

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 at the Herne Centre on Thursday 9th September 2021 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Collins, Cllr Davison, Cllr Hill, Cllr Saunders, and Cllr White.

Not present:

Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Strong, and Cllr Wilson.

149/21 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllrs Harvey and Strong who are away, and Cllrs Cheeseman and Wilson who are working.
Members accepted the reasons. City Cllrs Dekker and Howes.

150/21 To receive declarations of interest on items on the Agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

151/21 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2021.

Agreed as a correct record.

152/21 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

The advert for an admin assistant has been published in the newsletter and applications are beginning to come in.

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

No members of the public present.

Draw for 100 Club.

1st 28, 2nd 16.

153/21 Chairman's Announcements.

Members were reminded of the Kent County Council webinar on Covid-19 Risk Assessments for community halls. Free three-hour course, with multiple dates between 14th and 24th September 2021.

154/21 Warden's Report.

Circulated prior to meeting.

There have been concerned residents commenting that they have had people knocking at their doors trying to sell children's learning literature. They were unsure if they were a legitimate company, and on social media were commenting that their selling style was quite aggressive and intrusive. I got hold of the contact details and called the parent company to highlight the issue and check if they were in fact legitimate. They stated that they were an American company with sellers who had franchises. They had permission from the Council and the Police were aware, but I did tell them the name of the individual in question. He said that he would contact that seller to raise the concerns with him.

I attended the monthly Professional's breakfast at Herne Place and had the chance to meet other agencies in an informal setting. I will get along when commitments allow. Roger and I attended the Herne Fun day where we had a Warden stand. Alongside us were Dan from Highways and Tom our PCSO. We had our vehicles, and information and advice. We gave away goody bags to families with road safety workbooks, stickers, reflective tags, and pens and pencils, and chatted to residents about local issues. We also assisted with traffic movements on the day.

I attended the Strode Park 75th birthday garden party where I had a chance to engage with stall holders, Strode Park staff and residents, visitors, and Councillors. It was a great success, with a wide range on offer including stands with exhibits about local wildlife and activities for the children. I helped out on the make a snail stand for a while and helped out with setting up the birthday cake.

I have booked to do an assembly at the Juniors, now the children are back and there are less restrictions. They also have a group of 15 children who will be out and about helping with community things, so I plan to work with them so we can set up things that they can get involved in. They are available for anything from litter picks to singing recitals. I have also been asked by members of the Herne Bay Age UK Men's shed if anyone might be interested in painting a design on the outside of their containers and have provisionally mentioned this to the school as a potential project for the children.

The Broomfield art group is flourishing at the Herne Centre, every Tuesday at 1pm, with 2 new members so far coming from the article in the Newsletter alone in the last 2 weeks.

On the 21st September we have our final outdoor Pop-up-Café of the summer. We will have the Canterbury City Councillors in attendance to chat to people about local issues, Age UK representatives helping people with enquiries about their services, the Surgery Social Prescriber who brings along a small group of people, and 15 children from Herne Juniors who will be singing a selection of songs for the guests. They will be joined by the Head Teacher and one of the teachers. This has been such a great success this summer, Rural Kent wish to continue through the winter so I have facilitated use of the Broomfield URC Church for this, and the dates will be at 1030-1230:

Tuesday 2nd November

Tuesday 1st February

Tuesday 1st March

155/21 Police Report.

- Theft of Wood – Hicks Forstal Road – Afternoon – 26/08/2021

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- Nuisance Youths – Curtis Wood Park Road – Evening – 02/08/2021
- Bad Driving – Canterbury Road – Afternoon – 03/08/2021
- Nuisance Vehicle – Canterbury Road – Evening – 10/08/2021
- Nuisance Vehicle – Canterbury Road – Evening – 11/08/2021
- Nuisance Vehicle – Chapman Road – Morning – 15/08/2021
- Nuisance Youths – Broomfield Road – Afternoon – 21/08/2021

Items of good work:

Continuous high visibility patrolling using car, bike and on foot

Community fun fayre at Cherry Orchard Playing Fields

Updates of previous reported issues:

Reports of youths at Cherry Orchard Playing Fields have fallen

156/21 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh and City Councillors.

