

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. G. C. Seddon (Chairman); Cllr. Mrs. M. K. Gair; Cllr. S. R. Browne; Cllr. S. Holland; Cllr. I. M. P. Pritchard; Cllr. Mrs. P. Rothery.  
County Cllr. Mrs. J. Eagland.

**In attendance:** Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)  
Members of the public: Wayne Bull, Julia Allsopp, Ray Griffiths, Robert Gilmour. PC Andy Brown.

**Public Session:** This took place between 7.45 and 8pm. Mention was made that the play group was short of members and concern expressed that it may have to finish unless more support could be found.

### 1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. W. Taylor.

### 2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs. Browne and Rothery declared an interest in agenda item 8 iii. The chairman asked that councillors also state an interest if an item is discussed subsequently.

### 3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that an item had come to his attention soon after the agenda had been published but felt it required discussing as a decision needed to be taken in the next two days. He had been contacted by parishioner Alan Howard about the possibility of the council making a contribution to the purchase of a painting that is due to come up for sale in an Internet auction on 10<sup>th</sup> February. Other village organisations have pledged support. The painting is by Aubrey Waterfield and is of Dene Lane. Cllr. Pritchard thought it was not in the councils remit to pledge public money to purchase artefacts and said that LDC were trying to sell some of theirs in an attempt to raise funds. There would also be a doubt as to who owned the picture with several organisations contributing. Cllr. Browne made a proposal that council should see how the auction went and make a contribution to a set maximum if it was needed. His proposal was not seconded. Cllr. Gair proposed that council should offer £250. This was seconded by Cllr. Browne. The chairman asked if there were any alternative proposals. As there were none a vote was taken and four were against the proposal with two for. Agreed that the council would not support the request for a donation towards the cost of the picture.

### 4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

These had been distributed previously. It was proposed by Cllr. Holland and seconded by Cllr. Rothery that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour.

### 5. Clerks Report.

a) Correspondence / emails received.

- i) Letter from resident re parking Manor Road adjacent to Royal Oak – agenda item 8v.
- ii) Phone call from Mr Helliwell – agenda item 5c below.
- iii) Email from SCC re speed issues – agenda item 8ii
- iv) Staffs Playing Fields Assoc. After a brief discussion it was felt that the council would not subscribe to this organisation.
- v) SCC re Leofric Close query – agenda item 8iii
- vi) SCC re NHT visit. The team will be in the parish for four days commencing 21<sup>st</sup> March. Please report likely work to the clerk.

**Action: All.**

- vii) LDC reminder to pay for playground inspection. The clerk said that this had been paid on 13<sup>th</sup> January.
- viii) Email from Horticultural Society re Diamond Jubilee – agenda item 5d below.

Four other letters / emails had been received.

- a) A letter from SCC re Ice Busters – it was thought that a grit bin would be useful in Beech Avenue. Glen Wright to be contacted. Cllr. Eagland said to let her know if one is required.
- b) An email from The Woodland Trust offering free trees for planting. Cllr. Holland said he had now made more enquiries about the wild flower meadow and that the school were initially involved in that they scattered seeds in the first instance. They do not want to be further involved. He said that the area of land was virtually a weed patch and that perhaps the planting of some trees would be a solution. Clerk to determine from the Trust if certain tree species could be obtained. **Action: Clerk.**
- c) Email from LDC Cllr. Derrick regarding War Memorials. The chairman had been involved in this. Mention was made at the parish forum that LDC wanted to compile a record / database of memorials. It was pointed out to them that this already existed in the form of a ten-year old database. Despite this LDC feel that they shall still go ahead but will be coming to see Cllr. Seddon to discuss the process.
- d) An email from Came and Co regarding the clerks' query to do with winter maintenance and the council's liaison role. After discussion it was felt that the maintenance of roads in winter weather was the responsibility of the county council and with issues over liability if something went wrong, the parish council should not get involved anyway. It was agreed that the role of winter maintenance liaison officer would be removed from the duties of councillors forthwith.

Correspondence / emails sent.

- i) Numerous emails.

b) Finances.

Financial statement to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 Current A/c £1,446.39 as at 26/1/12 Reserve A/c £17,911.06 as at 26/1/12.

ii) Payments received. – 34p interest

iii) Payments to be made.

300383 Clerks salary £337.99 and exps £101.57 Total £439.56

300384 Wicksteed Playscapes – bolts - £64.16 inc VAT

300385 Elmhurst Community Assoc – donation (for storage) - £104.00

Total Expenditure for December 2011 - £607.72 inc VAT

It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that the above accounts be paid. All in favour.

