

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 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; Cllr. W. Taylor.

**In attendance:** Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)  
Members of the public: PC. Lewis.

**Public Session:** This took place between 7.45 and 8pm. PC Lewis said that the latest Newsletter was on its way. There were no local crimes to report last month and no reported anti-social behaviour. She wants to work with the community and is currently looking at speeding in the village. Cllr. Browne asked if the camera van could be less visible and be positioned at other locations. PC Lewis said that the locations are fairly fixed as each one has to be risk assessed. Cllr. Pritchard commented that it was important that the vans were high visibility as the aim is to make motorists realise they are there and not to hide away in order to collect fines. The camera van is operated by the Safety Camera Partnership. The chairman thanked PC Lewis for attending. She left the meeting at 8.05pm.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

County Cllr. J. Eagland.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

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 first meeting of 2013 and wished all a Happy New Year. He was pleased to note the use of the village web site and the fact that someone had left a message in the guestbook. This had been followed up because the name of the person was the same as that of a name on the war memorial. It transpired that the persons were related. The visitor was born in the village in 1942 and is the great nephew of the person named on the memorial. The chairman has sent the visitor some records and pictures of the village and expects some information to come back.

**4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.**

These had been distributed previously. One minor amendment was identified by the clerk, County Cllr. Eagland had sent her apologies for the meeting but they had not been recorded as had Cllr. Taylor. These amendments were made. One other change meant a deletion from the minutes, this concerning the donation of the Christmas tree. The clerk undertook to remove a short section of sentence and bring the minutes to the February Meeting for signing. **Action: Clerk**

**5. Clerks Report.**

a) Correspondence / emails received.

i) Letter from CC of Staffs re Best Kept Village competition 2013. The clerk said that the entry form was attached. It was decided to enter again this year, subject to Mr. Howard being able to administer the entry. The clerk was asked to write to Mr. Howard to determine his availability.

**Action: Clerk**

Post sent:

Letters to prospective tenders for this and next year's grass maintenance. Return date for quotes is 11<sup>th</sup> February and the clerk will bring these to the February meeting for a decision.

Initial:

b) Finances.

- i) Financial statement: As at 24/12/12 – Current account £290.34, Reserve account £21,422.45
- ii) Payments Received: £280 for grass cutting at village hall.
- iii) Payments to be made:
  - 300239 Clerk Salary £277.33 (net), Expenses £108.89, of which postage was £21.60 for Dec 2102 – Total £386.22.
  - 300240 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £69.40
  - 300241 Print and Digital – HS2 printing - £80 no vat
  - 300242 LDC Play Equipment Inspection - £55.20 inc. vatIt was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Gair that the above invoices be paid. All in favour.
- iv) To adopt the revised financial regulations. The clerk said that these had been emailed out previously (hard copy to Cllr. Taylor). It was proposed by Cllr. Rothery and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the revised financial regulations be adopted. All were in favour. The clerk then confirmed that the accounts had been checked by Cllr. Gair and were found to be sound.
- v) Financial statement to the end of the third quarter. A copy of the statement had been circulated previously. The clerk ran through the statement that showed the expected revised surplus for the current year would be around £970.

## 6. County and District Councillors Reports.

District Cllr. Pritchard said that a press release had been issued today saying that an investment of £800,000 was to be made to update Trent Valley Railway station. This work would be undertaken between now and next year. The car park is owned by SCC and LDC is working with them to try to extend the area available.

Cllr. Eagland had sent her apologies but had not submitted a report.

## 7. Highway and Footpaths.

- a) Traffic issues – (i) Meeting with neighbouring parishes. Cllr. Pritchard said he had not as yet made arrangement for a meeting with the other parishes but will do in the next few days. **Action: Cllr. Pritchard.**
  - (ii) FOI request to SCC. The chairman said that James Bailey from SCC has agreed to attend a future meeting and that he will sort out a date. **Action. Cllr. Seddon.**
- b) Footpath issues. None were known or reported at this time.
- c) Arriva latest. Cllr. Browne said he had not organised a meeting with Cllr. Eagland and Arriva yet due to the Christmas break. He thought he would visit local users of the service to collect their thoughts and see if they were able to work with the revised service and then take their comments back to the Bus Company and councillor. **Action: Cllr. Browne.**

