

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

Present:

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

Not present:

Cllr Hill, and Cllr Wilson.

173/22 To receive apologies for absence and accept reasons.

Cllrs Hill, and Wilson. Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.
County Cllr Marsh, City Cllr Howes and City Cllr Dekker.

174/22 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations.

None.

175/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th August 2022.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

176/22 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

Draw for 100 Club.

1st: 42, 2nd: 63.

Presentations were given by Kelly Haynes and Nicholas Thurston, Canterbury City Council (CCC) Principal Policy Officers (Climate and Environment).

Kelly gave an update on the Air Quality Management Area in Herne. Overall, the air quality has improved, however with the closure of Bullockstone Road it is expected to get worse. There were some questions raised about the monitoring process and results which Kelly clarified.

Nicholas talked about CCC's Climate Change Action Plan adopted in May 2021, and about some of the actions CCC are planning to take. These include reducing the emissions from council housing and using electric vehicles. There were some questions about sources of renewable energy, particularly solar power. The new Local Plan will focus on improving renewables.

Cllr Harvey thanked Nicholas and Kelly for speaking.

Two residents spoke about the increase in large lorries and emergency vehicles coming through Herne Village due to the closure of Bullockstone Road.

Liz Sinacola, the new administrative assistant, attended the meeting.

177/22 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Davis said that the next newsletter had gone to the printers.

178/22 Police Matters/Crime report.

The clerk reported that the report had not been received.

179/22 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. A lot of local clubs have opened from their summer break, so I will be using any spare time over this month to visit them, as the summer has been busy. A good time to touch base and make sure all is well.

The next Pop-Up Café will be held again on Tuesday 13th September. The last one in August was well attended as usual and I felt some of the residents present made some good links with both services and other residents.

I supported Anne Lehane to open a new coffee morning at the Herne Windmill on Monday mornings and although it was not really advertised, we had thirteen people attend, so really pleased with that. Will look to do something similar in Broomfield in the future.

I have not been completing twilight visits at the Cherry Orchard Park as last month was a busy month and I also have had to take some time off with covid, unfortunately.

180/22 To receive reports from County Cllr Marsh & City Cllr Howes (there will be no report from City Cllr Dekker whilst Lord Mayor).

County Cllr Marsh.

Cllr Davis reported that she had been contacted by County Cllr Marsh. He reported that it had been difficult to organise the road closure for Remembrance Sunday but does have police agreement now.

181/22 Clerk's Report/Correspondence.

Circulated prior to meeting.

Staffing

Liz Sinacola, the new administrative assistant, has confirmed that her start date will be 12th September 2022. I am putting a training/work plan together, as I will be away on holiday from 24th September until 8th October 2022.

I had my first appraisal as clerk on 18th August 2022, with Cllrs Davis and Blatherwick. This was the first one that Cllr Davis has done, and Cllr Blatherwick was there to support her through the process. The appraisal was an interim one to gauge how well I have settled into the new role. Although I still have a lot to learn the feedback was very positive. There are some areas which need improving and a plan has been put together. One of the main points was to put together a training plan for Liz and to delegate appropriately. The next appraisal will be due in February 2023.

Herne Centre Car Park

The centre car parks will be locked when the centre is not being used. I received one complaint from a resident, whose car got locked in the overflow car park during the weekend of 20th/21st August 2022. The pedestrian gate got locked by mistake too, however I unlocked both gates on the Sunday afternoon. Dale Corley (WFCA) managed to speak to some of the residents, and the remaining cars had notices put on their windscreens. The chain was put across on Friday 26th August, but one of the padlocks was damaged that evening. It has been reported to the police, and the incident recorded on CCTV. The chain will be removed when the centre is in use, and the overflow car park unlocked when required.

Dale is trying to build a better relationship between the centre and the surrounding residents. He has sent letters out to Chapel Row thanking them for not parking in the car park and offering a free hot drink. He has also provided his contact details. A different letter will be sent out to St. Martin's View.

