

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 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. M. K. Gair.

**In attendance:** Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)  
Members of the public: Guy Allsop, Ray Griffiths, Wayne Bull, Diane Allsop,  
Julia Allsop, Joy Fielding, B. Stoney, N. Crawley.

**Public Session:** This took place between 7.45 and 8pm. Mr. Stoney reported on the next phase of HS2 and said it had been a very busy month with regular meetings. Signs have been put up locally and a meeting with the local MP is scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> August. Attendees by invitation only and that will include the parish council. Many constituents are unhappy. A mitigation was submitted but HS2 will not look at this until November. A plan shows that the line will split somewhere near to Fradley and projections indicate that it may well now pass very close to Kings Bromley. A map centred on Lichfield was requested and the clerk said he may be able to obtain this. More will be known in the autumn.

Comment was made that a lot of extra traffic is passing through the village during the night. Cllr. Seddon said that there are several diversions in force on the A38 and that this was the reason.

### 1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. W. Taylor; Cllr. Mrs. P. Rothery (holiday)

### 2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs. Pritchard, Seddon and Holland said that they had an interest in any discussion regarding traffic issues on the A513 as they lived adjacent to the road. The chairman also asked that councillors state an interest if an item is discussed subsequently.

### 3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that a lot was going on with HS2, highway diversions affecting the village and the Best Kept Village competition being judged in this very wet weather. Hopefully there will be some sunshine before the judging ends later this month.

### 4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

These had been distributed previously. Cllr. Seddon requested one minor amendment to item 7 iv – he meant traffic speeds slowed when drivers went from dark areas to light. The minute was amended and initialled to this effect. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Holland that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour.

### 5. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

The clerk read out the minutes as a reminder. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Gair that the minutes be signed as a true record. All in favour.

### 6. Clerks Report.

a) Correspondence / emails received.

- i) Letter from Royal British Legion asking if the council wish to purchase a wreath for the remembrance service in November. It was agreed to purchase a poppy ring at £20.  
Clerk to order. **Action: Clerk.**
- ii) Letter regarding John Taylor presentation evening – Cllr. Browne said he would attend. Clerk to make reservation. **Action: Clerk.**

- iii) Email from SCC regarding footpaths problems reported previously. Stiles to be replaced with kissing gates and ditches being dealt with. SCC inspector to monitor.
- iv) Email from Mr. Hayward asking that council authorise extra grass cuts because of additional growth with the wet weather. Two additional cuts were agreed. Clerk to inform. **Action: Clerk.**
- v) CC of Staffs – letter of invitation to attend BKV presentation evening. Alan Howard usually attends this. Clerk to pass papers to him. **Action: Clerk.**
- vi) Email from Julia Allsop with a request for financial support for HS2 meetings held at the village hall. It was agreed to fund hall hire for the rest of the year (6 further meetings).

b) Finances.

Financial statement –

Current A/c £9,296.54 as at 26/6/12. Reserve A/c £17,416.66 as at 26/6/12

- i) Payments received – 1.48p interest
- ii) Payments to be made.
  - 300207 Clerks salary £346.73 and Exps £77.91 Total £424.64
  - 300208 Bromley Mowing Services - £222.32
  - 300209 Benhill Press – Jubilee leaflets - £99
  - 300210 Kings Bromley PCC - donation - £250
  - 300311 Gardening Guild – donation - £65
  - 300212 Village Hall Committee – donation - £55
  - 300213 R. Helliwell – tree inspection and report - £176
  - 300214 Village Hall – HS2 meetings - £37.50

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

c) Financial statement for the first quarter of 2012/13.

The Clerk handed out a statement of accounts and apologised for not distributing it sooner. Computer problems had prevented this. The clerk suggested that councillors take the figures away and if there are any queries, to bring them to the next meeting. The revised estimate of spend is £11,875 but there will be extra grass cuts to fund amounting to around £450 (see item 6 iv above). **Action: All.**

d) Outcome from the recent inspection of trees.

The clerk distributed a sketch plan of the tree locations as prepared by the inspector. It shows trees on parish ground that the council is responsible for. Councillors concentrated on the large sycamore that was a cause of complaint from a parishioner. The clerk read out the report from the inspector and passed round images showing the tree. Cllr. Pritchard said he had seen the tree in question and felt that it was not appropriate to take any action, as many other parishioners had learned to live with the problems associated with them. He said the tree was there well before the parishioner moved into the house. Cllr. Seddon asked the question 'does it get worse if the council does nothing'. Cllr. Browne thought it should be left until the next inspection in three years' time. It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that no action is taken at this time and that council would wait upon the next report in three years. No other proposals were put forward. A vote was taken with Cllrs Pritchard, Gair, Browne and Holland in favour and Cllr. Seddon abstaining. The clerk was asked to write to the parishioner with the outcome. The clerk then suggested he summarise the remainder of the inspectors report and bring it to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

e) Asset Register.

A copy of this had been distributed previously. The clerk asked if there were any queries or comments. Cllr. Pritchard said he thought the description for the war memorial ought to be more specific and include the new surfacing. The clerk said that the register did not appear to include the recently purchased play equipment

and that he would add this and check that the councils insurers were aware. Cllr. Holland questioned why the wet-pour was included; the clerk said that it needed to be for insurance purposes. No further comments were made and the clerk undertook to update the register.

