected in your Parish, however if you do have issues with any of your ward councillors I would be glad to help you with these as a close working relationship between Parish and District is absolutely fundamental.

I hope that as a statutory consultee you will continue to diligently and professionally consider planning applications within the parish area and involve ward councillors at the earliest possible stage.'

Separate report provided on the Governance meeting.

Assistant clerk's report

1. Website.

- I met with Cllr Saunders to see if he would be able to take over updating the website. I gave him a preview of the back end of the website and how to set up a post.
- Set up Cllr Saunders as an Editor and given him the Eyelid Training log-in details.
- Cllr Saunders has looked at some of the training videos and thinks he will be able to do this.
- Another meeting to be arranged for us to work on the website together.

2. Webinars attended and booked.

- SLCC An Introduction to the Planning System on 7th September 2020.
- SLCC Preparing to Meet Website Accessibility Guidelines on 9th and 11th September 2020.
- SLCC Making Accessible Excel Documents on 15th September 2020.

Reports circulated prior to meeting.

- SLCC Rights of Way on 24th September 2020.

Report for next meeting.

3. CiLCA.

- I attended the first virtual session on 22nd September 2020. This outlined what is involved in studying for the CiLCA, and covered Unit 1.
- It is recommended that you attend the first session before registering for the CiLCA, which I have now done. Unfortunately, SLCC send out the

log in details for the portal via which work is submitted every two months. The next date is 1st December 2020. However, I can continue with the virtual sessions and have my work reviewed by the presenters for comment.

- The next session is on 21st October 2020

200/20 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting. No payments made.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. Circulated prior to meeting. All payments on the schedule were approved.

The clerk went through the reserves.

To report on income received. Planter advertising £250, Interest £6.44, 100 club £24
Total £280.44

To receive minutes of the Finance meeting held on 24th September. The minutes were accepted. The clerk explained that there were some discussions on the budget at the meeting but as some of the figures weren't available at the time of the meeting there would be another finance meeting held late November to put together a draft budget for the December full council meeting.

201/20 Planning & Highways. To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September
This meeting did not take place 6th October 2020. Cllr Blatherwick spoke about the application on the area of land at the junction of Hunters Forstal Road and Arden Road, the planning committee had objected strongly to this application. The clerk updated members on the situation with Highways. They had issued a notice telling the owner of the land that the fencing had to be removed and he has been give 28 days to remove it.

202/20 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. To discuss tree and hedge planting.

Cllr Davis report

'I attended the virtual 3 ¼ hour Tree Warden Conference 'Taking Action for Healthy Trees' on Zoom on Saturday 26 September.

Cllr Debbie Checksfield emailed me about trees that had fallen down at Broomfield Pond. I contacted City Cllr Anne Dekker who spoke to Head of Facilities and Serco were being approached to clear the tree. The Lead Officer reckons (CCC) do not own the pond/land etc. Anne stated that was for a different discussion and that this needed tidying up asap. Thank you Anne.

For new Members information, CCC do not own the pond and its surround. It is Common Land so comes under KCC but CCC manage it apart from the little bit of land the Friends of the Pond own. I have the ownership documentation, etc.

City Council officers should be aware as we have already had this conversation with them many years ago. (Aiden Potts, Rosemary Selling, Anna Stephens and others). CCC started a management plan for Broomfield Pond, as well as Curtis Wood Park and only ever did the later. I still have the draft.

A couple of days ago I contacted Cllr Anne Dekker and Canterbury Planning to request a TPO on a birth tree on the corner of Arden Road and Hunters Forstal Road, which we believe maybe under threat.

I am liaising with Cllr Julia Davison about volunteer work at Gold Spots pond at Curtis Wood Park.

Cllr White reminded members that there were free trees available and she hoped that 30 could be planted, possibly at the Community Park, it was agreed that Cllr White would lead on this. The willow trees that had come down in the winds at Broomfield Pond were still there Serco had said they weren't close enough to the road for them to be removed. City Cllr Dekker will investigate.

203/20 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.
None. Cllr White explained that she had missed the training session on Sustainable Communities due to her internet connection.

204/20 To discuss a councillor doing a video to put on website and Facebook and PC's Communication Strategy. The clerk had circulated the power point presentation of the training that she had attended concerning engaging with residents. One of the

things suggested was that a councillor should do a short video that could then be put online. Just a bit of background for them, why they wanted to be a councillor and what they hoped to achieve, that type of thing. It was agreed that Cllr Davis will do the first video and then those councillors that are comfortable with doing a video will take it in turns.

- 205/20 To discuss suggestions for a Community Christmas for residents.** Cllr Cheeseman had asked for this to go on the agenda but unfortunately couldn't make the meeting, Cllr Blatherwick said the idea was to get residents to put up lights to cheer up the area for Christmas. There was also a suggestion that an article could go in the next newsletter asking people to pay a visit to their neighbour, especially if they live alone, a 'cheer your neighbour up for Christmas'
- 206/20 Report on Local Plan Conference re Town Centres (Circulated prior to meeting)** The clerk had attended this meeting and there were a lot of suggestions as to how Herne Bay could encourage more people into the town. There will be other opportunities for everyone to put forward ideas as there will be more consultation.
- 207/20 To appoint two councillors to help update policies.** Cllr Checksfield offered to help Michele with these, Cllr Davis said she would also be happy to look them over before they reached full council.
- 208/20 To receive minutes from the Community Centre meeting held on 1st October and discuss and approve the new contract for the Community Centre as proposed.** Members accepted the minutes of the meeting. Michele explained the changes to the contract, which had been made to ensure it was more straightforward and hopefully when the Centre is up and running again will increase the income and the parish council share.
- 209/20 Members Reports.** Cllrs Checksfield and Strong both said they enjoyed the Dynamic Councillor Workshop, it was very informative. Cllr Strong reported that hopefully the Allotment Committee would be able to have an AGM soon. There is a Community Group Plot available at the moment.
- 210/20 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 12th November 2020.**

Meeting closed 9.50pm