

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 13th March 2013 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. G. C. Seddon (Chairman); Cllr. I. M. P. Pritchard; Cllr. S. R. Browne;
Cllr. Mrs. P. Rothery;

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public: Ray Griffiths, Barry Stoney.

Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 8.23pm. Mr. Stoney spoke in response to a suggestion that the HS2 Action Group has no structure. He said they are trying to do their best especially when dealing with Michael Fabricant who does not provide any feedback. Cllr. Browne said that a meeting on 19th April will be held with the MP and Whittington PC and that there is a list of 17 questions they wish to put to him. It is estimated that it is costing £1m per month at the moment and that the total project is 40% below the likely final cost. Mr. Stoney asked what are the Councils thoughts on the Group. The chairman said that the council had answered their questions and Cllr. Pritchard added that he thought the group was performing very well but never thought this to be a parish council function. If help is needed then the group only needs to ask. The parish council should not run the show and said that Whittington's chairman was involved originally then took a back seat once the action groups were formed. They have no representatives on the group but their chairman now attends. No funds are given from the precept but there are fund raising events so if the group has events they will support them. Originally they gave around £700 to the group. Cllr. Browne suggested that the group might look at an event following the Horticultural Society show in July. This was deemed a good idea as the marquees would still be in place. Mr. Stoney said that some of the signs they have erected keep being stolen. The chairman said that people expect the parish council to take a lead but pointed out that some are not against HS2. Financially the council cannot always help legally, as it is a non-political organisation. Last week at the EGM, council attempted to look logically at the arguments but said that many varied interest groups can have differing objectives and end up falling out. The parish council is doing what it needs to with two councillors attending meetings and feeding this back to full council. He found it offensive that Councillors were attacked for not attending the last full council meeting. They were either unwell or at work. Meetings take time and are monthly and interfere with Councillors personal life. Cllr. Pritchard, who was unwell, has missed only one or two meetings in all the time he has been a councillor. The chairman thanked Mr. Stoney for coming along when the rest of the group could not. Mr. Stoney said that the group were unsure if they could attend the EGM and that many did not know about it. The clerk pointed out that all meetings are open to the public and that notice of the meeting with an agenda was on the notice boards and web site. Cllr. Seddon said that the parish council is meant to represent all its parishioners and this is very difficult in some situations. He said that the council had no response at all to the original leaflet drop concerning HS2.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. S. Holland; Cllr. Mrs. M. K. Gair; Cllr. W. Taylor. (Absent through illness/work commitments/holiday).

2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr. Rothery declared an interest in any discussion involving HS2 as her family had land over which the track will pass. She also said that any discussion about either the A515 or A513 affected her as does the post item concerning nominated trustees. Cllrs. Pritchard and Seddon said they too needed to declare an interest on discussions around traffic issues on the two 'A' roads. The chairman asked that other councillors state an interest if an item is discussed subsequently.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The chairman apologised for the late start but said it was time well spent and the discussion on HS2 was worthwhile. He thanked Mr Stoney for his input.

4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 13th February 2013.

These had been distributed previously. It was proposed by Cllr. Rothery and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour. The amended minutes from the January meeting were also signed. (This not being possible at the February meeting as the Chairman was absent.)

5. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 4th March 2013.

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

6. Clerks Report.

a) Correspondence / emails received.

- i) Letter Eric Roy – invoice for web site. The clerk explained what this payment was for. Cllr. Browne commented that he thought the site did not contain enough information on village organisations. It was pointed out that this is dependent upon them telling the Council. Clerk offered to add links to other web sites if he is informed of them. Cllr Rothery to will look in to this too.

Action: All and Clerk.

- ii) Letter Kings Bromley United Charities re Nominated Trustees. Cllr. Rothery had declared an interest in this. Council supports the election of Mrs Deakin as a trustee.
- iii) Flier from Severn Trent Water re sewerage replacement. Thanks to Mr Griffiths for sending his own copy of the flier to the Council. Works to commence in April for around 16 weeks and will involve traffic lights at the main cross roads. Work scheduled to pass the school in Crawley Lane during the holiday break. Disruption is inevitable. The exhibition on 1st March at the village hall was not well attended mainly because no one knew of it. More information from 0800 783 4444.
- iv) Letter from SCC re improving life for motorists. Clerk read out this letter regarding a new web site for motorists at www.roadworks.org . Clerk to ask Parish Magazine to publish this link.

Action: Clerk.

Letters Sent

- i) Letter to Brian Hayward re award of grass cutting contract.
- ii) Letter to unsuccessful grass cutting tenderer.
- iii) Letters to Cllr. Taylor re extraordinary meeting.

b) Finances.

- i) Financial statement: As at 26/2/13 – Current account £1,027.22, Reserve account £19,422.45
- ii) Payments Received: £40 refund of bank charges.
- iii) Payments to be made:
 - 300247 Clerk Salary £277.33 (net), Expenses £89.98, of which cost of stamps purchased was £12 for Feb 2013 – Total £367.31
 - 300248 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £69.40
 - 300249 Eric Roy consulting – web site - £130 no vat.
 - 300250 CC of Staffs – BKV entry £46.75It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that the above invoices be paid. All in favour.

7. County and District Councillors Reports.

Cllr Pritchard reported that in future the precept grant monies distributed from central government will be reduced such that by 2020 there will be no grant at all. This will

inevitably mean reduced monies paid to parish councils. The chairman thanked Cllr. Pritchard for this report.

8. Highway and Footpaths.

a) Traffic issues.