Report from City Cllr Dekker circulated prior to meeting.

As Canterbury City Council (CCC) has been in recess there is little to report.

Main service meetings restart this month with planning tonight.

Yesterday there was a Parish Engagement virtual meeting to discuss Capital Grant Applications, and for parish councillors to learn on the new Senior Management Structure within CCC.

The Sturry bypass was passed at Planning by Kent County Council (KCC) last week. Submissions were brought by members of the public, as well as a parish council representative and local councillors. The vote was 10 for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Afghan refugees are being settled in and assisted in many ways so that their transition is eased as much as possible. The support from the public has been amazing and groups have formed to give ancillary assistance as/when necessary. We are grateful for their ongoing support and help.

I am continuing my 'rounds' of the parishes (as Chair of Standards) and hope to have most done before the winter months impede travel.

Several local issues have been resolved, including having a planning application to remove a protected oak tree rejected and double lines outside the Infant School repainted, much to the relief of the Headteacher.

Congratulations on the Fun Day at Herne. Although I was unable to attend, I am assured it was extremely enjoyable and well attended, as was the Herne Bay Memorial Park Fayre last month. The weather held for both events, and talking to residents and visitors, people still love these events and so want them to continue.

I was invited to view the Moo Mop Art project in Herne Bay and spent a morning walking the route and discovering the background to the project. Well worth a look with youngsters with enquiring minds.

I have attended several out of area events associated with Civic ceremonies and am happy, as are others, that now lockdown has been lifted we can promote our own districts and persuade and cajole people into supporting our schemes and plans for the futures of our cities, towns, and coastal areas.

The Swing Jazz festival in Herne Bay was a great success. I attended opening night. The King's Hall was filled with very supportive fans and, afterwards talking to the performers, I felt that the acts enjoyed their sets as much as the audience.

I attended a 'pop up' coffee morning by the Medical Centre and am looking forward to the next one on 21st September. These events are a great opportunity to listen to the concerns/comments from the residents that, normally, I would not get to hear.

The Strode Park Foundation 75th Anniversary event was also a great success and, again, very well attended. A relaxed, entertaining afternoon spent in the sunshine with interesting stalls and families of picnickers serenaded by young (and not so young) bands. Lovely day.

Like many others, I have moaned and complained about not being able to 'get away' this year but, on reflection, it's been a great summer. Lots going on, places and events to attend and people emerging from lockdown with smile and hopes.

Report from County Cllr Marsh.

Attended the Local History Group meeting.

Plans for Remembrance Sunday on 14th November 2021 are getting in place. Working with Alan Dilnot of the Local History Group to provide the finances to get the memorial repaired.

KCC Highways have resurfaced and cleared the drains in Herne Street.

Planning permission, with alterations, for Sturry Relief Road has been approved. Was unable to vote but did speak about concerns. The housing in Sturry had already been approved. The last Transport Assessment was done in 2014, so new one is needed.

The 20mph zone for Herne is in the pipeline.

Will be changing role with regard to Herne and Broomfield, so will not be attending every meeting.

157/21 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Circulate prior to meeting.

The report on Community Funday has been circulated. There has been some more damage to the Multi Use Games Area and repairs have been organised. The lights in the MUGA are not working Serco have been asked to replace bulbs.

Cllr Blatherwick and myself attended the memorial service for Lionel Ball.

I am sorry to report that Dan our Highways Steward has moved on within KCC, he will be missed, his replacement is Dave, sorry don't have a surname as yet.

I had hoped to meet with Conor to discuss the barrier for the entrance to Centre but did not manage it, I will contact him again when I am back in the office.

I am currently on annual leave and will be back in the office on 21st September.

Assistant Clerk's report for meeting on 9th September 2021

1. CILCA.

- Unit 5 – Community Engagement will be completed and submitted once the action plan has been agreed.
- Unit 3 – Finance for Local Councils. Still working through this unit, with two Learning Outcomes completed.

2. Policies.

- The Learning & Development Policy and Sickness & Sick Pay Policy have been sent to Cllr. Wilson for review.
- The Policy Calendar should be ready for the October meeting.

