

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 March 2021 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 Sargent, Cllr Hill, Cllr Collins, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Davison, Cllr Strong, Cllr Wilson and Cllr White.

Not Present: None

- 37/21 **To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.** None
- 38/21 **To receive declarations of interest on items on the Agenda and requests for dispensations.** None
- 39/21 **The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2021, were agreed as a correct record.**
- 40/21 **To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.** The clerk reported that she hadn't spoken to the highways officer regarding the area at the bottom of Albion Lane and she also reported that she hadn't taken the purchase of the bench any further at the moment.

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

Draw for 100 Club

1st 57, 2nd 3

- 41/21 **Chairman's Announcements.** Cllr Blatherwick reported that sadly Doug Hobbs had passed away, he was the husband of Pam who was a councillor for many years and he regularly helped at events and was a Friend of the Ponds, he will be greatly missed. Ann sent condolences to his family on behalf of the parish council. She also thanked all those that had helped with the planting at the Community Park.

- 42/21 **Police Matters/Crime report. Circulated.**
Crimes of Note

Burglary of a shed- Partridge Close- Afternoon- 05/02/2021

Vehicle Crime- Tyres slashed- Canterbury Road- Morning- 15/02/2021

Theft of clothes- Margate Road- Evening- 25/02/2021

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note

Covid Breach*- Margate Road- 04/02/2021

Covid Breach*- Honeysuckle Way- 07/02/2021

Nuisance Youths- Kingsfield Road- 11/02/2021

Nuisance Youths- Lower Herne Road- 20/02/2021

Covid Breach*- Ford Road- 21/02/2021

Covid Breach*- Hillcroft Road- 27/02/2021

*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.

Patrols targeting covid breaches.

Keeping in contact with residents to reassure and support.

43/21 Warden's Report. (Circulated)

I continue to write monthly articles for the Net Magazine and Herne Bay Community Magazine and Canterbury Community magazine. This month's article concentrates on mental health coming out of the lockdown and offers advice and contacts for support. I now have monthly meetings with the KCC Comms team and Roger and Charlotte, the rest of Canterbury Coast team so we can co-ordinate relevant advice, links local info. This is a great opportunity to publicise things that will be happening locally hopefully later in the year also.

Roger's Zoom art group is still going strong and after the initial 6 weeks continues with another 6-week programme with weekly themes. I have been assisting with this with art advice and techniques, info about artists of interest and encouragement to be curious and experiment.

Roger and I attended the Church of England Synod meeting and had a chance to talk to the members and other stakeholders about the church and its relationship to the Community.

I attended Challenging Conversations training which was really useful. I am also undertaking ESTHER Coaching training (Philosophy of patient/person centred work) I have observed a build up of rubbish in the ditch opposite the triangle in Lower Herne Road so will do a litter pick there soon.

We are still doing ongoing welfare visits as and when needed and I have have reported various incidents or issues I have been made aware of to the Police and relevant authorities.

Roger is currently our point of contact regarding issues with Graffiti and attends virtual meetings with Canterbury City Council Graffiti Team and other agencies. I noticed that the graffiti I have reported repeatedly on the door and wall of the building on Cherry Orchard had still not been removed so spoke to a Serco staff member who was working on the pitch and asked him to chase the relevant parties.

I have a virtual online scams presentation booked on the 16th March for Herne Place and the local community. This will be the first virtual presentation that I have done and KCC are looking into the Community Wardens making short films and presentations that can be shared.

I have been approached by Rural Kent with regards to setting up a Covid safe pop up information café again later in the year in the grounds of Broomfield surgery. I am just waiting to get confirmation from the Surgery manager regarding this. They were there the summer before last and provided free refreshments and home-made cake to local residents and surgery users. Because they were not able to join us last summer, I worked with them instead to hand out monthly goody bags to local residents to help make them still feel connected.