## 8. HS2 latest.

Cllr. Gair reported that the Action Group had not been in contact. Cllr. Pritchard said he has been asked to a meeting but suggested the Group be asked to attend the next parish council meeting at 7.30pm. They would then have half an hour to relay their recent concerns. Cllr. Gair was concerned that the parish council had to represent the parish as a whole and that this may not be the same as some of the local landowners. Cllr. Seddon thought the whole issue was not that simple and that the railway line makes no business or economic sense. Cllr. Pritchard commented that he thought everyone accepts the new

railway is coming. Cllr. Browne reminded the meeting that several court cases are due to be heard before the end of this month and that several national newspapers are writing articles against the proposal. Cllr. Rothery asked how long the parish council had undertaken to pay for the hire of the hall for the HS2 meetings. The clerk said until the end of the current financial year. Cllr. Browne thought council should only pay for more posters once the route of phase 2 is known. Cllr. Holland thought that there should be two distinct groups, one against HS2 and one looking at possible compensations claims. He felt that the two may be one-and-the-same or at least one clouds the other. Cllr. Pritchard to speak to the Group about attending the next parish council meeting at 7.30pm.

**Action: Cllr. Pritchard.**

**9. Wildflower meadow / hedge.**

Cllr. Rothery said she has not as yet obtained a final quote but understands that the previous price given included an aluminium stand and frame and acrylic board. She has spoken to someone from Heart of England about options.

**10. To consider granting a dispensation up until the next ordinary election to all parish councillors who live within the parish to enable them to participate in any discussion or vote on any matter concerning the setting of the council's budget and annual precept.**

The clerk reminded the meeting that this requirement has come about as a result of the Localism Act and means that council has to give itself approval to set the precept. Cllr. Pritchard commented that the rule was there to protect all councillors against any accusation of manipulating the precept to their own advantage. Cllr. Holland asked if this only applied to councillors who resided in the parish. The clerk said that was the case - a parish councillor can represent a parish provided they live within three miles of its boundary, but in that instance they would not require a dispensation. It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that the dispensation outlined above be granted. All were in favour.

**11. Budget / Precept bid 2013/14.**

The clerk went through the financial statement to year end and the expected income and expenditure for the next financial year. Income is expected to be £13,436 and expenditure, based on this years projected figures, £12,882 giving a possible excess of income over expenditure of £554. Cllr. Pritchard commented that though it was better in the current economic climate to keep the bid unchanged, after several years with such action it ultimately means that single large increases will be required to get back to the original position. After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the bid for the coming year be unchanged at £12,880. All were in favour. The clerk was asked to return the necessary form to LDC.

**Action: Clerk.**

**12. Grass Cutting Quotes for 2013 and 2014.**

The clerk said that he has sent out three invitations to quote for the work for 2013 and 2014. The closing date for return of these is 11<sup>th</sup> February and he will bring them to the next meeting for a decision to be made.

**Action: Clerk.**

**13. Proposed purchase and storage of sandbags.**

Cllr. Pritchard said the main issue was over suitable storage – a dedicated facility is required. He added that anyone can obtain them LDC and he will check the situation ready to report to the next meeting. Comment was made that The Bourne Brook is silted up and that ditches are no longer cleared out by farmers. Cllr. Rothery said she would speak to a local landowner to see if they would clear the brook course.

**Action: Cllr. Rothery.**

**14. Projects for 2013 funded from reserves – replacement slide.**

The clerk said that so far he had 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 should have arrived but despite being chased had not been received as yet. He then distributed some images of slides for consideration by the council. After discussion

one option was chosen and the clerk asked to approach the company for a more detailed quote. **Action: Clerk.**

**15. Annual Parish Open Meeting.**

The clerk said he has booked the village hall for this meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm.

**16. Review of Parish Plan / Creation of Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr. Browne said the parish plan was now well out of date and did require updating. Cllr. Pritchard thought that there were two choices, to update the parish plan or go ahead and develop a neighbourhood plan. If the latter option is chosen then it would be necessary to obtain grants as the cost is likely to be high. The chairman thought that it may be worth waiting a while as these plans are in their infancy and it is known that several who acted straight away have had theirs rejected. The LDC Local Plan will not be finalised for another 4 or 5 months and that perhaps it would be prudent to wait and see what that contains and provide council with a 'blueprint'. The chairman thought Council should re-visit this again in mid-2013.

Clerk to add to agenda for July meeting.

**Action: Clerk.**

**17. Councillor Reports for information only.**

The clerk was asked to write to several residents who had helped out with this year's Christmas tree, its felling, transportation and erection. Cllr. Pritchard offered to handle and distribute the letters. Several councillors thought as the days are so short and dark, that in future the tree lights should remain on all day and that several of the failed bulbs should be replaced. Cllr. Pritchard will deal with this.

**Action: Cllr. Pritchard.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013.