3. Training and webinars.

- Attended the SLCC Branch meeting on 7th September 2021. Report to be circulated.
- Attended the CCC Parish Council Engagement meeting on 8th September 2021. Report to be circulated.

4. Website.

- Further contributions have been added to the Virtual Garden Safari page.

5. Other.

- Took a week's annual leave in August.
- Assisted with the Community Fun Day; before, after, and at the event.
- Currently covering the office whilst the clerk is on annual leave.
- Organised the distribution of the Community News. Thank you to the clerk for being able to drop some off prior to going on holiday, and to the councillors that were able to help too.

158/21 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting. Bins Fun Day £140.42 Data card £69.63. These payments were ratified.

Agree the sum of £888.73 for Insurance for coming year. This was agreed.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation circulated. Payments were approved.

To report on income received. Poo bags donations £2, CCC S106 for Broomfield pond £3,635.37, Newsletter advertising £572, Trailer sale £50, Water repayment Allotments £16.38, Centre Income £457.12. Total £4,732.87.

159/21 Planning & Highways. To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 26th August 2021.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that the plans for the first stage of the Strode Farm development, Reserve Matters, have been submitted to CCC. The planning committee raised concerns regarding the height of the properties, drainage and flooding, tandem parking, the lack of provision of wheelchair user adaptable properties, and there were no details of any environmental measures.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that she had met with someone from KCC Highways to discuss the proposed junction of the Strode Farm development spine road at Eddington. This has been looked at again and could work with the existing roundabout. The amended plans will need to be submitted to CCC Planning. The spine road will become the A road. There will be a different route for pedestrians/cyclists to cross.

Cllr Davis reported that she had been in contact with City Cllr Dekker regarding preserving the gate post to the former Broomfield Hall. This can be done through Historical England. If refused it is possible to apply to CCC for Non-designated heritage asset protection. Cllr Davis has asked the Local History Group to support the application. It was suggested that the finger post on the corner of Mill Lane/School Lane could be included too.

160/21 To discuss how to move forward with restricting access into the car park at Centre.

The email from Conor was circulated regarding the bollards and there has been a suggestion that a barrier be installed.

The Assistant Clerk explained that the best option would be a barrier that lifts and there is power outside. The other options would result in reducing the width of the slope or obstruct a parking space.

It was agreed that the barrier would need to be substantial, with a suggestion made of moving and reusing the wooden gate that is between the centre car parks.

Concerns were raised that the vandalism is wasting public money.

161/21 To receive report and comments from PFK Littlejohn on the External Audit.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) has been signed off, with one comment that the form had to be amended and returned. This was explained at the Finance meeting and last council meeting. It was due to a double entry of an asset the previous year. The notices advertising the Notice of Conclusion of Audit have been put on web site and in Notice Boards etc.

This was discussed and approved.

162/21 Update on the Parish Council's Aims & Objectives.

Cllr Hill distributed the updated version of the Aims and Objectives. It was agreed that councillors would take and review them for discussion at the next council meeting.

163/21 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

Cllr White reported that the next Kent Association of Local Councils meeting will be this month, which she hopes to attend.

164/21 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Checksfield reported that the Friends of Broomfield Pond get together went well. The committee meeting will be held on 14th September 2021, where they will discuss their plans, spending and the use of the S106 monies.

Cllr Davis reported that Climate Action Group had met and the notes from the meeting will be sent out.

Cllr White thanked everyone who helped with the weeding at that the Community Park. She reported that the allotment needs strimming. Cllr Checksfield said she would help.

Cllr White reported that funding for the wildflower meadow has been approved, Cllrs Opportunities fund. City Cllr Dekker is providing a bench. It was suggested that this could either be put in the park area in Hawe Farm Way or on the triangle in Lower Herne Road. To discuss at next meeting.

Cllr Davis reported that the oak tree at 83 Broomfield Road has been reprieved. She is trying to get a TPO on another tree which is adjacent to 104 Broomfield Road, which is approximately 92 years old. Cllr Checksfield asked whether it would be possible to put TPOs on the three trees on the green in Mill View Road.

165/21 To discuss the progress on the float and agree a budget.