44/21 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors. County Cllr Marsh reported that the planning application for the Sturry Relief Road had been refused, although he spoke on the application he did not vote. Whether KCC would be able to resolve this matter and retain the £5.9M funding that had been secured toward the £30M cost. Two large housing developments already have consent in the Sturry/Broad oak area. Cllr Blatherwick reported that she had been attending the Hillborough appeal and that S106 funding from this development was to go towards the Bullockstone Road Improvement scheme. She also informed County Cllr Marsh that she was currently looking at the reserved

matters for Strode Farm and that the parish council would be submitting a response.

City Cllr Dekker reported that Canterbury City Council had approved the budget and council tax bills had gone out. She spoke about the fact that housing developments had been approved and there were grave concerns as the Sturry by-pass had been refused, CCC were looking at the options and hopefully the application would be reviewed.

She reported she had attended engagement meetings but there have been comments that these are an extension of KALC meetings, comments from those attending are welcome. She also wished to know if residents of Herne & Broomfield would welcome a Herne & Broomfield forum or similar. She told members that there had been major issues regarding bins, she said there were no reasons or excuses the service has been pretty awful, it will improve but she didn't know how long it would take to get to that point. Any issues she would like to be contacted, missed bins can be reported to her as well as on line, address and post code, which bin.

She also reported that enforcement action was being taken at Selwood Cottage as the extensions had not been built to comply with the planning consent granted.

The applicant has been given until the end of March to build it to plan.

Enforcement and legal have been involved. She also spoke about the yellow lines that were proposed for Ridgeway Road, she herself had visited on a number of occasions and on one she couldn't get her car through. However due to the number of objections, some from people who didn't live in the area, the officer has recommended refusal. Herne Bay Coastal had a meeting to discuss future planning for Herne Bay, but this is in the distant future. Lastly, she had joined a conference for International Women's Day, the current buzz word is 'enabler'.

City Cllr Howes spoke on the phone mast application, he is still in discussions with the planner, there have been a lot of objections locally. If the officer proposes granting it will be called in. He said he was disappointed that Steve Musk hadn't notified the parish council regarding the reserve matter for the Strode Farm development. Cllr Blatherwick said it was very disappointing as this was a major development which would have a massive impact on the parish, and she was very angry that the parish council had not been notified. At the public Inquiry the Inspector made sure the parish council was kept informed and was included. She also said that having sat in on the appeal hearing for Hillborough that local people felt decisions were being made behind closed doors and it does not shed a good light on the City Council and is bringing the council into disrepute.

Joe said the members had a small pot of money for the Opportunities Fund and it was a maximum of £200 for local projects.

Cllr Harvey said he had many emails and calls which bring the council into disrepute due to the issues with the bins, development and increased parking charges in Canterbury also the reduction from 3 hours to 2 for disabled parking, as a result people will not go into the city. Cllr Howes said not all charges had gone up some had gone down, where there were air quality issues within the city walls charges had been increased. He also said the charges were not much different to other places, and the council needs the revenue due to the Covid pandemic. There will be changes in the City Centre, shopping habits have changed.

45/21 Clerk's Reports/Correspondence. Report from Assistant clerk. Circulated prior to meeting.

On-line sessions have been attended, Zoom training and parish council Engagement. The SLCC AGM is next week.

The clerk has been attending the Appeal Hearing on the Hillborough site, which is ongoing. Roger Gale spoke on the infrastructure he thought the S106 funding allocated to Herne should be spent on infrastructure at Hillborough, he said that he didn't think drivers would use a road through the estate and would continue to use Herne village.

The clerk had circulated an email received with regard to the increase in precept which members have all seen and to which she has responded. Michele and Carol have put an explanation on both web site and Face book. The clerk Congratulated Michele for submitting another module on Law & Procedures which was quite a lengthy module.

Assistant Clerk's report

1. CiLCA.

- The Assistant Clerk has completed and submitted Unit 2 – Law and Procedures. This is the longest of the units with 9 learning outcomes to be achieved.
- She has now started Unit 4 – Management.
- Unit 3 – Finance will be easier to complete once the Assistant Clerk is back in the office.

2. Policies.

- The Assistant Clerk has put together a risk assessment and procedures for litter picking in the parish. These will need to be signed by any volunteers wishing to do this.
- She is putting together the next batch of policies for review. These will be sent out to Cllrs Davis and Checksfield for them to go through.

