

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 12th December 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. Mrs. P. Rothery; Cllr. S. Holland.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public: Ray Griffiths, Julia Allsopp, Wayne Bull.

Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 8pm. Julia Allsopp asked if the council would pay for a recently printed HS2 information flier and meet the cost of hall hire in the New Year. She also requested a meeting with the council in January. After some discussion it was felt that this idea would be inappropriate as some may see it as a full council meeting held in private. It was suggested that perhaps the best way would be for her to meet with the two council HS2 representatives, Cllrs. Gair and Browne, who could then bring their concerns to a full council meeting where everything could be included in the minutes.

The completion of HS2 may yet be 10 years away and it was felt that many parishioners were not getting too concerned at this early stage because of raising the profile and blighting properties. It was pointed out that local searches would indicate the scheme anyway.

Cllr. Browne raised the issue of the recent floods and the fact that the council did not have an emergency plan in place. Comment was made that the village had suffered flooding before and the emergency services were used via the police. Sandbags could be arranged but an organiser and storage would be needed. Cllr. Pritchard volunteered to look into this.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. W. Taylor, (unwell). County Cllr. J. Eagland.

2. Declarations of Interest.

All councillors, except Cllr. Browne, said that they had an interest in any discussion regarding traffic issues on the A513. Cllr. Rothery reiterated this but added the A515. The chairman 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 thanked Cllr. Browne for attending and representing the council at the recent Remembrance Service. He thanked Cllrs. Pritchard and Holland for organising the felling, delivery and erection of the Christmas tree.

4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 14th November 2012.

These had been distributed previously. One minor amendment was identified, item 8 HS2 report, Cllr. Browne said he also attended the meeting with Cllr. Gair. The minutes were amended and initialled by the chairman. With this amendment made, it was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the minutes be accepted as a true record. All present on 14th November were in favour.

5. Clerks Report.

a) Correspondence / emails received.

- i) SCC – Grounds maintenance to parishes. Flier advertising their services.
Clerk to invite quote. **Action: Clerk.**
- ii) Staffs Police Authority – result of election. Mr. Matthew Ellis elected.
- iii) Email from Wicksteed- covered in agenda item 9c.
- iv) Email from SCC re chipping store – covered in agenda item 5c.
- v) Email from SCC re reduced bus service – covered in agenda item 7iii.

Initial:

- vi) Letter from Sovereign re play equipment – covered in agenda item 9c.
- vii) Letter from LDC re Local Plan Strategy. The clerk read out parts of the letter before placing the document in the circulation file.
- viii) Letter from Royal British Legion re poppy appeal. Letter of thanks from Mr. Gilmour for supporting the appeal.
- ix) Letter from SCC re community focus for Ice Busters. Letter reiterating the request for parishes to take on some of the role of winter maintenance. This had been discussed previously and council's stance is unchanged.

Additional post received.

- x) Letter from councils insurers, Came and Company regarding an increase in public liability claims. The clerk read out the letter that suggests the council ought to undertake inspections of the play equipment every week. Currently the clerk does this every fortnight and said he has had no official training. After some discussion the clerk offered to call and undertake his inspection weekly and to tie it in with his maintenance of the notice boards. This was agreed and the clerk thanked.
Action: Clerk.
- xi) SPCA email re council tax reduction scheme. The clerk read out part of this email and explained that the way central government will be allocating funds to district councils in future is changing. The implication to be drawn is that this may well mean a reduction in the precept and hence a reduced budget for the council in future years. The clerk said he has the usual form to complete, this to be returned to LDC by 21st January 2013 and that it will be included on the agenda for the January meeting.
Action: Clerk.
- xii) Letter from SPCA stating that they have held their membership subscription for next year.
- xiii) Email from LDC regarding preparing a neighbourhood plan. This subject has been debated at length previously but councillors felt the situation was worth monitoring and to place an item on the agenda for the next meeting.
Action: Clerk.

Post sent:

Letters of thanks to Mr. Gilmour, PC Browne, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Jarman and the Horticultural Society.
 Invoice for grass cutting sent to the Village Hall committee.
 Letters to all councillors regarding dispensation requests.

b) Finances.

- i) Financial statement: As at 26/11/12 – Current account £635.74, Reserve account £21,422.45
- ii) Payments Received: £1000 transferred from Reserve account to current account.
- iii) Payments to be made:
 - 300234 Clerks net salary - £277.53 and expenses - £84.67 and postage for Nov 2012 - £0. Total £362.20
 - 300235 HMRC – Clerks income tax - £69.20
 - 300236 SLCC – half subs share - £57.00
 - 300237 KB parish news subs - £5.00
 - 300238 C&E Comm Assoc – file storage - £104.00 – see item e) below.

