

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 April 2021 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business. The meeting was held via Zoom.

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

Not present: Cllr Davison, Cllr Strong and Cllr Cheeseman.

- 59/21 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr Cheeseman did not think he would be back in time but if he is he will join the meeting. Cllr Davison has sent apologies her husband is unwell.
- 60/21 To receive declarations of interest on items on the Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None.
- 61/21 The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2021, were agreed as correct after a typo was corrected.**
- 62/21 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** The clerk reported that she has asked the KCC Waste Management Team about having Keep Clear or yellow hatchings at the entrance to the Community Park. The clerk is waiting to hear back regarding another quote for the shed. A bench has not been sourced yet. The fence alongside the entrance road at Community Park has been replaced by the landowner.

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

No residents spoke

Draw for 100 Club

1st 10 2nd 2

- 63/21 Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick reported that County Cllr Marsh would not be joining the meeting due to Purdah. She reminded members that the Annual Parish Meeting was being held via Zoom on 15th April and she hoped as many members as possible would attend. She also reminded members the next council meeting would be the Annual Parish Council meeting and she was standing down as chair. The clerk will be in touch regarding the committee make up before the meeting.

- 64/21 Police Matters/Crime report. PCSO Thomas Ralph gave the report.**

Crimes of note

- Criminal Damage- Hoopers Lane- Afternoon- 02/03/2021
- Vehicle Theft- Curtis Wood Park Road- Night-time- 04/03/2021
- Criminal Damage- Canterbury Road- Morning- 05/03/2021

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note

- Bad Driving- Canterbury Road- 05/03/2021
- Covid Breach- School Lane- 13/03/2021
- Covid Breach- School Lane- 14/03/2021
- Bad Driving- A2990- 16/03/2021
- Bad Driving- Canterbury Road- 19/03/2021
- Nuisance Youths- Pond Cottages- 20/03/2021
- Bad Driving- A2990- 20/03/2021
- Covid Breach- Canterbury Road- 21/03/2021

- Nuisance Youths- Parkland Road- 30/03/2021

*Covid Breach is a report of a person or group not following Government guidelines

Items of good work

Continuous high visibility patrolling using car, bike and on foot

Keeping in contact with residents to provide reassurance and support

Updates of previous reported issues

Will be providing patrols of Cherry Orchards after reports of vandalism.

65/21 Warden's Report. (Circulated) Mandy did a brief overview of her report. Mandy reported that she and Roger continue with welfare visits and referrals in our areas.

There have been ongoing issues with graffiti around the area but it has got worse recently, predominantly at Cherry Orchard. She has been liaising with Canterbury City Council regarding its removal but also with the Enforcement team to step up patrols in the area. Mandy has been in contact with PCSO Tom about getting together to discuss the issue and to see if he is able to have a walk about during evenings and weekends when he is on shift and presumably when the majority of this is happening. She has forwarded details of the Canterbury City Council Graffiti tool kit to the Parish Clerk and Carol to be able to share for people who want some advice on the correct way of reporting graffiti and clever ways of preventing it. She will also send an article for the next Parish newsletter highlighting the issue and informing people how to report it correctly. She is encouraging people to report it directly with photos as opposed to sending emails to the Parish Council and herself, as it is by far the fastest way of getting it cleaned up. She noted that some long-term graffiti that was on the wall of the changing rooms has now been removed but there is more on the doors that has been reported and discussed at various meetings with CCC. Roger is the Graffiti officer for the Canterbury Team so any specific queries can be directed to him. Mandy also did a patrol with 2 of the local PCSOs around that area and they photographed the graffiti and recognised one of the tags.

Mandy and Roger did a litter pick at the ditch area and along the road in Lower Herne Road and on the way back to Herne Centre across Cherry Orchard and collected 2 full CCC bags.

The Canterbury Coastal team continue to have a monthly article in the Net magazine, and Herne Bay Community Mag, copies of these can be forwarded for anyone who has not had a chance to see any of them. They have been discussing mental health, coming out of lockdown, road safety and advise on how to set up online groups via zoom.

