

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 8th December 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, and Cllr Wilson.

Not present:

Cllr Davison, Cllr Hill, Cllr Sargent, and Cllr Strong.

234/22 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllr Davison, Cllr Hill, Cllr Sargent, and Cllr Strong. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

235/22 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

236/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2022.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

237/22 To report on matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda, for information only.

The clerk mentioned that the parish council has received a certificate for signing up to the Civility & Respect Pledge. Cllr Davis reported that she laid a wreath at the war memorial, on behalf of the people of Herne and Broomfield, at the Remembrance Sunday service on 13th November 2022.

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

Draw for 100 Club.

1st: 12, 2nd: 7.

One member of the public attended but did not speak.

238/22 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis thanked everyone that helped with the Christmas events on 3rd and 4th December 2022. She reported that she had written to Monica Blyth, on behalf of the parish council, to thank her for all her hard work over the years as the parish clerk and to wish her well in her retirement.

239/22 Police Matters/Crime report.

No report had been received. The clerk said that she had not had any response from the PCSO.

240/22 Warden's Report.

Parish Council Report November/December 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 to continue to make the group a success.

The Huntsman and Horn have agreed to provide me with a community lunch table every Tuesday 12 till 2 pm, starting from Tuesday 10th January 2023. 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. As usual with all clubs, I will be advertising lunch facilities that run from the Herne Centre on a Wednesday.

I have supported the following larger events in November and December: school Remembrance Day in St. Martin's Church, Remembrance Sunday service, Children's Christmas Party and Christmas Fun Day, and continue to support day to day clubs/activities. I will also be supporting Santa's sleigh on Friday 16th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th December 2022.

The wonderful children in year 3 at Herne Infant School have kindly handmade over seventy cards to go to residents in the community who may not have families at Christmas, and I have to say they are wonderful! I will be delivering them to some of the residents I am aware of and some will go to some of the clients of Age UK. If you know anyone that would benefit from one, please let me know as they are not all spoken for yet.

The school had also allowed me to let some of my residents who don't have families to come along to their carol service in the playground but because of the cold snap a lot of my residents would be worried about standing in the cold, as it takes them longer to warm up (their words, not mine), so I don't know if this will be viable, but the offer is there. I just need to know about their attendance.

I will be on annual leave from 23rd December 2022 until 3rd January 2023, my first ever entire Christmas off so excited...

Issues raised with me this month.

Parking, parking, and parking!!!

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas!

Take care and keep safe.

241/22 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 a new community café had opened in Herne Bay High Street, Maya's Community Café.

He said how much he had enjoyed attending the Children's Christmas Party, meeting the children and residents.

He reported, following a point raised by Cllr Blatherwick at the last parish council meeting, that he had asked the relevant officers about re-opening the Sturry Park and Ride for Christmas. It would cost about £12,000.00 to do that, so the answer was no.

He reported that he will be meeting the Environment Manager regarding the issues in Ridgeway Road and the encroachment onto Curtis Wood.

A consultation has opened regarding Public Space Protection Order: Dog Control and closes on 16th January 2023.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be meeting on 14th December 2022 to look at the draft Local Plan.

County Cllr Marsh.

Cllr Marsh said that he was pleased to see so many people attend the Remembrance Sunday service.

He reported that the gritting lorries have been prepared and are already out.

He said that as part of Kent County Council's budget review, they are looking to remove the member's grants. He said that he and other members were very unhappy about this.

Kent Police have reduced the number of PCSOs down to around 120.

242/22 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Christmas Events

Children's Party:

There were less children than usual, with 44 children due to attend, but only 37 coming. There was some panic in the morning, as the entertainer messaged to say he had tested positive for covid. Huge thanks to Liz for being able to get Reg E Mental instead! Thanks also to City Cllr Joe Howes for being the man in red and Ann for being his able assistant.

Fun Day:

Although there had been a change of day, with the event being on a Sunday, there appeared to be a steady flow of people. A total of £622.75 was raised. Thank you to Mandy Quy-Verlander for supervising the children's activities, which were well attended, and Liz's husband Roger for being the man in red.