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

- iv) PAYE update. The clerk said that HMRC must take cheque payments from Parish Councils. However, new rules on PAYE (called RTI or real time information) are coming into force next year and this will have to be reviewed again at that time.
 - v) Review of financial regulations. The clerk said that standing orders dictate that council must review its financial regulations once a year. This clerk has been in post for a year so it is time that this review is undertaken. A copy of current regulations had been distributed prior to the meeting. A discussion took place around any changes that ought to be made. Several suggestions were put forward and the clerk was asked to incorporate these into a draft document and to email it out prior to the January meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- c) Chipping Store at lay by. SCC has reinstated the lay by verge but say that economically they have to use this lay by as a store during the chipping season as it easily serves several parishes in two districts. The suggested alternative at Orgreave is used for planed off material and not suitable for chippings. Cllr. Browne asked if the clerk could ask SCC to tip the chippings more tidily.
Action: Clerk
- d) Dog Fouling. LDC has been informed of the problem, particularly outside the school. They say they will stencil the footway in 2 places and send out a monitoring / observation team. The Head teacher has also been contacted and notices placed in the next three issues of the parish magazine.
- e) File Storage. A copy of the list of files stored at Elmhurst had been circulated previously. The clerk said that some files could be destroyed but other must be kept indefinitely. It made sense, therefore, that unless a 'free' facility can be found the council maintains the archive at Elmhurst. After discussion it was decided to pay the rental.
- f) Review of Working Practise. This was requested to be carried to this meeting to enable the chairman to comment. No further comments were made and councillors were happy with the way the administration was working.

6. County and District Councillors Reports.

District Cllr. Pritchard said that LDC has won an award from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the renovation of Beacon Park. This was a worldwide competition and the Lichfield scheme beat the Olympic Park submission so this was something to be really proud of. The award was presented in London last week.

Cllr. Eagland was not present and had not submitted a report.

7. Highway and Footpaths.

- i) Traffic and speed issues – Cllr. Pritchard said he had not as yet made arrangement for a meeting with the other parishes but will sort a date for January 2013.
Action: Cllr. Pritchard.
- ii) Footpath issues. None were known or reported at this time.
- iii) Arriva bus service. Cllr. Browne said that everyone had seen the reply from SCC that states they only subsidise evening runs. The decision to amend the daytime timetable was made entirely by the bus company. No doubt this was done for reasons of economy but it does leave many parishioners, who are dependent on the service, in a very difficult position. He said he would like to arrange a meeting with Cllr. Eagland and the bus company. Cllr. Pritchard stated that some villages and rural areas have no bus service at all and added that if the route through the village was uneconomical it could

be lost completely. It was agreed that Cllr. Browne ask for a meeting with Cllr. Eagland and Arriva.
Action: Cllr. Browne.

8. HS2 latest.

Cllr. Gair reported that she and Cllr. Browne had attended a meeting, chaired by Clive Thompson of SCC, on 23rd November. It was attended mainly by the same representatives that go to the forum. The usual subjects were discussed – mitigation, compensation, noise, vibration and health impacts. SCC is to write to the Department of Transport and it was suggested that members press their MPs. Many consultants are no longer available as they are already being employed by HS2. She said that they were impressed by the representatives from LDC and their extensive knowledge and that the meeting was worthwhile. A site visit to HS1 was proposed and this will be funded by the HS2 group.

9. Possible Future Projects funded from reserves.

a) Wildflower meadow sign latest. Cllr. Rothery said that a lectern type sign would cost in the region of £585 +vat with an extra £100 for the art work. This would be wood / acrylic. Cllr. Holland said that the wood ought to be oak. After a short discussion it was felt that this was too expensive and Cllr. Rothery said she would seek alternative quotes. It was suggested that the Horticultural Society might like to contribute as they had withdrawn from the entrance gate project.
Action: Cllr. Rothery.

b) Village entrances – estimated cost. The clerk said he had two prices both based on a timber solution. Option 1 assumes 'gates' and comes in at around £4000 including signs. Option 2 assumes post and rail and is around a quarter of the cost. He said he had also obtained an estimate of the cost of erection and that would be around £1500 +vat. The chairman asked if council ought to continue given the costs involved. Cllr. Pritchard thought it was hard to justify spending so much of the parish precept on wooden gates that may only help slow traffic down. Cllr. Holland thought that there would be an on-going maintenance issue as wood would eventually rot. It was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Gair that this project be put on hold for the time being. All were in favour.

c) Replacement Playground Slide. The clerk has obtained one quote from Wicksteed of £6,758.55 for a high pedestal slide including wet pour patching and installation. A further quote from Sovereign is awaited. After discussion it was felt that some pictures of options would be useful and the item was deferred until the next meeting.
Action: Clerk.

10. Formulation of Freedom of Information request to SCC Highways.

The chairman said he had not had time yet to write this request.

11. Grass Cutting Quotes for 2013 and 2014.

The clerk said that the present 'contract' has ended and asked approval for him to approach three local contractors to see if they wished to tender. It was suggested that Mr. Hayward be approached again along with SCC and a further local contractor. Clerk to arrange. The chairman said he was dismayed that the current contractor, Mr. Hayward, had cause to ask why the council was unhappy with his work. The clerk said that he had contacted Mr. Hayward to reassure him that this was not the case. The only comment in the minutes was that grass had been cut whilst wet and that it was difficult to do anything else given the wet summer. It seems that someone had misinterpreted the minute and spoken to Mr. Hayward to say the council was unhappy with his work. The chairman said it was a shame that someone felt they had cause to do this.
Action: Clerk.

12. Councillor Reports for information only.

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.38pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 9th January 2013.