The Rural Kent Pop up info Café will be returning to Broomfield all being well this summer and will be in the garden area of Broomfield surgery 10.30-12.30 on the following dates- - 01.06.21, 29.06.21, 27.07.21, 24.08.21, 21.09.21. They come along with a coffee caravan and set up with gazebos and comfortable chairs and supply refreshments and home-made cake free of charge or for donations. They also have a display containing relevant useful information for the local community and invited guests come along from time to time to join the group for a cuppa, such as Kent Fire and Rescue, Canterbury City Councillors, PCSOs, Age UK etc. This will be a really positive thing for the Community and will hopefully help people who have been feeling socially isolated and anxious to feel confident about coming out for some socialising in a Covid safe way. Patients, staff and visitors to the surgery will be encouraged to pop for a cuppa before they leave too. This will be publicised in the Parish magazine, Community Mag and through contacts.

Mandy was asked if a Litter Pick could be arranged for the village, Mandy explained that while Covid restrictions were in place that would not be possible but she and Roger will try to get up to Busheyfields Road and litter pick.

66/21 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. No report from County Cllr Marsh.

City Cllr Dekker reported that it was year end at City Council and the committees had been tying up loose ends. She reported on the JTB meeting where the only proposal for yellow lines which had received objections was Ridgeway Road. The outcome was for a yellow line in a couple of places and these would have time restrictions on them, she also said only one resident had contacted her directly prior to the meeting. The Community Committee had agreed the Public Protection Orders. She spoke about Canenco, while the initial response had not been good it was hoped things had improved, but she asked that any issues be reported either on line or to her or the Director of Canenco. She reported that at last she had been successful in getting all the advertising hoardings at the Links removed. After 64 days Serco had at last cleared about 95% of the fly tipping in Bullockstone Road and they have been asked to keep an eye on it and clear away any new fly tipping as quickly as possible. She reported that enforcement action had been taken at Selwood Cottage where work carried out did not conform to the planning consent, the work has been re-done and complies to the consent given. She had been contacted by a resident in the Meadows about a council van that was parking up at weekends, often with a full load which was smelly. The matter has been dealt with and the van is no longer being parked there. Groups can apply for Opportunity Funding to contribute to a community-based project. There have been issues in Cherry Orchard with nuisance youths. The emergency number advertised was incorrect and this has now been changed.

City Cllr Howes reported that fly tipping on private land was difficult to deal with as there were often ownership issues. Planning had been granted for one application on the Hillborough site, close to Osbourne Gardens. He and Cllr Dekker would have a meeting with Steve Musk to discuss the Herne Relief Road. They will keep the parish council in the loop. There is a link available on CCC Planning website which will notify parishes of changes to planning applications.

Cllr Davis thanked the ward councillors for getting the fallen tree at the pond cut up and she asked if the logs could be removed, Cllr Dekker confirmed they could. Cllr Harvey asked about the reduced amount for the Opportunities Fund, Cllr Dekker confirmed it had been reduced by 80%.

67/21 Clerk's Reports/Correspondence. Report from Assistant clerk. Circulated prior to meeting.

No report from Michele as she is on annual leave.

The Annual Parish meeting is being held on 15th April and all members will receive an invite. This meeting is called by the chairman of the council, not the clerk which is usually the case. Organisations have been invited to attend and some have responded to say they will. No tea/coffee etc at the start and no presentation this year.

There have been two nominations for the award and perhaps members would consider two awards this year, as we didn't have an annual meeting last year. Suggestions for gifts would be appreciated. The two nominations are Michelle Kerly for all her work during lockdown with organising a Halloween Trail etc and Robert Riley for all his efforts rubbish collecting in Margate Road, he has collected almost 100 sacks to date.

A presentation has been organised on 13th April at 7.30pm covering affordable housing and cohousing, which is aimed at older residents, all members will be sent an invitation to attend.

The clerk thanked Cllr Davis for getting the Spring Newsletter to the printers and to Cllr Harvey for collecting from the printers and of course all of the volunteers who have delivered them.

It was sad that on contacting some of the volunteers, one of them had passed away and one had lost her husband, neither Covid related.

The clerk reported that she had attended the funeral of Doug Hobbs on Tuesday.

68/21 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. Members approved payments. The clerk went through the figures for the reserves.

To report on income received. Herne Centre £1,215.63, Grants £4,043, 100 club £96 Total £5,354.63

69/21 Planning & Highways. To receive minutes of meeting held on 18th March 2021. Cllr Blatherwick reported that there had been members of the public at the meeting most were concerned with the proposed dwellings adjacent to the Huntsman & Horn, the planning committee decided to object to this application.