Office Telephone

The office telephone wasn't working from Friday 26th August until Tuesday 30th August. Unfortunately, being that it was the bank holiday weekend, I wasn't aware of it until the Tuesday. The problem was the telephone extension lead, which Dale and I managed to deal with.

182/22 Finance.

To ratify payments made since last meeting: £600.00 barrister's fees.

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

To report on income received: 100 Club £36.00, Car Show donations £5.00, Centre income £2036.30, Newsletter adverts £256.20, total £2336.50.

183/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Herne Centre Committee meeting held on 18th August 2022.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Collins said that she had looked at the centre garden but is not sure where to start with it.

Cllr Blatherwick asked that the Stakeholder Questionnaire from West Faversham Community Association be sent out to all members.

184/22 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 1st September 2022.

The draft minutes were received.

Cllr Checksfield reported that work had started on the new car park at the Huntsman & Horn Public House. Cllr Davis reported that she had been told that the condition survey had been done on the neighbouring property and a specialist was coming in to deal with the Japanese Knotweed.

Cllr Davis reported that Braggs Lane has been damaged by the timber lorries accessing West Blean Woods.

Cllr Davis reported that she had been contacted by a resident regarding them being unable to access their horses because of the closure of Bullockstone Road. Cllr Blatherwick said That there should be access. The clerk was asked to contact Ben Cuddihee to arrange a discussion.

Cllr Davison raised the issue with the drains by Canterbury Fields as they still have not been cleared. The clerk replied that the problem had been reported. The response from KCC Highways had been that there is a programme of drain cleaning, and that extra cleaning would only happen if there was a risk of flooding. Cllr Davis asked the clerk to contact KCC Highways to ask for a copy of the schedule.

185/22 Reports from council representatives on outside bodies and other organisations.

None.

186/22 Environmental Issues including Tree & Pond Warden's Report.

Tree warden's report – Carol Davis

As it is nearing Tree seed collection time, I would like to arrange a seed collection day between 23rd September (the autumn equinox, considered to be the first day of autumn) and 23rd October.

I applied and we have been given 400 root trainers by Moor Trees, for growing the seeds into trees, to plant in the parish when they are big enough.

I thought it would be good to share the experience of collecting seeds and growing trees with our local community - all ages could join in.

Residents/schools/pre-schools/churches etc can then grow the trees on and plant in their own garden/land. Spare trees can be grown on, at the parish council's tree nursery at the allotments in Ford Road, to be planted at the Community Park or elsewhere in the parish.

Can I request we allocate some money from the community fund, for peat free compost (probably need about 4 bags) for the root trainers and labels? Homebase have 50L

Westlands Peat Free Multi-Purpose Compost for £6.75

I am very grateful to Debbie & Alan Checksfield for keeping the tree nursery plot, at the allotments tidy and Andy Harvey has done a sterling job over the summer, keeping the hedge at the community park watered, as well as watering the new trees in Mill Lane a few times.

I would also like to thank trainee tree warden, Rachel Blair and Julia Davison who have been out measuring some of the notable trees in our parish.

I heard from Liz White this week, she has now moved into Herne Bay, and I am taking her up to see how the fruiting hedge is doing at the community park next week.

It was agreed that the request to allocate some money is put on the agenda for the October full council meeting.

187/22 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.

Reports on the directions hearing had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Due to there not being enough time at the hearing it would be re-listed with a longer time limit of two hours. This will be some time next year.

The clerk reported that the RFO had managed to get some answers regarding the parish council's insurance cover and it would seem that it is unlikely that a claim can be made.

188/22 Members Reports.

Cllr Davison reported that Kent Wildlife Trust would like to come and speak at a parish council meeting. It was proposed that they come to the October full council meeting which members agreed.

Cllr Sargent reported that he had been unable to arrange the works needed on the Santa Float. He explained that the Herne village flower bed will soon need replanting and suggested spring bulbs, stocks and wallflowers. He was asked to supply a quote for approval.

189/22 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 13th October 2022.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.