

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 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. I. M. P. Pritchard; Cllr. W. Taylor; Cllr. Mrs. P. Rothery.  
County Cllr. Mrs. J. Eagland.
- In attendance:** Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)  
Members of the public: John Saddler, Brian Woodward, Wayne Bull, Julia Allsopp, Ray Griffiths, Robert Gilmour. Dianne Allsop, Guy Allsop, Jonathan Nason.
- Public Session:** This took place between 7.45 and 8.15pm. The main areas of discussion were:
1. Suspension of bus services including the road diversion at Yoxall and the affect this had upon the local bus services. Although a shuttle bus has been provided this was not always linking up with the normal service at Alrewas. One resident said that his child was unable to get to school in Barton and that he had to take her by car. No notices of this road closure or the suspension of the bus service had been made. Cllr. Eagland said she has been in contact with Arriva and SCC concerning the signage and that a site meeting is planned. The chairman said that the parish council had also been left in the dark. He undertook to make representation again to the county council.
  2. Queens Jubilee celebrations. Comment was made that the council had not made any provision for this. The chairman pointed out that this had been on the agenda for several meetings and was discussed. An agenda item has been included for tonight's meeting and Cllr. Browne had been requested to report. Despite this one member of the public found council's actions unacceptable and left the meeting.
  3. A question was then asked about members of the public being allowed to speak once the formal meeting has commenced. The chairman referred to the council standing orders stating that normally this would not be permitted. Upon hearing this another member of the public left the meeting.
  4. A discussion then took place around the various legal implications and judicial reviews concerning HS2. A question was asked as to whether the council would attend a meeting at Armitage on 11<sup>th</sup> April. The chairman said he knew nothing of this but would endeavour to find out more.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Cllr. S. Holland;

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

Cllrs. Browne and Rothery declared an interest in agenda item 8 iv. 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 and said that it was a pity that those who attend from the public and criticise do not offer themselves for election or co-option when vacancies exist on the council. Cllr. Browne said that perhaps the public forum ought to be extended to 30 minutes. After a brief discussion it was felt that the existing period of 15 minutes was acceptable but that this could be extended at the chairman's discretion as detailed in the standing orders. All agreed with this.

**4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012.**

These had been distributed previously. One amendment was identified – item 3 should read Dean Lane not Dene Lane. This was corrected and initialled by the chairman. It

was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour.

## 5. Clerks Report.

### a) Correspondence / emails received.

- i) Letter re Kings Bromley show –invitation to chairman. The clerk was asked to accept this invitation but to indicate that the name of the chairman was, at this point in time, unknown. **Action: Clerk.**
- ii) Email re opting out of winter maintenance. The councils insurers, Came and Co have acknowledged that the council will not be co-ordinating any winter maintenance activities.
- iii) Email re Standards Board. The clerk read out this email. The county council are drafting a new standard and this will be made available for comment in due course.
- iv) CPRE – donation request. The clerk was asked to check if this was actually a donation request or a subscription request. **Action: Clerk.**
- v) SCC – Community Paths Initiative – bids for 12/13. The chairman asked councillors to give some thought to places that required improvement and to send these to the clerk to collate. **Action: All.**
- vi) SCC – re theft of rock salt. The police have been made aware of this issue and local neighbourhood watch members were asked to inform the police if anyone was seen stealing rock salt.
- vii) SCC / SOTCC – re Joint waste core strategy. This was placed in the circulation file.
- viii) Email from HS2 Action Alliance. This is a national campaign. The clerk was asked to obtain more information. It was felt that the council would support local action groups. Cllr. Pritchard asked if it was thought that any donation should go to local groups. It was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Gair that council pays for any invoices up to a total value of £200. All were in favour. **Action: Clerk.**
- ix) SCC – Motor Cycle Routes - safety strategy. The clerk read out a letter from SCC informing that they were about to make safety improvements to the A513 from the village to Alrewas.
- x) SCC – Charity Clothing collections. The clerk read out a flier asking residents to consider taking clothing donations to local charity shops rather than leaving them on the doorstep as rogue collectors were taking some bags and selling them.
- xi) LDC Playing Pitch strategy. This did not apply to the parish, as there were no public playing pitches.

Three other letters / emails had been received.

- a) Email from SPCA regarding the 'rules' for employees of the council working from home. The clerk highlighted a section that referred to electrical testing and risk assessment. He was asked to get more information and to report to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- b) A flier regarding a neighbourhood-planning seminar. This is on 20<sup>th</sup> March. No one expressed an interest in attending.
- c) Letter concerning changes to policing. The clerk was asked to place the web link on the web site. **Action: Clerk.**

### b) Finances.

Financial statement to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012 - Current A/c £1,047.28.  
Reserve A/c £17,911.06.

- ii) Payments received. – 13p interest  
Horticultural Society - £129.50 – half cost of walk leaflets.
- iii) Payments to be made.

