

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 13th June 2012 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. G. C. Seddon (Chairman); Cllr. S. R. Browne; Cllr. S. Holland;
Cllr. I. M. P. Pritchard; Cllr. Mrs. P. Rothery.
County Cllr. Mrs. J. Eagland. (arrived at 20.10)

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public: John Saddler, Guy Allsop, PC Andy Brown.

Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 8pm. Mr. Sadler reported on the HS2 route walk and said it was not very well attended but the weather was very poor and this may have put people off. Those that had attended commented that it was a very beautiful area and the walk had opened their eyes to the devastation the new railway would bring to it. He then presented an invoice for payment for leaflets printed. (This had been approved at a previous meeting). Michael Fabricant has been invited to a future meeting so he can give his views but no date has yet been fixed.

Comment was then made that the local public house was again being under utilised and that some special functions had been cancelled. Customers were not using the pub over the recent jubilee holiday period. After some discussion it was felt that this was not a council matter.

PC Brown said that thankfully there was very little crime activity to report. There have been odd incidents around the area where sheds have been broken into and garden equipment taken. He then handed out a local neighbourhood watch newsletter. The chairman thanked him for attending.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. Mrs. M. K. Gair: Cllr. W. Taylor (holidays)

2. Declarations of Interest.

None were made. The chairman asked that councillors state an interest if an item is discussed subsequently. Cllr. Eagland arrived at 20.10.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said the walk of the HS2 route had been a real eye opener as it enabled those present to see the affected countryside from a different angle. He said that as he stood near to the canal he was trying to visualise what it would be like as all before him would likely disappear. He thanked, on behalf of the council, all those that organised the walk.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th May 2012.

These had been distributed previously. It was proposed by Cllr. Rothery and seconded by Cllr. Holland that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour.
Cllr. Pritchard arrived at 20.20

5. Clerks Report.

a) Correspondence / emails received.

- i) Invitation to Chairman to attend LDC Chairman's Civic Service – this was passed to Cllr. Seddon to make a reply.
- ii) Audit Commission – consultation on appointment of external auditors. The clerk read out the letter. After a brief discussion it was decided that the council would have no objections to the appointment of the auditors Grant Thornton as recommended. Councils audit fee for next year would be set at £100.
- iii) ICO – acknowledgement of our registration.

- iv) Community Council of Staffordshire – Sustainable Staffordshire – free conference on 29th June. No one is able to attend, as it is a workday.
- v) A quick guide to neighbourhood planning – placed in circulation file.

b) Finances.

Financial statement to 26th March 2012 –

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 - 300201 Bromley Mowing Services - £222.32
 - 300202 Came and Co – Insurance - £996.63
 - 300203 I. Colclough – Amazon book tokens for BKV prizes - £65.
Cllr. Holland thought that perhaps council ought to have purchased the tokens from one of our local shops. This was agreed but the chairman said that specific instructions to that effect had not been given to the clerk.
 - 300204 LDC – annual bin emptying - £624.00 inc VAT
 - 300305 Clerks salary £346.73 and Exps £106.67 Total £453.40
 - 300206 Straight Forward Solutions – HS2 leaflets - £158.40 inc Vat

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

c) Asset Valuation.

The Clerk said that it was usual to revalue the council assets on an annual basis and that he had done this to enable a figure to be included on the audit return. Upon inspection it would appear that some assets are re valued by increasing them by inflation whereas others are not. Cllr. Pritchard asked the clerk to produce a list of the assets and to bring the item up again at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

d) Future projects to be funded from reserves.

Cllr. Browne said that the slide was in need of replacement, as it did not 'slide' anymore. After some discussion it was felt that self-help was the solution and that users should clean the slide before use. It was not felt to be a good use of reserves to replace the item at this time. Cllr. Pritchard said that if the council were able to make progress towards building the village entrance signs then reserves would need to be used for this.

e) Councillors contact information for notice boards. The clerk asked if there were any changes and if councillors were happy for their details to be displayed. No changes were notified and the information will remain.

f) Donation to village organisations. The clerk reminded council that traditionally donations were made to several village organisations namely the Gardening Guild, (£65), Village hall Committee (£55) and All Saints Church (£250). These items had been included in the council budget for 2012/13. The clerk said he would arrangement payment at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

g) Tree inspections. The clerk reminded the council that tree inspections are undertaken every three years and that the next was due this year. He said he had been in touch with Mr. Helliwell and was due to meet him in early July. It was asked if we knew where the councils trees were located. It was suggested that Mr. Helliwell should have plans. The clerk undertook to plot the trees on the council GIS when time permitted. **Action: Clerk.**

6. County and District Councillors Reports.

County Cllr. Eagland said that the new chairman of the county council was Ian Lawson from North Staffs. Cllr. Browne thanked Cllr. Eagland for the work she had done in getting the road works in the village to run so smoothly.