There are lots of other people to thank:

All the councillors and volunteers who gave up their time to help set up and clear away, and who attended the events.

Breheny for donating some new books for the party and craft items for the Fun Day.

Liz for contacting everyone and keeping track of everything. Not an easy task.

Carol for all her hard work.

Altogether, very much a team effort!

All that is left are the tours of the Santa float. Thank you to those who have got the float ready, and to our Community Wardens for sitting in the hot seat, Roger on Friday and Saturday and Lisa on Sunday. Thanks also to the elves and escorts. The new speakers should be in place so everyone will be able to hear the float coming.

Draft Local Plan

Waiting on everyone's responses.

Staffing and RFO handover

Everything has been returned by Monica Blyth. I now have the laptop and Liz Sinacola has her own set of office keys. The main bank details have been amended, just waiting for the new internet banking fob etc., however, I can use the old one for now. The other banks needed additional information, so are ongoing. This just leaves a new card to be sorted now.

Liz finishes her probationary period on 9th December 2022, so a Staffing meeting will need to be held soon.

Cllr Davis reported that a letter had been received from Herne & Broomfield Local History Group. They are requesting having some storage at the Herne Centre to keep local archives. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next council meeting, after options have been explored.

243/22 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 the bank reconciliation could not be approved as she has been unable to complete all the bank reconciliations. This was due to issues accessing the internet banking for the main accounts, due to the changeover. The postal problems meant that the hard copies had not been received either. Cllr Davis was able to download one of the statements but not both. The bank reconciliation will be sent out once it has been done. The clerk also explained that BACS payments could not be made yet either. Cllr Davis explained that because of this it had been necessary for her to pay for the new speakers for the Santa float. Members approved this action.

To report on income received: adverts in the Community News £345.60, total £345.60.

244/22 To finalise the budget for 2023/24 and approve the precept request.

After some discussion, and especially as CCC have not sent out the Tax Base for 2023/24 yet, it was agreed to hold an extraordinary council meeting to approve the budget and precept request once the Tax Base is known. The clerk said that hopefully it would be received the following week.

245/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 1st December 2022.

The draft minutes were received.

246/22 To discuss the quotes for replacing the broken motorised door opener at the Herne Centre, if received.

The clerk had sent a report prior to the meeting.

The clerk went through the quotes and recommendations. She explained that two of the companies that had quoted mentioned that the door was not compliant with current safety standards and needed a roller finger guard fitted. She recommended that these be fitted to both doors, to bring them both up to standard. After some discussion five members agreed to accept the third quote for £1370.00, excluding VAT, and to fit the roller finger guards to both doors, with two abstaining.

247/22 To discuss the proposals under consideration in the CCC Annual Parking Review 2022 and to consider any others.

The clerk presented the two proposals put forward by CCC. Members agreed to support both of them.

The clerk reported that a request for double yellow lines had been made by a resident of Hillbrow Avenue, as parked vehicles are stopping the bin lorries getting into their close. Members agreed to pass this request on for consideration in the review. Cllr Blatherwick asked whether Albion Lane could be included too. Members agreed to the request. The clerk will pass all the comments on.

248/22 To approve the purchase of Eco tree guards, stakes, and trees for planting at Broomfield Community Park.

Cllr Davis reported that the cost to purchase the tree guards, stakes, and trees would be £110.88, including VAT. It was hoped that this could be paid for from the KCC Members Tree Scheme grant, but although accepted in principle it has not been confirmed, however the parish council does have other funds available. Members approved the purchase.

249/22 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

250/22 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Cllr Davis reported that the tree planting has been postponed until the beginning of next year.

251/22 Members Reports.

Cllr Checksfield raised concerns about the delivery of the Community News newsletter to part of Canterbury Road. She reported how dangerous it was with the passing traffic and that she was very concerned for the welfare of the volunteers who usually deliver here. The clerk will investigate this further.

Cllr Saunders said, in response to the comments made by County Cllr Marsh, that Kent Police have recruited 360 new police officers. They are aiming to train up to 100 officers in each cohort.

252/22 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 12th January 2023.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.