

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 11th February 2021 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

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

Not present: Cllr Hill, Cllr Saunders

- 19/21 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** Cllr Hill who is visiting her mother and Cllr Saunders who is at his father in laws house waiting for a plumber to sort heating out so that he can come home from hospital. Members approved the reasons.
- 20/21 To receive declarations of interest on items on the Agenda and requests for dispensations.** Cllr Cheeseman 33/21
- 21/21 The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2021** were agreed as a correct record.
- 22/21 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** None

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

No one asked to speak.

Draw for 100 Club.

No 6 1st, 10 2nd

- 23/21 Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick thanked Cllrs White, Davis, Davison and Checksfield for carrying out the tree planting and the member of the public who had gritted the footpath by the school. Cllr Blatherwick had received a letter from a resident requesting all sorts of traffic calming in Herne, she had referred the resident to County Cllr Marsh. She also informed members that the husband of a former parish councillor had recently passed away.
- 24/21 Police Matters/Crime report.** Report from PCSO Thomas Ralph
- Crimes of Note**

- Disturbance- Shouting and swearing- Lower Herne Road- Morning- 10/01/2021
- Disturbance- Screaming and shouting- Canterbury Road- Morning 12/01//2021.
- Disturbance- Yelling and arguing- Partridge Close- Morning- 16/01/2021
- Burglary- Nothing taken- The links- Early morning- 18/01/2021.
- Dangerous driving- Streetfield- 01/01/2021
- Suspicious Event- Possible drug use- Cooper Drive- 10/01/2021
- Covid Breach- Bushyfield Road- 17/01/2021
- Covid Breach- Honeysuckle Way- 17/01/2021
- Possible Drug Use- Windmill Road- 18/01/2021
- Bad Driving- A2990- Section 59 warning given- 28/01/2021.
- Nuisance vehicle- Ford Road- 31/01/2021

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.

Warnings have been given to drivers around Anti-social use of vehicles.

Anti-social behaviour preventing patrols on evenings and weekends.

Updates previous reported issues.

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25/21 Warden's Report.

Mandy and Roger continue to do welfare visits and referrals as required and checking on local residents from time to time with a knock on the door and a wave from the path.

There have been ongoing issues with the area next to Albert Hugo Friday Bridge (over the railway) behind Table Table. Mandy photographed the litter and has worked with one of the Canterbury City Council Streetscene Enforcement Officers to track down who is responsible; to ensure it is cleared of litter and fly tipping (Serco could not help because it was private land). The owners were found and have assured us that they will be removing the rubbish, fixing the wire fencing and have asked a security firm to oversee that area and report any problems. They confirmed that the scrap cars that are there, do have permission for storage only. Roger has been facilitating a Zoom art group with Mandy's assistance each week on a Friday which has been going well. This initial 6-week period is a pilot and will hopefully continue. It is based on the Grayson Perry Art Club Channel 4 programme where members of the public are invited to submit work each week based on themes. This has really helped to alleviate social isolation for its participants and encourage them to look at new artists and try new things. At the end of the Pilot there may be an opportunity to publicise it and get more attendees.

There have been minor issues regarding parking and cars parked on property and Mandy has been liaising with the PCSO, Parking Enforcement and Streetscene to monitor the situation and report any issues.

They are currently splitting their time between Warden and Connector work and from time to time work out of the Herne Centre, the Windmill or off area via email and phone depended on what is needed. They may not be as visible now, they have been advised during the current lockdown to not be out and about too much unless needed, although they do still check key areas from time to time and do car patrols as opposed to always be on foot.

Roger now attends regular meetings with CCC regarding graffiti in the Canterbury areas and feeds back to the team and acts as liaison with the Council.

The Canterbury Coastal Team, Mandy, Charlotte, and Roger appear in the Net Magazine and Herne Bay Community Magazine, this month with advice on where

to get support, road safety advice and information and a report on the Zoom Art group. During the ongoing lockdown, Mandy is looking at all avenues for engaging with the community, this has been a good tool to do that to a wider audience. She has been writing a full-page article each month, the last one covered the Christmas float, the Thank you bags and Christmas Hampers.

26/21

To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh reported that he had spent the day in meetings dealing with the budget. Kent County Council (KCC) will have an increase of 1.99% plus an increase of 3%, so an overall increase of 4.99%. £500M has been allocated to Adult Social Care. Cllr Marsh had wanted the members grant increased, but this was not agreed, and the allowance will remain at £10,000 to spend after the 8th of May. Cllr Marsh told members that Little Acorns Pre-School needed support. Enough funding had been secured to ensure that the community wardens would not be lost, however there will not be any more recruited. The government has announced a £10M Package Helping Hand Scheme to identify and help those that are struggling. Details can be obtained from scarlet.elworthy@kent.gov.uk or 03000 411873, emergency funding for any vulnerable families etc. The forecast is that it will get warmer and that means snow melt and a lot of surface water. Cllr Davis asked about the PRow from Ridgeway Road to the school and the amount of water run-off over the footpath, Alan said PRow had a 3-year backlog and it was the landowner's responsibility to ensure the runoff doesn't inhibit or cause injury. He suggested talking to Amanda Sparkes who has dealt with a similar issue at Fordwich. Cllr Blatherwick pointed out some of the water was coming from the school field and this path was the prime access to the school. Cllr Marsh also said he had spoken to the resident who was requesting traffic calming. He had successfully got two 20MPH zones in Sturry and Canterbury. He looked forward to hearing suggestions from the parish on what improvements regarding highways they would like to see.

