

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 10th March 2022 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 Sargent, Cllr Saunders, and Cllr Strong.

City Cllr Dekker, and City Cllr Howes.

Not present:

Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Harvey, Cllr White, and Cllr Wilson.

047/22 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllrs Cheeseman, and Wilson who are working, Cllr Harvey who has another engagement, and Cllr White who is still unwell. Reasons accepted.

Apologies from County Cllr Marsh.

048/22 To receive declarations of interest on items on the Agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

049/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2022.

Were agreed as a correct record.

050/22 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 residents present.

Draw for 100 Club.

1st 49, 2nd 30.

051/22 Chairman's Announcements.

The chairman reminded members of the Community Groups Day on 12th March 2022. Cllr Davison said she would run a parish council table.

052/22 Police Matters/Crime report.

Crimes of note:

- Vehicle Crime – Aspen Road – Tools stolen overnight – 01/02
- Dangerous Driving – Canterbury Road – Driver seen with alcohol in hand – 03/02
- Vehicle Crime - Lower Herne Road – 3 Disabled Badges stolen from different Vehicles – 10/02
- Robbery – Margate Road - Money forcefully taken from Broomfield Post office – An arrest has been made – 12/02
- Dangerous Driving – Hunters Forstal Road – Vehicle swerving in lanes – 13/02
- Vehicle Crime – Steel Close – Vehicle broken into overnight, tools stolen – 14/02
- Vehicle Crime – Braid Drive – Victim Noticed tools missing from vehicle in the morning, no signs of forced entry – 14/02
- Criminal Damage – Ridley Close – Intoxicated Male kicking front door of a premises – 17/02

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- Nuisance Youths – Parkland Road – Group of youths being loud and obstructive 26/02
- Nuisance Youths – Chapman Road – Youths kicking ball at vehicles – 27/02

Items of good work:

Reassurance given in the area of Broomfield Post office

Late night patrols in attempts to tackle the heightened number of vehicle crimes

Updates of previous reported issues:

Vehicle crime is still very much our biggest issue even after our attempts to tackle.

Nuisance Youths causing ASB last month on Herne Street were identified and spoken to.

053/22 Warden's Report.

Lisa Harrison – Community Warden Herne and Broomfield.

Over the last month I have been getting to know my area and meeting as many residents as possible. I have attended quite a few clubs at the Herne Centre, St Martins Church Hall and the URC church, Age UK, Shed Project, Beach Creative and more trying to find out a little more about what is on offer for our residents. I have also popped my head in the local businesses to say hello. Also supported some residents with personal issues.

I have received the warmest of welcomes from all the people I have met and received a huge amount of support from Michelle and Catherine at our local Parish Council.

I've received confirmation from Kathy Budgen that the Pop-up Café will be returning in April, and it will be at the Herne and Broomfield GP surgery on a Tuesday morning more details to follow. I have been looking at alternative venues to continue the coffee morning once the winter is upon us so it does not lose its momentum as this will be the final year, we will get it.

I have been working with Age UK and Beach Creative to support the Men's Shed to firstly make their huts more colourful and inviting and to task the Men's Shed to support with making planters for Beach Creatives school Eco Project. I have supported a few of our retired male residents in Herne and Broomfield to attend this project and they have really enjoyed it.

I visited the Huntsman Public House in Broomfield and received a very warm welcome from the owners Lyndsay and Sam who were both very accommodating and happy to support any future events I may need their support with.

I have also been advertising the Community Day to anyone that will listen and asking them to come, unfortunately the date was set before I arrived, and I will not be able to attend as I will be off work due to a small operation and will not be back till 21st March.

Currently I am working a little later in the day being a visible presence in both the park at Cherry Orchard and near Broomfield Post Office once a week as a deterrent as there have been some issues with minor vandalism by young people in the park, I have been working closely both with CSU and Early Help regarding these issues and due to a robbery at the Post Office in Broomfield.

On my return after my operation, I will be in touch with both schools regarding gaining support from young people to design new road safety signs at the crossing. I will also be supporting Strode Park with their Easter Egg Hunt in April.

Thank you, to everyone for such a warm welcome and support.

Cllr Hill felt unwell and left the meeting at this point.

054/22 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Councillors.

City Cllr Howes

Canterbury City Council (CCC) are waiting for support from central government to help the refugees from Ukraine. Information will be posted on CCC's website.

The budget has been set and council tax bills sent out, and the green bin collections have started again and bin stickers issued.

CCC are consulting on the closure of Hampton Pleasure Ground toilets. This is part of a wider review of public toilets in the district, looking at better use of the existing facilities and whether they are fit-for-purpose. The review is due to finish in September 2022.

The Joint Transport Board met and agreed the yellow lines in Streetfield.

The deadline for the Call for Green Sites was 11th March 2022.

City Cllr Dekker

Had visited Streetfield and counted five breaches of cars parked on the pavement. Herne Infant School would like to meet again to discuss the ongoing parking issues at school times.

CCC Planning Enforcement Team are willing to come and talk to the parish council about planning enforcement.

Working on setting up a Speed Watch in the parish. It would need a group of residents involved.

County Cllr Marsh

Had spoken to the clerk and did not have anything to report.

Cllr Blatherwick raised concerns that the roads in new developments are not being adopted. Maintenance costs then become the responsibility of residents through their management fees. City Cllr Howe will raise this with planning.

Cllr Sargent arrived.

055/22 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Everything is in place for the Community Groups Day on Saturday, with 20 groups booked. The Admin Assistant has worked hard putting it together. Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to get all the newsletters delivered prior to the event.

More complaints have been received about rubbish being left behind after football at the weekends. This has been reported to CCC.

