

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 11th August 2022 at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present:

Cllr Davis, Cllr Blatherwick, Cllr Checksfield, Cllr Collins, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Strong, and Cllr Wilson.

Not present:

Cllr Davison, Cllr Hill, and Cllr Sargent.

153/22 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllrs Hill, and Sargent working, Cllr Davison prior engagement. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

City Cllr Howes.

154/22 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

155/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2022.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

156/22 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

The clerk reported that all the monies had been received from the Garden Safari and the total raised is £2004.93.

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

Draw for 100 Club.

1st: 35, 2nd: 20.

Three members of the public attended. Two spoke regarding the overgrowing trees and raised manhole cover in Public Right of Way (PROW) CH42, that runs from Streetfield. This had been reported to Kent County Council Highways some months ago and nothing done, however an officer from KCC PROW will be making a site visit. Cllr Davis has been helping with this, and County Cllr Marsh said he would look into it.

157/22 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis congratulated the clerk on passing her Finance in Local Council Administration qualification.

158/22 Police Matters/Crime report.

Crimes of note:

- 04/07 - Arden Road – Vehicle failed to stop
- 05/07 - Heath Grove – Drugs – Smoking cannabis
- 19/07 - The Meadows – Dangerous Driving – Intoxicated speeding
- 24/07 - Rye Walk – Attempted Vehicle Theft
- 25/07 - The Fairways – criminal damage – Redrow estate

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- 06/07 - Bancord Avenue – Nuisance Youths
- 08/07 - East Blean Woods, Hicks Forstal Road – Nuisance Vehicle – Quads off-road
- 14/07 - Norton Avenue – Nuisance Youths

Items of good work:

Visible Patrolling – Foot and Vehicle

Updates of previous reported issues:

Increase in ASB

159/22 Warden's Report.**Parish Council Report July 2022 – Lisa Harrison – Community Warden Herne and Broomfield.**

I continue with welfare visits, which were requested by various agencies including Social Services, GP, Hub, ambulance, within the Herne & Broomfield and Herne Bay Area. Welfare visits have been taking up most of my time throughout the summer. There seems to be a high demand for our services at present, but we have had some positive outcomes for residents, so it has been worth it. I am attending limited local clubs and groups over the summer due to some of them not running. Please let me know if you have any new events so I can inform residents I meet on my travels. I have also been supporting with some isolated neighbourhood issues.

The next Pop-Up Café will be held again on Tuesday 16th August, and the last one in June was a huge success and was well attended. Herne Junior School came and sang for the residents, and this was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended.

I have been completing joint twilight visits fortnightly at the Cherry Orchard Park as there continues to be low level ASB. There has been a group of young people being verbally abusive to residents, hence the need for twilight visits as they do not arrive till after 6pm. I have reported residents' concerns to the PCSO but as residents do not report any of the incidents to the Police, the area is of low concern. I have informed residents that if they are experiencing these issues and feeling threatened then they need to report to Police so that they have a record and may support in future.

There were initial conversations last week with the PCSO regarding supporting me to have a Speed watch day covering a few of the roads most affected by speeding. Awaiting a date that support can be given.

I will be supporting Herne Juniors on their return with a Community Event and will be talking to young people about community safety.

160/22 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Cllr Howes (there will be no report from City Cllr Dekker whilst Lord Mayor).**City Cllr Dekker.**

Did not have a report but said that the Lord Mayor's Charity Box scheme is changing, with more essentials and a few toys being added to the boxes. She will be working with churches, other projects and schools, but asked the parish council to contact her regarding anyone they feel may benefit from the scheme.

County Cllr Marsh.

Reported that Kent County Council (KCC) were reducing their office space at County Hall. He said that KCC will have free trees available later this year, which the parish council can register for now.

He confirmed that the arrangements are in place for Remembrance Sunday.

161/22 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Circulated prior to meeting.

Interviews for Administrative Assistant

61 applications were received, with five applicants shortlisted for interview. Of these only four people attended for interview, as one candidate had found another position.

Community Fun Day

Unfortunately, due to difficulties organising the event, and questions over its financial viability, it was agreed to cancel the event. Sarah Bingham has been dealing with the bookings and CCC, Monica the volunteers and Dog Show, and I have contacted all the Car Show people. So far, the Car Show entries that included a donation have not requested a refund.