City Cllr Dekker reported that she had attended several Local Plan meetings and parish engagement meetings. There is a draft budget, this has not been an easy decision but CCC has tried to be fair across the board.

Planning are on track to catch up with outstanding applications by March. There were applications for Sturry and Broad Oak which were passed at the last planning meeting; these were controversial but there were no valid planning reasons for refusal and both sites were in the Local Plan. Cllr Dekker told members there had been some very unpleasant postings on social media and it was unacceptable for members to be subject to this type of abuse, which were vitriolic and abrasive. Councillors are human beings and from time to time there will be mistakes and not always make the right decisions, but they do have to follow the legal definitions. Members welcome hearing opinions and debate which must be balanced with legality, tolerance and understanding. Residents will receive notification regarding paying for their green bins, in the next week.

Cllr Dekker reported attending Holocaust Memorial Day centred, this year, in Ramsgate. Followed by interfaith discussion – very, very interesting and well-presented event.

Also attended the Canterbury Inspirational Woman of the Year.

Announcement/Presentation of 'winner' in June.

Cllr Dekker and 2 others, have been asked to scrutinise and decide on a winner by April/May. It is being sponsored by Canterbury SI (Sorooptimists International). She had responded to some emails regarding Broomfield Pond and had also attended a RSPB presentation which she said was excellent they talked about the £1.1M Green fund project and the slides are available. Cllr Blatherwick asked if the solar farm were to be removed for the development in Broad Oak, Cllr Dekker said she did not think so but would check.

City Cllr Howes reported that the climate change video will be shown to the next parish meeting, Dan Watkins is the officer dealing with climate change.

He reported that the planning application for Busheyfields Road had been passed despite the office recommending refusal, however the sign for Herne Place, which the parish council raised concerns about, was passed after Highways giving approval. There have been some issues with the bin collections which is an unfortunate start, and the weather hasn't helped as the vehicles were unable to go out, they are now playing catchup.

27/21 Clerk's Reports/Correspondence.

The Centre has been busy with Covid testing with good numbers attending. There have been a few maintenance issues that have been dealt with some lights not working, monodraught leaking when it froze, and the urinals blocking. Dale Foley (West Faversham Community Association) has sorted these issues.

Reports regarding empty salt bins which have been reported to KCC Highways.

There have been various meetings and training sessions, etc., Members have received a report on Canterbury City Council Engagement meeting, Society Local Council Clerks meeting, webinar Engaging for the Future by Common Place and Community Engagement by Rural Kent.

Sacks have now been ordered from CCC for litter picking and the clerk has ordered 6 new litter pickers from Amazon.

The clerk thanked Dan, our Highways steward, for getting grit bins refilled and for making a sign to go at the entrance of St Martins View to stop cars, attending the centre, from driving up there.

The government is reviewing parliamentary constituencies, this is done by 4 judges and independent bodies, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales are all covered.

Reviews can take place every 8 years. This process should have started in January this year, but the clerk wasn't sure whether it had or not. The process will determine how many electors will be in each constituency and their new boundaries. New electoral maps will be produced and will be subject to extensive scrutiny, each undergoing 3 separate periods of consultation, members of the local communities can submit written suggestions for consideration and attend public hearings. Final reports will go to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1st July 2023.

The clerk congratulated Assistant Clerk, Michele Nicholson, on passing her first module, Certificate in Local Council Administration, (**CiLCA**), with flying colours.

The clerk spoke about the recent You Tube footage regarding Handforth parish council. This meeting was treated as a joke, and this has done nothing for the sector, as it is now a laughingstock. The actions taken by the lady clerking the meeting were illegal, it is up to the chair to keep order in a meeting and if all else fails the meeting can be closed. No matter how tempting it is, no councillor should

be put in the waiting room, unless they need to legally leave the meeting due to them having made a declaration of interest. It should be remembered that even though meetings are on Zoom, the same protocols and procedures that apply to normal meetings, also apply to Zoom meetings.

The clerk has received various emails received regarding grit bins that need filling, overflowing dog and waste bins, all have been reported. There have also been a couple of queries about water run-off from fields.

Assistant clerk's report

1. CiLCA.

- The Assistant Clerk attended the fifth virtual session on 9th February 2021. This was the last session and was a chance to raise questions and get advice.
- She completed and submitted Unit 1 – Core Roles, which has been marked and passed. She received some very positive feedback.
- She is halfway through completing Unit 2 - Law and Procedures.

2. Policies.

- The Assistant Clerk, and Cllrs Davis and Checksfield have been reviewing policies. Some of these should be ready for approval at the next council meeting.
- The Assistant Clerk is trying to get the policies into a cycle, so that they are reviewed every two years. This should equate to at least two policies being presented for approval at every council meeting. This will ensure that they are kept up to date.