70/21 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report. Cllr White reported that the new hedge was being watered regularly and some clearance of bramble had been done with the help of socially distanced volunteers. Eco guards had been put round some of the holly trees. There had been a query from a resident as to what was happening regarding the coppicing in East Blean Woods, as there seemed to be a large amount carried out. KWT reported that they were catching up on the last 3 years. It appears a mature Hornbeam and Oak have been removed, this had been queried but no response has been received to date. Cllr Davis reported that the Hornbeam were surveyed for the Ancient Tree Survey and marked an historic boundary. She also said she was very distressed by the clearance in West Blean Woods, which had ruined some areas. Cllr White reported she had attended a Pollination webinar Wildlife Corridors. Cllr Harvey has been helping with the watering of the hedge and he reported that 80% of our energy, across the country is from renewables. KCC are running a project to promote Electric vans for business, you can sign up and get an electric van for two months for free. Cllr Sargent asked if it would be easier to have a soaker hose for watering, the cost of this would be looked at. Mulching would also help reduce the amount of water being used.

71/21 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations. None.

72/21 Report on Community Centre Committee meeting, and discuss any matters arising from meeting. Presented at the last meeting.

73/21 To discuss Little Acorns

The clerk reported that she had received an email from Little Acorns which had been circulated, there hasn't been any information about grants applied for although this has been requested and the clerk has sent information re business grants from CCC. *'We have managed to remain open throughout the Pandemic, but with only a handful of children taking up their place we have lost an average of £15k since March 2020.*

We have remained open and safe largely down to the fact that we have operated outside only. We are now convinced that this is the way forward and are currently working hard on making the garden a full outdoor classroom for the children.

County Councillor Alan Marsh has provided a small grant for some sheds that we are painting as beach huts and awaiting some artificial grass to allow the children all year-round access to the garden.

We are currently fundraising through our annual Bunny Bounce and hope parents will be as generous as possible, this money will be used towards the Artificial grass but will not cover the full cost.

Any support the Parish Council can offer would be greatly appreciated.'

Members didn't feel they could help financially at this time but would be willing to help them apply for grants.

74/21 Update on parking issues at Goldfinch Farm

The clerk reported that she had spoken to Vanessa from the Nursery and she explained that things with regard to the parking, had been a bit difficult as rather than car sharing parents were dropping off etc in their own vehicles. As this was happening there were more cars coming and going and rather than them parking on the triangle they considered it would be better if they parked their own vehicles on the green as there would be less car movements. Warden Mandy had also spoken to them and asked them not to park close to the junction. The clerk was asked to find out if there was anything Highways could do to stop the parking on the triangle.

75/21 To discuss the issue of Face to Face meetings from May. The clerk reminded members that face to face meetings will be resuming from 8th May, unless the government decides to change the rules! If we continue with remote meetings, they will be illegal. The ruling for groups inside buildings does not really lend itself to formal meetings, the clerk suggested that perhaps the way forward for the May meeting might be to bring the date forward a week to 6th May, this will clash with the elections but if the meeting is held remotely, it should not impact on too many people. Members agreed to this change of date.

76/21 To approve the updates to Standing Orders, the update for the staffing section has been circulated. It was agreed that the wording should be gender neutral and Cllr Davis asked for the wording of (b) to be reworded as it didn't make sense. Members approved the changes.

77/21 To discuss providing a litter trolley to a volunteer. Details of a trolley have been circulated. Cost between £125 - £135 with a possible council discount. After some discussion, it was agreed to purchase one and see how it fared.

78/21 Report from Climate Change Group. Cllr Davis reported that tasks were given out at the last meeting and the group was gathering information.

79/21 To discuss a legal issue, if information is available. (Closed Session) 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. No further information has been received.

80/21 Members Reports. Cllr Hill reported that she and some volunteers had carried out some clearing at the flower bed in the village.

Cllrs Davis and Wilson have both attended a Crisis Communications for Local Councils webinar, and Cllr Davis has also attended Developing a Communications Strategy. The parish council will need a strategy and a policy later in the year. Cllr Sargent will collect the new trailer and take it to Cllr Davis on 18th April. Cllr Davis thanked Cllr Blatherwick for all her hard work while she was chairman of the council.

81/21 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 6th May 2021, this will be the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed 9.40pm