3. Training and webinars.

- Attended Rural Kent's Kent Guide to Developing Homes in Rural Communities webinar. Report circulated.
- Will be attending some of the Hillborough Appeal. It will be useful to see how the appeal process works.

46/21 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 went through the payments these were approved. The explanation of the reserves held was also given by the clerk.

To report on income received. Newsletter advertising £720, Grants CCC £6,142.86 Total £6,864.62

To discuss a donation to Little Acorns. Request by County Cllr Marsh to help Little Acorns the clerk reported she had sent details of who to contact regarding funding to Michelle at Little Acorns, KCC and CCC, but no request for funding has been received from them to the parish council. The clerk reported she had contacted Little Acorns and given them details of where they can get funding, but she did not have any other details and had not received anything requesting help from the nursery. Cllr Hill said more information was needed. The clerk was asked to contact Little Acorns again to ask them to give more details of their current situation and who they had received from, who they had applied to for help etc.

47/21 Planning & Highways. To receive minutes of meeting held on 18th February 2021.

Cllr Blatherwick went through the applications, she spoke on Grove Farm House and

explained that as it was an application by a parish councillor, as they had with Cllr Harvey, it was decided it would not be appropriate to comment. However, she was disappointed that the discussions with officers regarding the access for this application and the location of the lagoon did not appear to have been passed on to the officer who had replaced them.

Cllr Blatherwick spoke about the appeal hearing and the sustainability and highways issues, that had been discussed. She thanked Cllr Hill for printing off copies of the application for Strode Farm. Cllr Blatherwick didn't like the spine road going through the centre of the development and the pollution levels that this would cause. She also said that the lack of Sturry by-pass would have a big impact on the traffic trying to access Canterbury.

48/21 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllrs Liz White & Carol Davis have now completed the hedge planting at Broomfield Community Park (575 trees). Helped by Cllrs Julia Davison & Debbie Checksfield. The remainder will remain in the tree nursery to be used as replacements for any that don't survive.

We are very grateful to Cllr Andy Harvey for sorting out the water hose, with the co-operation of the Allotment Society.

Cllrs Harvey, Checksfield, her husband Alan, Mark White and local resident Lee, were a great help by clearing a lot of the brambles (there is still a bit more to go, any offers of help welcome). Our efforts were reported in the Net Magazine and also in The Clerks & Council Direct magazine.

Cllrs White & Davis attended an on-line Tree Warden course on the 'Eco Benefits of Trees and the Treezilla App' on 18th Feb. and a course on 'Trees and Development' on 25th Feb. Both were interesting and informative.

Both attended, along with Cllr Julia Davison, a KALC course on 'Delivering the Green Agenda', (which included the need for more tree planting!) and focused on the Net Zero protocol and how to work out our carbon footprint.

Cllr White also did a four week course - Designing the future with Trees with London College of Garden Design which covered building resilience, bio security, biodiversity, and strategies for the effects of Climate Change.

To discuss the responsibility for Broomfield Pond. Cllr Davis explained that she had spoken with Cllr Checksfield as there only appears to be one trustee of Broomfield Pond left. She thought perhaps the parish council could be trustee. The clerk reported that she had checked with KALC as to whether the parish council could be a trustee and in return she got details for charities, she responded that the group were not a Charity and Clive then replied that pc should be very careful and gave an email address of a legal man that we could pay to get the information/advice if required. It was agreed the constitution needed to be looked at, there was only a small piece of land that was owned by the Friends, it was not the pond and larger area of land.

Cllr Davison did a Commonplace course..... She reported on strategies moving forward to tackle climate change. The Action Plan group had a meeting and were working on a response to CCC Climate Action Plan. They will look at EV points and the carbon footprint, in order to have an input into the Local Plan.

49/21 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations. None. Both Cllr White & Hill missed the KALC meeting, but the minutes have been circulated.

50/21 Report on Community Centre Committee meeting, and discuss any matters arising from meeting. Members had received the draft minutes the main discussion was regarding a new shed, the clerk will get other quotes these won't be

like for like as they are just likely to be mass produced sheds. It will give an idea of comparison costs.

