

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 November 2022 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Collins, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Sargent, and Cllr Strong.

Not present:

Cllr Davison, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hill, and Cllr Wilson.

212/22 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Davison, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hill, and Cllr Wilson. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

County Cllr Marsh, and City Cllr Dekker.

213/22 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

214/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2022.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

215/22 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

Cllr Davis reported that the application for the Kent County Council Member Tree Scheme had been accepted in principle.

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

Draw for 100 Club.

1st: 10, 2nd: 21.

216/22 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis said that the newsletters are at the printers and will need to be sent out as soon as possible.

She reminded everyone that the Remembrance service at St. Martin's Church is on Sunday 13th November 2022 at 10.00am, with the wreath laying at 11.00am. County Cllr Marsh will be having refreshments in the Smugglers Public House afterwards.

Also, need volunteers for the Christmas events.

217/22 Police Matters/Crime report.

No report had been received. The clerk said that the PCSO was having IT problems and he would send it out when he could.

218/22 Warden's Report.

Parish Council Report July 2022 – Lisa Harrison – Community Warden Herne and Broomfield.

I continue with welfare visits which are requested by various agencies including Social Services, GP, Hub etc in the Herne, Broomfield, and Herne Bay Area. Welfare visits and support do take up quite a lot of my time as demand gets higher with limited services and various social pressures, although really pleased with the positive outcomes we have been having.

The new Windmill coffee morning on Mondays has been a huge success and we are averaging out about twenty per week. Some of the residents are getting a lot from this and it is quite popular, thanks to the tireless organisation and support of Anne and Sue. We are

looking to try and get funding for outside furniture for the spring as the group is quite popular and a few other items we need.

The November Pop up cafe held at the Huntsman and Horn was not as well attended as others. There were a lot of factors that went against us, i.e., the October cancellation, late notice, change of venue etc. so was a shame... That will be end of pop-up cafe for a few reasons. We have accomplished setting up a successful coffee morning on Monday at the Windmill, which will also be outside in Spring onwards finance permitting. That coupled with Pop up Cafe not being provided three years in a row and lots of changes within Rural Kent. The Huntsman and Horn have agreed to provide me with a community lunch table every Tuesday 12 till 2 pm. The purpose is for people in the community to have somewhere to meet up and have lunch and meet new people, not feeling uncomfortable going out for lunch on their own as there will always be someone to meet them. This will be starting in January. We needed somewhere for people to meet up that would be sustainable as this could just run on its own if it works and also needed to be in the Broomfield area. It will be a trial.

Completed sourcing up to date information of activities running in our local centres/venues for newsletter although at present does not have contact details as need permission from all. Just wanted the first one to give residents an idea of all the fantastic activities that are running in their village.

Issues raised with me this month.

Parking in Streetfield and School Lane on Saturdays while football is on.

Large amounts of litter left on Cherry Orchard playing field on Saturday after football.

Look forward to another busy productive month and best wishes to you all.

219/22 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Cllr Howes (there will be no report from City Cllr Dekker whilst Lord Mayor).

City Cllr Howes.

Cllr Howes reported that it was a busy time, with lots of cabinet meetings.

Canterbury City Council have posted information on their website signposting people who are looking for help and support regarding the cost-of-living crisis. They have also donated money to Canterbury Food Bank.

He has been dealing with some housing issues, including planning concerns, and an increase in reports of subsidence.

The new Canterbury District Parish Charter is due to be signed on 21st November 2022. Cllr Davis raised a question about the format in which it has been published, and the A-Z of services. City Cllr Howes will ask if it is possible to have a website version and a separate printable one. He explained that the CCC's Change Programme will be finalised on 23rd December 2022 and a list of contacts will be published for the parish councils.

The annual Parking Review is due to close on 23rd December 2022, for discussion at the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) meeting in March 2023. Any proposals will need to be put forward before then.

The Government is proposing putting a cap on social housing rents. This will have a big impact on CCC's Housing Revenue and will result in a reduction in income.

CCC have some key consultations; Open Space Strategy, Tree and Woodland Strategy, Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan, and Canterbury District Local Plan until 2045.

Regarding the Local Plan, there will be three drop-in events across the district, with one at Herne Bay Baptist Church on 26th November 2022 from 6pm to 8pm. Cllr Blatherwick commented regarding the closure of the Sturry Park & Ride. City Cllr Howes replied that it

was not well used but the closure will be reviewed, especially with the new housing developments. He will raise the possibility of having a seasonal service.

220/22 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Work is underway organising the Children's Christmas Party and Christmas Fun Day. The Admin Assistant has been busy contacting the volunteers and confirming the booking of the children's entertainer. There are still some details to be finalised, such as the Santas and the refreshments for both the events. Santas are needed for the Christmas Fun Day and to go out on the float.

Cllr Davis and I had a virtual meeting with Ciara Cousins, who is the Social Value Coordinator for Breheny. She was looking for suggestions of how Breheny could support the community through the parish council. Of the suggestions put forward Ciara confirmed that they could provide some children's Christmas themed activity packs for the Christmas Fun Day and some more books as gifts for the Christmas Party.

I attended the meeting that CCC arranged for the parish councils on 2nd November 2022, and a report has been circulated. The slides and meeting notes will be forwarded to everyone.