District Cllr. Pritchard said that he was currently involved with several DC initiatives namely overseeing a new tenancy strategy, involvement in an affordable housing policy and

upgrading 'rate my place'. Recently he was out with police on the A38 whilst lorries were tested. Cllr. Browne asked him what was happening in Lichfield with regards to the number of empty shops. Cllr. Pritchard replied by saying that LDC had recently won a regeneration award but that most shops are owned by private landlords and the council could do little to affect these. Currently there are 9 empty shops and this is far less than in some neighbouring town and cities. It is hoped that a new tenant for the old T J Hughes building will be known in the next 2 weeks. Cllr. Seddon said that some towns place local art works in their windows so that the shops do not appear empty.

7. Highway and Footpaths.

i) Review of road classifications. Cllr. Pritchard reported that a meeting had taken place with Michael Fabricant MP, representatives from Yoxall Parish Council and Mr Gilmour. It was decided that Draycott Parish Council should be contacted and a joint working party formed with three representatives from each council. The MP has contacted SCC but not had a reply. Cllr. Pritchard volunteered to be one of the representatives for Kings Bromley and asked that Cllrs. Seddon and Eagland also attend. They both agreed to this. Cllr. Eagland said that the other two parishes were not under her remit but that she was happy to attend. It was agreed that a working party be formed with the other two parishes mentioned.

Action: Cllr. Pritchard.

ii) Speedwatch / speed issues. The chairman said he still awaited a reply from James Bailey at SCC Highways. Cllr. Eagland said she was sorry to hear that the speedwatch initiative no longer existed. She said she had recently met with Highways to discuss local issues and although the speed limit extension requested for Alrewas Road was being looked at, a full report from SCC was awaited first.

iii) Village entrance signs. Cllr. Eagland said she awaited a meeting with Richard Rayson to discuss options.

iv) 'Part Night' Street Lights. The clerk read out a letter that had been circulated previously and received from SCC regarding this new initiative. Cllr. Seddon said he thought that streetlights helped keep traffic speeds down. Cllr. Browne thought that he could not support this proposal, as there were two 'A' roads in the village. Cllr. Seddon asked if council ought to ask the local community. Cllr. Pritchard said he would like to see the lights off at nighttime and he thought that the dark would actually slow traffic down. He said that initially villagers would be in favour of the move but that later they would want to revert back and that the parish council, under the rules stipulated, would then have to meet the cost. Cllr. Holland said he was concerned that crime levels would increase. Cllr. Rothery was concerned that older people would feel insecure. The chairman summed up by saying that the general feeling was that council should do nothing at this time. This was agreed.

8. Best Kept Village latest.

The only comment made was that the wet weather had prompted very fast growth of the verge grass. No one had seen any judges.

9. Code of Conduct and Registration of Disclosure of Interest.

This had been circulated previously by email (by post to Cllr. Taylor). Cllr. Pritchard said he thought that the guidance was contradictory in that a councillor cannot disclose an interest before he knows he has one. Cllr. Eagland, who is on the Standards Committee, said that councillors need to declare, along with their partners and wives and that this was disgraceful. The chairman suggested that council waits for more information and to retain the item on the agenda for the next meeting. He said that if any councillors are in any doubt whatsoever, then to speak up and declare an interest.

Action: Clerk.

10. Paths for Communities.

The information on this had been circulated previously. Cllr. Browne said he thought that the local walks were not clear and that they should be checked so council does not fall for

any responsibility if someone were to injure him or herself. Cllr. Rothery said she has completed two walks and defects found reported to the clerk, who has forwarded them to SCC Rights of Way Officers. Cllr. Pritchard said that if council checks the routes then are the council accepting responsibility. Cllr. Holland commented that we ought to report blockages such as barbed wire but not maintenance. Cllr. Rothery said she would look at the leaflets and the clerk was asked to take advice and place the item on the next agenda.

Action: Clerk.

Cllr. Eagland left the meeting at 21.30

11. HS2 latest.

Cllr. Browne said that he also walked the route and that 25 others were present. It opened his eyes and that of many others. He said that it would be a long haul and that more people need to get involved as many remained apathetic. He understood that the mitigation reports had now been completed. There will be a HS2 stand at the village show in July. Cllr. Seddon thanked those that were taking an active role. The next meeting of the action group is on 20th June and there will be a forum at Handsacre on 28th. There should be a press release covering the walk in the Lichfield Mercury.

12. Wildflower meadow latest.

Cllr. Rothery asked if the council had an environmental statement. It was thought this was contained in the Parish Plan (Community Led Plan or CLP) and this was available on the web site. She said she would report at the August meeting as she is away for July.

Action: Cllr. Rothery.

13. Report from Neighbourhood Planning Meeting on 22nd May.

Cllr. Holland reported that there was a long presentation on neighbourhood plans but that there would not be a benefit to small parish councils, as the plan still needs to be agreed by the district council. Cllr. Pritchard said it would require a local referendum and that this would be very costly for a small council like Kings Bromley. The general consensus, after some discussion, was that this is not really applicable.

14. Councillors Reports (for information only).

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 11th July 2012.

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