- c) Tree Inspections. An enquiry was made of Mr. Helliwell who confirmed that the inspections are not due until June.
- d) Response from Horticultural Society re Beacons. The clerk read out a letter from the society. It was felt that it was not a good idea to have a bonfire so near to the village show date. It was suggest that a picnic lunch be arranged with parish council involvement. Villagers would bring their bring own drinks, food etc. Cllr. Browne undertook to look at this and would report back at the March meeting with some ideas. **Action: Cllr. Browne.**
- e) It was also suggested that a permanent reminder would be appropriate such as a distinctive village entrance similar to those in Fox Lane, Alrewas. After discussion the clerk was asked to find out from Highways what the implications would be if council decided to look at the possibility of erecting 'village entrances' on the roadside verges. **Action: Clerk.**
- f) File Storage. The clerk asked the question of council, at the last meeting, about storage of files / archives. Currently there is an A4 metal filing cabinet, 4 bankers boxes, 4 black A4 file boxes and numerous other files, plans, leaflets and directives. The aforementioned files reside in the garage and are subject to cold, damp

conditions. Ideally the files not in the metal filing cabinet need to be stored in-doors. Enquiries have been made on several occasions of the Village Hall Committee but they say that all storage is spoken for. The clerk has negotiated with CEFC PC and there is a suitable store in the community hall at Elmhurst, however, a donation of £2 per week for the use of this facility has been requested. The documents stored would not be covered by our insurance as they are out of the parish. However, much of the papers are copies of that already sent to archive in Stafford. The clerk read out a summary of the files involved. It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the files be put into storage at Elmhurst but that the situation be monitored in 6 months time to see if some or all of the documents could be destroyed. All were in favour. Clerk to report back at August meeting.

**Action: Clerk.**

## **6. County and District Councillors Reports.**

County Cllr. Eagland said that she forwarded any relevant information onto the clerk. There will be a full SCC meeting tomorrow (9<sup>th</sup>). She said if there were any concerns please let her know.

Cllr. Pritchard said he was working on the national health reforms and that the PCTs have merged with the county council. Also work is being done on housing strategy – how much low cost and social housing is needed. He is to visit a ‘model’ village as set up by Prince Charles.

## **7. Neighbourhood Watch Report.**

Mr. Gilmour gave this report during the public forum. PC Brown gave a report of local break-ins and an update of other matters. Mention was made of lorries parking overnight in the lay by opposite the church. It was felt that the signage prevented this. Mr. Gilmour, having read the signs, said that the restriction was vague and allowed a one-hour stay with no return in two hours. This meant that the signs required changing to ensure no one stopped overnight. County Cllr. Eagland said she would look into the matter.

## **8. Highway and Footpaths.**

i) Review of road classifications. The clerk said he had received a reply from SCC to say that a pilot project had been put in place and that they would report to us in due course.

ii) Speedwatch / speed issues. Mr. Gilmour had reported upon Speedwatch during the public forum. The clerk read out an email reply from SCC saying that the camera van had been in the village 18 times since November 2011 and that 8 of these had been on Alrewas Road. Unfortunately the trailer mounted speed device is out of action. As for relocating the 30mph signs further out of the village SCC said there were no plans to do this. The clerk undertook to contact SCC again over this matter.

**Action: Clerk.**

iii) Leofric Close footway latest. The clerk said he has spoken with Severn Trent water who said they would inspect the defective manhole covers. Cllr. Browne confirmed that they had been out and that they had marked the covers for repair. An email from SCC about the ownership of the link footway was unhelpful and suggested that if legal advice was required SCC could help for a reduced fee.

iv) Footpath Diversion – path no. 2. SCC confirmed that the parish council had replied and that they said they had no observations to make.

v) Parking in Manor Road. The clerk read out a letter from a resident of Manor Road concerning vehicles parking too near to the junction with the A515. Councillors and the police were aware of the problems in this location. The suggestion by the resident that yellow lines should be placed was rejected because LDC not the police now administers them. PC Brown said he would continue to monitor, as it is illegal to park within 10m of a junction. Councillors said they would suggest to the landlord of the public house that he place a small sign on the wall asking that the area be kept clear to aid deliveries. The clerk was asked to reply formally to the resident.

**Action: Clerk.**

vi) Winter Maintenance. This was discussed under correspondence – item 5d above.

**9. Best Kept Village entry 2012.**

The clerk has spoken with Mr Howard who said he would undertake the coordination role again this year. The entry forms are due back in late March. The clerk circulated a draft plan to accompany the entry and asked councillors to indicate the location of various features so that the plan could be finalised. It was suggested that Mr Howard be approached again to determine exactly how many posters were required. **Action: Clerk.**

**10. Play Equipment Repair update.**

Cllr. Pritchard is in receipt of the bolts and will arrange, with Mr. Gilmour, to make the repair in the next few days. It was felt foolish to drill a hole in the base of the post to let water out as has been suggested by LDC in their inspection, so this will not be done.

**11. Review of Standing Orders.**

The chairman said that he had received a final copy from the clerk but felt another councillor should also look over the document before final sign off. Cllr. Pritchard undertook to do this and to report back to the chairman. **Action: Cllr. Pritchard.**

**12. Councillors Reports (for information only).**

Cllr. Rothery said that the requested road sign for Lichfield Road had still not been erected. The clerk undertook to chase LDC again. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr. Browne said that the road continues to flood at the junction of A513 and A515. The clerk said he would report this again to Highways. **Action: Clerk.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012.