- (i and iii) Meeting with neighbouring parishes / reclassification of roads. Cllr. Pritchard said he met with a representative of Draycott and Yoxall parishes. It was decided that each parish would obtain as much traffic information as they could and reconvene in five weeks time. It was felt that the County Council should then be approached with a request to place a weight restriction on the local 'A' roads with the exception of when they are used as a diversionary route for the A38. SCC now has the powers to put restrictions on these roads. Cllr. Pritchard is trying to contact Mr Gilmour for any information he might have on the subject. One other option was to request 'timed restrictions'. Cllr. Pritchard to report progress at May meeting. **Action: Cllr. Pritchard.**
- (ii) FOI request to SCC. The chairman thought this had now gone as far as possible and asked the item to be removed from future agenda. **Action: Clerk**

b) Footpath issues. Community paths initiative – strimmer. Cllr. Pritchard thought the council already owned a strimmer. The problem will be with identifying a qualified user and making sure there is insurance cover. Cllr. Rothery said that there was a damaged / dismantled kissing gate on one of the footpaths and she would investigate further.

Action: Cllr. Rothery.

9. HS2 latest.

Cllr. Browne handed a written report made by Cllr. Gair to the clerk to be read out.

“KEY POINTS FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL & LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL. HS2 PHASE ONE UPDATE - 26TH FEBRUARY 2013.

There will be an approximate 2.5 year time lag between Phase 1 and Phase 2 going forward and the meeting would concentrate on Phase 1 at this stage.

SCC has instructed Parliamentary Agents Sharp Pritchard to take them through the hybrid bill petition process. Warwickshire have nominated the same Agents so there will be the opportunity to work together.

A mitigation log is to be built up during the course of this year to provide evidence for the petition.

It was requested that the Agents would speak to Staffordshire Action Groups to give some guidance on what they should be doing. No meetings had yet been held between SCC and the Agents but this might be a possibility for the future. The Agents will advise on the feasibility of our joint mitigation proposals.

Dean Sargeant reported on a meeting he had attended with HS2 re highways alignment and rights of way. The diversion of Wood Lane and Shaw Lane access were amongst the issues raised. Monthly meetings will now be held to discuss proposed diversions.

An Acoustic sub group has been formed and monthly meetings will be held with other authorities along the route. The group will continue to challenge the HS2 monitoring process with feedback from action groups.

A SCC representative has been appointed to deal with flood plain modelling and will liaise with the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency is responsible for major rivers in the area but smaller culverts, ditches, streams etc. come under the SCC. Again, the HS2 flood plain modelling will be scrutinised.

Mike Maryon of the SCC accepted that routing of works haulage was a crucial issue and will be closely investigated by Highways.

A Phase 2 Summit will be arranged by SCC and LDC and a Stop HS2 Convention is being planned for Action Groups.

For further information, the SCC website on HS2 Phase 1 and Phase 2 should be referred to.”

Cllr. Browne is to attend a meeting at SCC on 19th March. He said he thought that the parish council should make a clear statement regarding its position on HS2 and hopes

other councils will then follow suit. Cllr. Rothery asked who the statement is intended for. Cllr. Browne replied to SCC / LDC and Michael Fabricant. Cllr. Seddon then read out a policy statement produced by SPCA. Cllr. Rothery said it is difficult for the council to speak for all its residents. Cllr. Pritchard said that as elected members it is councils duty to speak for them but there is no doubt in his mind that the council is against the HS2 project and that past minutes already give the councils opinion. Cllr. Browne thought that the villagers should be questioned but the chairman thought this would come out of the county council meeting.

10. Projects for 2013 funded from reserves: Wildflower meadow sign / slide.

Cllr. Rothery said the sign was still work in progress. Discussion then revolved around the replacement of the slide. The clerk pointed out again that the inspection report continually says the existing equipment does not meet current safety standards although the slide is sound. An option would be to take it away completely. It was decided to defer this item to the April meeting when a decision must be made. **Action: Clerk and Cllr. Rothery.**

11. Outcome of Arriva meeting at SCC.

This was eventually held on 4th March after one parish council cancelled. There were two representatives from Fradley parish council, two from Yoxall parish council, two from SCC and two from Arriva. The route is subsidised by SCC for evenings and Sundays. Arriva were asked to reinstate the day time service to what it was and take out the evening service. The route is not commercially viable and the main concern is that the bus company may withdraw the service all together. The bus company agreed to look at their decision and the options and to contact Cllr. Eagland in the near future.

12. Possible Purchase and Storage of Sandbags.

Cllr Pritchard said he is looking into this.

13. Best Kept Village Competition 2013.

The clerk said he has contacted the school about the poster competition and asked about prizes for the children. After discussion it was agreed to source these from Amazon as it was felt that there was no suitable local retailer. **Action: Clerk**

14. To consider an increase in the Clerks expenses to cover administration costs:

Currently the expenses paid per month are £7 for telephone. 45p per mile for travel. 17p per print / copy made. £17.33 for use as home as office. £9.42 for office equipment and broadband.

Fuel and stationery costs (printer inks in particular) have increased significantly over the last year. HMRC allow 45p per mile and £26.75 for use of home as office before any tax is due. Therefore there is only scope to increase the payment made per print / copy from the current rate of 17p. An estimate of copies made per month over the last 12 months is 275 copies costing £561 pa.

The clerk is therefore requesting an increase in copying cost to 19p per copy (11.7% increase). This would increase the yearly figure to £627.

It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that the cost per copy produced be increased to 19p to take effect from April. All were in favour.

15. Councillor Reports for information only.

Cllr. Seddon said the neighbourhood highway team was due on 20th March and asked that any work be passed to the clerk to be forwarded on to them. It was suggested that the footways are swept and that the pine cones in Manor Road be cleared up. The lay-by near the river also requires attention.

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

Signed (Chairman) Date 10th April 2013.