A new frame for the Santa float needs to be made as the wooden frame from the old float is not rigid enough. Health and Safety considerations must be made. Various options were discussed, and a rigid steel construction would be the most durable. Due to the anticipated costs of doing this it was proposed that a maximum budget of £1,500.00 be set. This was agreed by members.

It was suggested that the float could be used at other occasions.

The Assistant Clerk stressed that work needed to begin as time is pressing. Cllr Saunders agreed to co-ordinate the working party and set a date as soon as possible.

166/21 Report on the Fun Day.

Report circulated prior to meeting.

The day didn't start well, horrendous thunderstorms and torrential rain, it was touch and go whether we could go ahead. There were safety aspects but also, we did not want to do damage to the grounds. Those who attended before 8.15am were asked to wait and were not allowed on site until it was decided that the event would go ahead. It was very frustrating and stressful especially as we had postponed the event due to an adverse weather forecast only to find we had similar weather which was not forecast.

However, people arrived to help set up and the stall holders arrived, there was an issue regarding refreshments as one of the caterers did not turn up.

Residents did attend and we had more people come along to the event than we expected, especially as there were a couple of downpours once we had opened.

Despite everything, overall, the event went well, and people enjoyed it. Sarah and I were quite relieved when it was all over. I would take this opportunity to thank Sarah and Phoebe for all their hard work. They dealt with the booking, taking the payments, and checking the paperwork. They also put everything together for the various stalls manned by volunteers and had everything organised in the changing rooms ready to go on the day. Sarah also sorted the plan of where all the stalls etc were positioned. It was a lot of work and as well as this event Sarah was organising other events for Strode. Yes, there were some issues on the day, but, overall, we got there and provided a community event, and the community came along and supported it.

There are lessons to be learned as always and hopefully the events officer at CCC will also make some changes. We now have a contact for refuse bins, who once contact had been made was very helpful, and the same with my contact at Serco who sorted out the issue of us using the changing rooms.

As always, this event would not take place without all the volunteers who help set up and take down, pack away and return items to storage areas. Also, the volunteers who manned stalls on behalf of all three organisations. Those that ran the dog show, Dan our Highways steward, who is moving on now to another position within KCC and who will be greatly missed, who organised cones, put them out, put out signage and generally helped throughout the day, and then helped clear everything away at the end. Wardens Mandy and Roger were in attendance all day and thanks also to Michele who, although they had a family birthday BBQ spent a good part of the day on site and then returned to put everything back in the loft at the centre at the end of the day. Thanks also to Cllr Hill who managed to borrow a van, which facilitated the moving of the parish council equipment before and after the event. A big thank you to all those involved.

The figures will be finalised and when they are received, they will be circulated.

167/21 To discuss purchasing a Titan gazebo.

Cllr Harvey suggested purchasing, as one of the gazebo's used this year was bent and broken so needs replacing and the approx. cost is £230 for a 3 x 3 which is the largest size, however some are currently out of stock.

It was proposed that two be purchased when they are in stock. This was agreed by members provided that the price remains the same.

168/21 To discuss the flower bed in the village.

Due to safety concerns volunteers are now unable to manage this. There was a discussion about various options and members agreed that a contractor is needed. Quotes will need to be obtained, and it was suggested that the contractors used by KCC and CCC be asked.

Cllr Davison offered to get a group together to tidy up the flower bed prior to the Remembrance Sunday service. A licence will need to be obtained from KCC Highways to do this, so the Assistant Clerk will contact the new Highways steward. It will be necessary to buy plants, so it was proposed that a budget of £150.00 be set, which members agreed.

169/21 To discuss Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

These are set for 2nd to 5th June 2022.

It was suggested that a Beacon could be lit, there is a company that hires them out for a week, these are gas beacons. Prices start at around £300, but there are additional charges for erecting and removing, as well as delivery. Two sites suggested were at Curtis Wood or the Community Park.

Various suggestions of activities were made.

Members agreed in principle to do something and to take to the Environment & Leisure Committee to discuss.

170/21 Members Reports.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that the yellow lines have now been painted in Ridgeway Road.

171/21 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 14th October 2021.

The meeting closed at 21.35.