The forms to amend the contact and internet banking details for the bank accounts have been submitted. A new charge card will need to be applied for before the existing one is cancelled.

RFO's report

Hopefully, the banking details will all be changed into the clerk's name soon. As from 30th November I will leave the employ of the parish council.

I have told the clerk that if she has any queries to contact me, but I am sure she will be fine. I will leave the office keys and the ones for the Community Park, including the bin, with the clerk and someone will need to fill the bag dispenser and empty the rubbish bin, from the beginning of December. I will also return the laptop.

My retirement has been a long time coming and I am looking forward to handing over responsibility fully to the clerk. I will, obviously help at events where I can.

I know its early, but I will wish everyone a Happy Christmas and let us hope things improve for the New Year.

Best wishes to all.

221/22 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting: none.

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

The clerk explained that two of the salary payments were higher than usual because the increase in the national pay scales has finally been agreed and been back dated to April 2022.

To report on income received: payment for replacement padlock £10.00, HMRC VAT refund £132.94, total £142.94.

222/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2022.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that members discussed the proposed diversions of some of the Public Rights of Way as part of the Wilder Blean Project. The clerk had been contacted by the British Horse Society and members comments have been passed on.

223/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 20th October 2022.

Cllr Davis read through the draft minutes.

Cllr Sargent said that the work on the Santa float should be done soon.

Cllr Checksfield reported that Broomfield Pond is filling up.

Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

As Tree Warden, Cllr Davis did a talk on trees – 'Casualties, Survivors and Newcomers' for the Local History Group, which resulted in a £30 donation to The Alzheimer's Society.

The planting of the Living Henge at the Community Park will take place on Sunday 27th

November from 11am. Help would be appreciated to get the trees from the allotment site beforehand. Liz White is hoping to come. I have yet to order the 30 stakes and shelters. We may also have a few oak trees to begin the Hanging Wood.

224/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 27th October 2022.

The clerk read through the draft minutes.

Cllr Davis asked members whether the parish council should be setting a reserve for the Herne Centre. Members agreed to put this on the agenda for the Finance & Resources Committee to discuss.

225/22 To report on feedback from the Call for Green Sites.

The clerk went through the responses that had been received to date.

Herne & Broomfield Allotment Society would like to have a nature area but have not done anything about it yet. They have the tree nursery and could look to build up the hedgerow between the site and the road.

The response regarding the field adjacent to Broomfield Community Park was that it is good agricultural land and not available.

Herne Junior School intend to cover the topic of Climate Change each year and would welcome any opportunities for child-led ideas/projects. They have a small woodland area which they want to develop further, with the growing of native trees, shrubs, and plants.

Any advice or free flora would be welcome. There could be scope for renewable energy sources; solar panels on the roof, small wind turbines on the fields, and ground source heat pumps.

226/22 To approve the use of the Santa Float by the Rotary Club on 4th December 2022.

Members agreed to the request.

227/22 To discuss the parish council's response to Canterbury City Council's (CCC) Draft Local Plan.

A report on the CCC meeting for parish councils that was held on 2nd November 2022 had been circulated.

The clerk explained that members needed to respond to the Draft Local Plan and that any comments would need to be sent to her by the end of November. She said that if some members would like to focus on a particular part that would be fine.

Cllr Blatherwick explained how important it was that members responded to the consultation. They need to look at everything and see what is most important for the parish district. Key areas are education, the environment and open spaces, health, housing, travel, agriculture, and business. Cllr Checksfield will focus on education, Cllr Sargent on agriculture, and Cllr Strong on business.

228/22 To review the Canterbury District Charter 2022.

Members reviewed the charter and did not make any comments, except Cllr Davis who raised concerns about the accessibility of the format and a question about the A-Z of services.

229/22 To discuss signing up to the National Association of Local Councils Civility and Respect Pledge.

The clerk read out the pledge:

By signing the Pledge, your Council is agreeing that the Council will treat Councillors, Clerks, employees, members of the public and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- *Has put in place a training programme for Councillors and Staff*
- *Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for Councillors*
- *Has good governance arrangements including staff contracts and dignity at work policy*
- *Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise*
- *Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens*
- *Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion through for example the Local Council Award Scheme*
- *Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate*

After a brief discussion members agreed to sign the pledge.

230/22 To comment on CCC's proposed amendments to its Member's Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with Councillor Conduct Complaints.

Members did not make any comments.

231/22 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

Cllr Checksfield reported that she had attended the Kent Association of Local Councils Introduction to Planning training. She said that it had been very interesting and informative, and the trainer was very good.

232/22 Members Reports.

Cllr Strong reported that there were only four people on the allotment committee, making it difficult to get things done. New members are needed.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that a mobile home has been sited on a property in Busheyfields Road on the boundary of the conservation area and highway. It is restricting the visibility of the road as it is on a sharp bend. City Cllr Howes is looking into it.

Cllr Davis asked whether West Faversham Community Association would be doing hampers for Christmas. The clerk replied that nothing has been said regarding this.

The clerk said that Cllr Hill had reported an increase in parking problems in the Norton Avenue and Forgefields areas at school drop off and pick up times. This is mainly due to the new parking restrictions in Streetfield moving the problems to other areas at these times.

Cllr Sargent reported that Broad Oak Parish Meeting are opposed to the Wilder Blean Project.

233/22 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 8th December 2022.

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.