Whether an event is held in the future, and what form it would take, will need to be discussed.

CCC Parish Engagement meeting 19th July 2022

I attended this online meeting. There were updates on Canenco, the review of public toilets, and the Parish Charter. Report has been circulated.

Herne Centre maintenance

The back-up power supplies for the kitchen shutters have been installed, and the hearing loop in the Activity Room has been replaced.

Received a replacement cartridge for the tap in the Ladies toilet. We were sent four, so have three spares. Clearly, these must be replaced regularly under warranty, as it was very straightforward getting them. The taps in the disabled toilets, however, are a different matter. I am having to go through the plumbers who installed them, who have been very helpful, but Ideal Standard are being difficult. They are asking for more paperwork, which I have been unable to find so far, but might be in the loft.

Still waiting on a quote for the motorised opener for the door, but they have been chased.

Email issue

This appears to be resolved. Thankfully, although very stressful doesn't seem to be serious. The IT provider has checked everything, and the link didn't appear to go anywhere. Tried to contact as many people as possible. Have set up 2 Factor Authentication for both office accounts now, which provides another layer of security.

162/22 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting: None.

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

To report on income received: 100 Club £24.00, Car Show donations £15.00, Allotments water bill £31.81, Vincent Nurseries donation Garden Safari programmes £43.00, CCC Concurrent Funding £5962.00, HMRC VAT refund £989.80, total £7065.61.

163/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 21st July 2022.

The draft minutes were received.

164/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 7th July 2022.

The draft minutes were received.

165/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 4th August 2022.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Davis reported that there had been complaints about it being difficult for traffic to pass along Herne Street now that Bullockstone Road is closed. Cllr Blatherwick said that she had already raised concerns about possible traffic problems with KCC Highways and asked that they monitor the situation.

Cllr Blatherwick reported that she had attended the CCC Parish Council Planning training On 20th July 2022. There had been information regarding the situation with the Local Plan

and housing targets. Planning decisions are made with reference to the National Planning Policy Framework rules, and in favour of sustainable development. Developers can put in an application on a site not in the Local Plan, but there is a strong degree of protection on sites. Still waiting on a decision regarding the issues at Stodmarsh. It might be that developers will have to contribute more to any solutions.

166/22 To approve the Tree Policy.

Members approved the Tree Policy.

167/22 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

168/22 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Checksfield reported that Phase 3 of the Broomfield Pond works had started. Whilst the pond is empty they are looking at removing the trees that are in it, although concerns have been raised about grinding out the stumps.

Cllr Harvey reported that the new trees in Mill Lane are looking alright and the hedge at Broomfield Community Park is surviving.

Cllr Davis reported that there had been a lot of tree applications coming from CCC Planning regarding tree felling and trimming.

Cllr Collins reported that some trees in Ellis Way were blocking one of the streetlights.

169/22 To discuss appointing the new Administrative Assistant as recommended by the interview panel. (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.

The interview panel recommended the appointment of Liz Sinacola as the new Administrative Assistant. Members agreed with the decision.

170/22 Update on legal issue regarding the allotments. (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.

The clerk reported that there will not be an update until after the directions hearing, which is due to take place on 22nd August 2022.

She also reported that the RFO has been dealing with the insurance company regarding the possibility of making a claim.

171/22 Members Reports.

Cllr Strong reported that he had been contacted regarding the vegetation at Strode Farm.

The clerk replied that she had emailed the CCC Planning Officer dealing with the Strode Farm Development, who said that he would contact the developers and keep her updated. The clerk had not received any further update so will contact him again.

Cllr Davis reported that in her role as Tree Warden she had been visited by a councillor from Hackington Parish Council who is doing a dissertation on the introduction of bison into West Blean and Thornden Woods. The councillor had suggested that the parish councils around the woods could get together, maybe once a year. Members agreed that this would be a good thing to do. Cllr Davis also reported that an artist had asked for information on ancient trees and the Blean woodlands for an exhibition at the Turner Contemporary gallery.

172/22 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 8th September 2022.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.