300386 Clerks salary £337.99 and expenses £69.90 - Total £407.89  
300387 Best Kept Village entry £46.75  
300388 KB village hall – £11.95 - hall hire for planning meeting.  
300389 LDC election expenses - £228.37  
300390 E A Roy – £130 - web site upkeep  
300391 Community Council of Staffs subscription - £22.00

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

- c) Items for the Annual Parish Meeting.  
The Clerk read out the agenda items from last years meeting. All items to remain except for speedwatch and road safety camera partnership.
- d) This item had been included in error.
- e) Section 137 expenditure limit – this is £6.80 per elector for 2012/13.

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

County Cllr. Eagland said that she forwarded any relevant information onto the clerk. She will meet with Highways regarding the Yoxall road closure and signage. Cllr. Browne said he thought that less lorries were now parking in the Yoxall Road lay by but it was pointed out that this was probably due to the road closure. He said he also thought that the moving of the speed limit signs on Lichfield Road had slowed traffic.

Cllr. Pritchard said he had nothing new to add. Cllr. Browne asked him what LDC's policy was on low cost housing. Cllr. Pritchard replied that the district council is under pressure to provide more and that this would mean more outside funding being made available to them. He said that villages need starter homes. A recent survey said that 8000 new homes were required and that 4000 had been built or permitted but that the council must now work with adjacent councils and this was sometimes difficult. 30% of new homes must be starter homes.

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

Mr. Gilmour had left the meeting earlier.

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

- i) Review of road classifications. The clerk said he had been in contact with SCC for an update but so far had not received a reply.
- ii) Speedwatch / speed issues. The clerk said he has written to SCC with a plan to request an extension of the speed limit on Alrewas Road such that it takes in the entrance to Archers Business Park. No reply had yet been received.
- iii) Leofric Close footway latest. The clerk said that the dangerous manholes had been repaired by Severn Trent. Cllr. Browne said that parishioners in the Close had thanked the council for keeping them informed and for getting the repairs done. Some discussion took place around future maintenance of the surface. The chairman said that the path was nothing to do with the council and future maintenance was not its concern.
- iv) Leofric Close trees. The clerk has made a request to highways for the HNT to trim the sprouting branches when they visit the parish later this month. Cllr. Rothery informed the meeting that a resident in Manor Road was trying to have a tree removed but it was subject to a TPO and so far LDC would not give approval.
- v) A515 diversion. This had been covered in previous discussions.
- vi) Parking in lay by. This had been covered in previous discussions.
- vii) Grit bins. The clerk read out an email from Highways stating that they did not think Beech Close would qualify for a bin and suggesting that the council organise grit spreading through the ice busters initiative.
- viii) Village entrance signs. The clerk said he has written to SCC with a plan to request permission to site signs at identified locations on the verges on the three entrances to the village. No reply had yet been received.

Cllr. Eagland left the meeting at 9.30pm

**9. Best Kept Village entry 2012 – purchase of signs.**

Mr Howard has made a request to place three signs on twin posts on the approaches to the village. These would cost around £60 each. After some discussion it was pointed out that the council only had a budget allocated to the BKV competition of £60. It was felt that the council could not afford to buy the signs and the clerk was asked to inform Mr. Howard.

**Action: Clerk.**

**10. Queens Jubilee Celebration – Report by Cllr. Browne.**

Cllr. Browne said he had sent out around 15 emails and made several phone calls to determine what others were doing in the way of celebrations. The landlord of the public house is to have several events spread over 4 days. The school will hold a party for the children in the playground on 31<sup>st</sup> May. There will be a special service held in church and the WI and Horticultural Society will also be staging some event. As it's a public holiday many residents will be going away on holiday. He said that he thought the council should not consider taking any actions itself but suggested the council should collate details of all the various events and publish them in a leaflet, on the notice boards and the web site. Cllr. Seddon asked Cllr. Browne if he would ask these various organisations to tell him about their events with times, dates and location and the council will produce a programme, and then to liase with the clerk. The clerk was asked to include an item on the agenda for the April meeting.

**Actions: Cllr. Browne and Clerk.**

**11. Play Equipment Repair update.**

Cllr. Pritchard told the meeting that the repairs had been undertaken. The question was asked about LDCs recommendation to drill weep holes in the posts. It was felt that this was unnecessary but that LDC will probably make this recommendation next time.

**12. Review of Standing Orders – sign off.**

The chairman said that Cllr. Pritchard had now looked over the changes to the standing orders and that he was satisfied with them. It was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the council adopt the revised standing orders. All were in favour. The chairman and clerk then signed the document.

**13. Wildflower meadow – trees from the woodland trust.**

The clerk said he has registered council's interest in taking a tree pack in the autumn. He read out a list of trees available in the packs. Some discussion took place as to whether planting trees in this area was the correct thing to do. The clerk was asked to contact Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to see if they could attend a site meeting to discuss all options.

**Action: Clerk.**

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

Cllr. Browne reminded the meeting that PC Brown was retiring soon and suggested that the council consider a gratuity for the long service undertaken by him and his help with issues around the parish. The chairman asked this to be included on the agenda for the April meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.52pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012.