3. Training and webinars.

- It has been a busy month for booking webinars and bitesize courses for councillors.
- With the Clerk attended the SLCC branch meeting on 28th January 2021. We had a very interesting presentation on event management.
- With the Clerk attended the Rural Kent Community Engagement in Covid Times webinar on 22nd January.
- With Cllr Harvey attended the Kent Community Housing Hub webinar on Creating Sustainable Housing on 5th February 2021. Report circulated.

The Assistant Clerk completed the bitesize course on Leadership. Report circulated.

28/21 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. The clerk asked members if they wished to make the donation to Kent Air Ambulance up to £100, this was agreed all other payments on the schedule were approved. The clerk went through the figures on the bank reconciliation.

To report on income received. VAT refund £696.62, adverts £380, Centre Income £928.74, 100 club £12 Total £2,017.36

29/21 Planning & Highways. Highways have removed the fence on the land at the corner of Arden Road, the next planning meeting will be on 18th February.

30/21 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllrs White & Davis have, with some welcome help from Cllrs Davison & Checksfield planted over 400 trees at the Community Park. Only 200 to go! These trees are currently heeled in at the tree nursery. Once the snow has cleared, we will carry on planting.

We have signed up for a couple of Tree warden Zoom meetings – Recording trees on Treezilla, calculating eco-benefits and A Volunteer Tree Warden's role in retaining trees and supporting survival of new trees in a new housing development. Cllr White is also doing the four-week course Designing the future with trees with London College of Garden Design. Each session is £6.

Cllr White reported that there had been good support from the residents, and it was a shame that they were unable to help due to lockdown. There are 210 left to plant.

Cllr Checksfield told members that no task days had taken place due to the lockdown and as soon as was possible dates will be announced she hoped that Serco would remove the tree that was down. The clerk said city Cllr Dekker was trying to help with that issue.

31/21 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

Cllr White attended KALC AGM, she told members that Barbara Flack had stood down as she felt there was a conflict of interest. The clerk said she would circulate the meeting minutes when she received them.

32/21 Report on Environment & Leisure Committee meeting, to discuss

recommendations and any other matters arising from meeting. There were a couple of items discussed from the meeting, the bench that had been suggested was a multi coloured one, but some members felt it was too bright and though a normal coloured one would be better, with perhaps a rainbow plaque, some councillors felt it would be better to have an inscription engraved into the plastic, the clerk will investigate and ask for quotes and report back. A quote would also be needed for fixing.

The other issue was a replacement trailer for the Christmas float, the clerk had spoken with the person recommended by Cllr Sargent and he had a second-hand one which was a slightly different size 12 x 5, Cllr Sargent said that would be fine, the price quoted was considered very reasonable if the condition was good, the clerk reported the electrics were being replaced and the brakes tyres etc were all good. It was agreed that Cllr Sargent would look and report back. The clerk said that there was someone else who had first refusal so that needed to be considered. The storage issue was discussed, and Cllr Davis was asked to see if the current storage was going to be available and to ask if we could have a concrete area, where the trailer could be chained as additional security. Cllr Davis said that the trailer could go to her house for the work to be carried out. Ideally undercover storage would be ideal, but none has been found to date.

Cllr White asked members to pass on any thoughts they had re climate change to the working group.

33/21 Request from Cllr Wilson to replace some posts on the grass area at the bottom of

Albion Lane, to stop grass being eroded. The area of land is owned by Highways so permission would be needed, it was suggested that perhaps the planting of shrubs might be better than inserting posts, the area needs looking after. Cllr Davison

thought it would be good to have wildflowers growing on verges as some areas have started to do. The clerk will speak to the highways steward to get his thoughts.

- 34/21** **To discuss a legal issue (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.** Members had already been informed that the Council has received proceedings issued by Ms Huggan in respect of her former occupancy of an allotment plot. The matter was discussed in detail and the clerk reported that legal advice had been sought and the action advised has been taken, members approved the expenditure agreed with the solicitor, and an additional £500 in case action needs to take quickly as was the case this time. A total of £1,000. The clerk will report back on what further action may be required.

35/21 **Members Reports**

Cllr Cheeseman congratulated the councillors involved with the planting at the Community Park.

Cllr Davis reported she had attended on-line training events 'Using Facebook to enhance your Council's Communications' and along with Cllrs White and Wilson, a session on 'Getting in Front of the Camera'.

Cllr Checksfield has attended on-line training Health and Safety Essentials. and also completed 'Dynamic councillor' workshop.

Cllr Davison reported litter in the School Lane Car Park, the clerk has already reported this to CCC. The builders at the dentist were leaving rubbish by the bus stop, Cllr Davison will call in and speak to them.

Cllr Harvey reported the grit bin near the Plough was nearly empty, he had spread it on the roundabout, he said he was disappointed that CCC were not renewing the lease of Beach Creative.

Cllr Collins had attended a webinar on Health & Safety

- 36/21** **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 11th March 2021.**

Meeting closed 9.50pm