**Action: Clerk.**

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

District Cllr. Pritchard said that the Lichfield Plan has been approved and will soon go out to consultation and it was important that local people saw it. It contains information on the amount of housing to be built before 2028, council view on wind farms and many other important planning issues. The plan must cover all these aspects otherwise there is no defence if developers want to build in the district. 8200 houses are in the plan for construction before 2028. Only 44 were built last year.

Cllr. Browne asked if there was any news on who might fill the unoccupied T G Hughes site. Cllr. Pritchard said that a major store was interested then pulled out but that the council was doing all it could to find another major retailer.

The chairman thanked Cllr. Pritchard for his report.

#### **7. Highway and Footpaths.**

i) Review of road classifications. Cllr. Pritchard reported that Michael Fabricant MP has written to SCC on this matter and said he thought that the council was going to write to other parishes to ask if they were interested in making joint representation. The clerk undertook to do this.

**Action: Clerk.**

ii) Traffic speed issues. The chairman said he had again contacted James Bailey at SCC Highways but had no reply. He has been promised an explanation of the results of the last speed survey. The clerk then read out an email received from County Cllr. Eagland that she had had from Richard Rayson at SCC. It said that the extension of the limit on the A513 Alrewas Road would in fact be a 40mph buffer zone and that it has been placed as a priority on the Divisional Highway Programme (DHP) and that the feasibility will be looked at in August / September.

iii) Village entrance signs. The clerk again read out an email from Cllr. Eagland that she had received from Richard Rayson at SCC. It stated that the council had already been informed that brick planters would not be allowed because of accident risk. Highways are happy to look at softer planting. The clerk said that in his original letter to SCC he mentioned an entrance similar to that in Fox Lane, Alrewas or those at Hoar Cross. No mention was made of planters but SCC had drawn that conclusion because a reference to the horticultural society was made in the letter. Cllr. Seddon said that he would speak to James Bailey at SCC.

**Action: Cllr. Seddon.**

iv) Responsibility for footpaths. The clerk read out an email received from SCC following councils question to them regarding disclaimers on the walk leaflets. SCC suggested that contact details should be provided and if people find any issues, to contact SCC. They also suggested contacting all landowners over whose ground the footpaths run. After some discussion it was decided that it was not practicable to put a notice on all the walk leaflets, however it was worth placing a notice on the web site and notice boards and asking the horticultural society to do the same. The clerk was asked to send out a copy of the walk leaflets to all the landowners pointing out their responsibility.

**Action: Clerk.**

v) Paths for Communities. The clerk reminded council that grants are available under this scheme. It was felt that Cllr. Rothery, as footpaths officer, should look at this and report back at the next meeting.

**Action: Cllr. Rothery.**

#### **8. Code of Conduct and Registration of Disclosure of Interest.**

This had been circulated previously by email (by post to Cllr. Taylor). The clerk said that the new forms should be completed immediately and sent back to LDC. It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that council adopts the Code as supplied by NALC. All were in favour. The clerk said he would place a notice to that effect on the parish notice boards.

**Action: All and Clerk.**

**9. HS2 latest.**

Cllr. Gair reported that she had attended a meeting in late June (Cllr. Browne was on holiday). She said that there was a poor turnout. HS2 action group will have a stand at the village show but that residents do not appreciate the seriousness of what the new line may bring to the parish. An invitation has been made to the local MP to talk to the 'no' group but it is not a general invitation. The action group is very unhappy that the mitigation proposals are not being considered. The papers were placed in the circulation file and a map of the line circulated for councillors to see. A question over noise levels had been asked but no answer was forthcoming. A new map was now available showing a box where the two lines split. This appears to be north west of Streethay where phase 2 starts.

The clerk then read out an email he had received from Julia Allsop asking if council could fund the hire of the village hall for one meeting per month from now until the year end. This would be 6 meetings at around £12 per meeting. It was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Browne that this be met from parish funds. All in favour. Cllr. Browne said it was disappointing that no response seems to come from villagers and perhaps the HS2 group ought to consider knocking on doors. It was felt residents do not want to escalate the issue for fear of blighting them but comment was made that this has already happened. It was suggested that local footpaths will be closed were they cross the new line. It was asked if the parish council could produce a leaflet. Cllr. Seddon said it would be best if a piece were inserted in the parish magazine. Cllrs Browne and Gair will get together with the HS2 group and come up with some ideas to bring to the next meeting.

**Action: Clls. Gair and Browne.**

**10. Wildflower meadow latest.**

Cllr. Rothery was not at the meeting.

**11. Neighbourhood or Parish Plan.**

Cllr. Pritchard said that to produce a plan would be very expensive as council would need to consult with its parishioners. Any plan then needs to tie in with the plan produced by LDC. He thought it prudent to wait until LDCs plan is published before making any decisions on undertaking a parish plan. This was agreed.

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

Cllr. Seddon said that the neighbourhood highway team were due in the parish soon and to let the clerk know if there is any work that is required. **Action: All.**

The chairman then reminded council that a notice board space had been reserved at the village show and asked what information ought to be published. Several suggestions were put forward and the clerk was asked to compile this and arrange for the information to be sent to the show organisers. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr. Browne commented that the local buses were running well but felt Arriva could do more to inform residents when they change their timetables. The clerk said he would contact passenger transport at SCC to ask they request Arriva to provide more information. **Action: Clerk.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.48pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012.