51/21 To discuss access, litter and parking at the Community Park. Cllr Davis highlighted the issue of vehicles parking at the entrance to the Community Park which prevented access and also stopped people leaving if they had taken a vehicle into the car park as they had needed to when carrying out the planting. There was some discussion on opening the car park for people to have access but there were concerns regarding this with travellers and fly tipping. There was a suggestion that someone could be employed to unlock and lock the gates. This could be a possibility for the future. Hatching the area at the entrance would perhaps be a good start, the clerk will look into this. There needs to be a proper bin on the BMX track, there was a lot of litter, several residents are collecting litter as well as the clerk. Organising a litter pick has not been possible due to Covid. Cllr Blatherwick asked for ideas for next months meeting.

52/21 To discuss parking issues at Goldfinch Farm Parked cars on the road and by the triangle were causing visibility issues in that area. The likelihood is that they are staff for the logging business and possibly people visiting the Community Park. Community Warden Mandy will speak with them at the Nursery to try and resolve the issue. The clerk will speak to highways steward to see if there is anything that can be done from their side.

53/21 Report on meeting with Sarah Bingham re Community Fun Day

Michele and I had a Zoom meeting with Sarah Bingham to discuss the Community Fun Day. Preparations are going ahead as normal and if it is necessary to tweak the details nearer the time, then that is what we will do.

The application to use Cherry Orchard has been submitted to CCC, we don't know yet what restrictions will be in place at that time.

Strode Park will again deal with the finance side of things, taking in the payments and producing floats and change on the day.

There may be an issue regarding parking as currently, Strode is off limits to everyone but staff, so we need to bear that in mind.

It was agreed that due to the difficult times stall prices will be £25 for a 3 x 3, caterers, fun fair rides etc will be priced separately.

Sarah has contacts for First Aiders and Security, and Goody Ales will be asked if they wish to attend.

It was agreed the opening times would be 11.30am until 4.30pm.

We will contact the schools and let them know we plan to go ahead and will be asking parents to donate items for tombolo's etc. Prizes for raffles and tombolo's will be a challenge this year as will getting sponsorship for things like bouncy castle. The dog and car show, hopefully will go ahead.

Obviously, the whole event will need to be compliant with current regulations, The other unknown is how willing will volunteers be to help out. The clerk said it would ultimately be down to CCC if the event went ahead but The Expression of Interest had been submitted to CCC.

54/21 To approve revised policies: Data Protection, Public Participation, Environmental and Litter Picking Procedures and Risk Assessment. Michele had circulated the policies and the litter picking paperwork. All policies and Litter Picking paperwork was approved by members.

55/21 To discuss the new trailer for the Christmas Float. Photo's of the float have been circulated, The clerk thanked Cllr Sargent who took them and looked the trailer over, he has reported that it is well worth the £995, the seller can't store it for long if

parish council purchases it, Cllr Davis was asked if she could store it until the float part could be transferred. Cllr Davis said yes as long as it wasn't there too long.

56/21 **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 received on this matter, therefore nothing to report.

57/21 **Members Reports** Cllr Strong asked for a hard copy of the planning application for Strode Farm. Cllr Wilson reported he had attended an Affordable Housing Session. Cllr Cheeseman reported he had attended 3 bite size training sessions and he has booked onto the KALC Finance training. He had also attended the Climate Action Group meeting. The Rural Housing Protocol meeting had also been attended. Cllr Sargent asked about the fence that was falling down on the entrance road to the Community Park, the clerk thought it belonged to the farmer. Cllr Davison has attended some training courses and she also asked about the noticeboard in Curtis Wood Park as some of the info was out of date. Clerk said she would contact the person responsible. Cllr Collins apologised for missing the Community Centre meeting she had not realised that she was on the committee she now has a list of committees that she is on. Cllr Davis has attended a training session on social media and would like Instagram etc to be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Blatherwick asked people to think about the Annual Parish Meeting and the Positive Person Award, she gave a name of someone she proposed, she confirmed the date of this meeting which is 15th April on Zoom.

58/21 **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 8th April 2021**

Meeting closed 22.05