Had complaints about the increase in dog fouling across the area, and in the cemetery. CCC Enforcement have attended, with one fine issued in the cemetery.

Not heard back from Kent County Council regarding the tree planting in Mill Lane.

056/22 Finance.

Responsible Finance Officer's report

Finance report March 2022

The precept increase is 1.3%, so equates to very small amounts on most bands.

The Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC) have confirmed the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) pay rise for clerks, which has been agreed at 1.75%, back dated to 1st April 2021. Employers

are bound by this increase and new pay scales have been provided. Therefore, the pay this month is higher, taking into account the backdated increases.

The holiday pay that is owed for the current year has also been included, up to 31st January 2022. It is timely to get the pay increase now so it can be included in the current year's accounts.

To ratify payments made since last meeting. None.

To approve payments presented at this meeting; schedule and bank reconciliation supplied. The Clerk explained that the payments to Synergy include the initial set-up costs of the new contract for the fire and security system at the Herne Centre and the service costs for the year. The payments were approved, and the clerk went through the reserves.

To report on income received. £172.80 adverts, and £5.00 donation for the Community Fun Day.

057/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 3rd March 2022.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that concerns had been raised about the adoption of roads on the Strode Farm development and the height of the properties facing Canterbury Road. The Clerk has been asked to contact KCC Highways regarding the issue of adoption of roads.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that members had objected to the amended plans for the Huntsman & Horn Public House. The increase in size of the properties from four to five bedrooms raises the roof height, having two parking spaces per property is not enough, and the acoustic fencing should not be removed. Cllr Davis reported that she had met with the developer and local residents at the pub to discuss concerns. The developer noted the comments made about landscaping and explained that the plan was for the acoustic fencing to be removed as the neighbouring property had put up their own fence and there is a hedge in between. The new pub car park must be built before the properties. Cllr Checksfield said that residents had objected to the height of the properties again. Cllr Davis will be meeting with the developer again, and members asked that she raise their concerns that the surface of the car park is permeable and that downlighting is used.

Cllr Davis proposed that a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is put on a prominent conifer tree in Margate Road. Cllr Checksfield suggested putting TPOs on the three trees on the green in Mill View Road. Members agreed for Cllr Davis to pursue these applications.

Cllr Davis suggested that the parish council look into registering other community facilities on the Community Asset Register to safeguard them for the future.

058/22 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

Cllr Blatherwick gave a report on the monthly Herne Centre meetings with West Faversham Community Association. The Walking Bus has not moved forward due to issues with having enough staff to take the children to school. Booking issues had been raised.

059/22 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Checksfield reported that the work at Broomfield Pond was moving into phase three. The cost for the path had been received which is less than £10.00 more than the S106 funding remaining. It was proposed that the parish council pay the difference in cost, which all members agreed.

Cllr Davis reported that there had been a lot of tree works locally, and that the Cherry trees in Margate Road are in need of pruning, which should be done in the summer. These trees were planted by the Broomfield Women's Institute (WI) for the Queen's Silver Jubilee and Cllr Davis

suggested asking the Herne WI whether they would like to plant one for the Platinum Jubilee, if permitted to do so.

Cllr Davison asked whether she could write to CCC regarding tree planting in Cherry Orchard. Members agreed.

060/22 To discuss quotes for obtaining a mobile phone for the clerk.

Members discussed the quotes for a pay monthly SIM card and agreed on the cheapest option of £4.50 per month.

061/22 To discuss quotes for the maintenance of the flower bed in the village.

None received. The clerk explained this was a very busy time for gardeners, so getting quotes is difficult. She will keep chasing and have some for the next meeting.

062/22 To discuss a calendar of dates for committee meetings.

The clerk distributed a calendar of meeting dates to members. She explained that it is a draft and will need to be agreed at a later meeting.

063/22 To discuss members allowances.

Cllr Davis explained the current recommendations from the East Kent Joint Parish Independent Remuneration Panel for how parish councils set the levels of members allowances. The recommended amount is £150.00 per year, for elected members. It was agreed to put this on the next Finance & Resources Committee agenda for discussion.

064/22 To discuss Ponders Patch by Broomfield Pond.

More information needs to be collected regarding this area of land before it can be discussed. It was agreed to leave this for now.

065/22 To discuss the work on the paths at Broomfield Community Park/BMX Track.

The quotes received were discussed. Concerns were raised about using granite chippings on the sloped paths. Members felt that a bonded surface is needed. After some discussion members agreed to accept the quote of £3,360.00 for the flat areas of the site only. Quotes will need to be obtained for the sloped paths.

066/22 To discuss staff matters (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.

As there were no members of the public present this was not necessary.

The clerk explained that the Admin Assistant had completed her probationary period and had settled in very well. She has had an appraisal and her hours should increase from the beginning of April.

The advert for a parish Handyperson had been published in the latest newsletter. The job description had been distributed to members and all agreed.

067/22 Update on legal issues (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.

As there were no members of the public present this was not necessary.

The procedural hearing scheduled for 22nd August 2022 will now be face-to-face. The judge will set a timetable of dates, should things be moved forward.

068/22 Members Reports.

Cllr Sargent has reviewed the storage for the Santa Float and will arrange a time for it to be moved.

Cllr Checksfield raised the issue that there are problems with the Herne Centre wi-fi.

Cllr Davison commented that St. Martin's Church might like to do a joint event with the parish council for the Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that the planning application for the bison link crossings in Thornden Wood, as part of the Wilder Blean Project, has been refused. She also put forward a nomination for the Outstanding Contribution to the Community Awards at the Annual Parish Meeting.

069/22 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 14th April 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.