

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on

Wednesday 8th May 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; Cllr. Mrs. M. Gair; Cllr. S. Holland; Cllr. W. Taylor. County Cllr. Martyn Tittley.

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

Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 8.03pm. Mr Griffiths talked about the traffic chaos in the village when the lights failed following the batteries being stolen. Councillors had contacted Enterprise's help lines, using the numbers provided, but still could not get the issue resolved. He also mentioned that the theft at The Temple had not been reported. Cllr. Seddon said that the Temple is always open to anyone and that it is no surprise when the collection / donation box is taken. It is really up to them to find a solution. He also said that council had contacted Staffs Police about the HS2 statement regarding increased crime but they said the statement was not made by them. A question was asked about how parishioners could be informed of local crime as not everyone has email. Neighbourhood watch should be doing this but more local co-ordinators are required. If anyone would like to volunteer, then the council can put them in touch with each other. The clerk then read out a brief report that had been emailed to him by PCSO Tracy Horton.

1. Election of Chairman and Completion of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the 2013 AGM. He asked if there were any nominations for the office of chairman. None were forthcoming. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that Cllr. Seddon be re-elected. He was happy to continue for a further term. All were in favour.

Cllr. Pritchard then thanked Cllr. Seddon for completing another year in office.

2. Election of Vice Chairman and Completion of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The chairman then asked if there were any nominations for the office of vice chairman. None were forthcoming. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Rothery that Cllr. Gair be re-elected. She was happy to continue for a further term. All were in favour.

3. Apologies for absence.

None.

4. Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs. Rothery and Taylor declared an interest in any discussion involving HS2 as their families have land over which the track will pass. All present councillors, except Cllrs. Browne and Gair, declared 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.

5. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The chairman thanked councillors for electing him for a further twelve months. He then introduced County Cllr. Martyn Tittley who was elected following recent boundary changes.

6. Allocation of Councillor's Areas of Responsibility.

The clerk had circulated a list of current responsibilities. After perusal and discussion the following changes were identified;

Village Hall Management Committee – Cllrs. Mary Gair and Steve Browne.

Footpaths – Cllrs. Stuart Holland and Patricia Rothery.

Flood Control – Cllr. Patricia Rothery.

HS2 Liaison – Cllrs. Mary Gair and Steve Browne.

The clerk was asked to check if the Arts Forum still met and to inform them that Cllr. Browne was the council's representative. **Action: Clerk**

7. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 10th April 2013.

These had been distributed previously. It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the minutes be signed as a true record. All present on the 10th April were in favour.

Comment was made that the circulation files were not being circulated but no one admitted to retaining them. The chairman asked that everyone reads its content and passes it on quickly.

8. Clerks Report.

a) Correspondence / emails received.

- i) Letter from Western Power Distribution re improving the network – placed in circulation file.
- ii) Letter from Clock restorer – discussed at April meeting. The clerk said that he had now received a report from a clock restorer and read the contents to the meeting. Several issues were highlighted; who authorised the repairs to the clock, what repairs are now required, if any and was the annual maintenance undertaken as it should have been? The chairman said it was the council's duty to obtain best value for all its expenditure and asked the clerk to contact Glen Wright again to determine who had authorised the repairs. Smiths, the repairers said that Mr. Wright had asked them to do the work in an email. Cllr. Pritchard said council should ask Smiths along to show him what work they had done under their maintenance as the independent report had shown that the springs had not been cleaned and greased. Clerk to arrange meeting. The chairman then asked the clerk to contact the independent restorer to ask him to furnish council with a quote for the additional work highlighted in his report.

Action: Clerk and Cllr. Pritchard.

- iii) CPRE – how to improve travel choices - placed in circulation file. There then followed a discussion about the CPRE recycling initiative. It was decided to ask them to provide council with indicative figures for a parish the size of Kings Bromley. **Action: Clerk.**
- iv) Email from Richard Crosse School re parking. Comment was made by Mr. Woodward that much of the problem is due to staff / contractors cars parked outside the school and right on the junction with Lanes Close. The chairman said that care should be taken when raising problems as long term this may reflect on the schools viability. Mr. Woodward was also concerned that emergency vehicles could not negotiate the corner if they wanted to access Lanes Close.
- v) Email re supporting communities in local planning – grants available - placed in circulation file. Clerk to add to June agenda. **Action: Clerk.**

Letters Sent

- i) Letter to Head Teacher re parking issues.
- ii) Letter to Aon re change of clerk (Nov 2011).

b) Finances.

i) Financial statement: As at 26/4/13 – Current account £13,644.13, Reserve account £18,428.93

ii) Payments Received: VAT refund of £249.93 and precept of £12,880.

iii) Payments to be made:
300558 Clerk Salary £277.53 (net),
300559 Clerks Expenses £195.45, of which cost of stamps purchased was £12 for April 2013 – Total £472.98
300560 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £69.20
300561 R B Hayward – grass cutting - £333.93 – 3 cuts April
300562 Smiths – church clock service - £222.00
300563 Smiths – clock repair - £151.20
300564 LDC emptying of bins - £624.00
300565 Came and Co – Insurance - £1,020.40
300566 ICO – subs - £35.00
300567 CPRE subs £29.00
300568 Hall Hire – HS2 meetings - £25.00
300569 Hall Hire – PC meeting 4/3/13 - £12.50

The cheques for Smiths were signed but the clerk asked to meet the invoices once council's questions over their validity had been satisfactorily answered. **Action: Clerk.**

The clerk was also asked to determine how often LDC empty the bins and which ones they attend to. **Action: Clerk.**

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

c) Review of Independent Internal Audit by Tomkinson and Teal. The clerk said that he had collected the accounts from T&T and that no comments were made.

d) Signing of the Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement. It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Holland that the chairman signs the statement. All were in favour.

e) Internal Auditor Gratuity. The clerk said it was normal practice to purchase three bottles of wine as a gratuity to T&T for their work. This was agreed. Clerk to reclaim through expenses.

9. County and District Councillors Reports.

Cllr Pritchard said that he has been involved for four years working on a new housing strategy and that this position has now been taken from him. He is now the portfolio holder for Development Services, business planning and HS2.

Cllr. Tittley said he will be attending an induction as a new county councillor on 9th May. The main items of concern that his constituents are bringing to him are highways related with lack of maintenance, HGVs, overnight parking. He said he was committed to working on these and making things better. He is opposed to HS2 on economic and business grounds. He will do all he can to support his constituents and will attend as many meetings as he can although some parish meetings do conflict with one another. He thanked the chairman for the opportunity to speak.

10. Highways and Footpaths.

- (i) Meeting with Neighbouring Parishes. Cllr. Pritchard reported that a meeting with neighbouring parishes set for 30th April did not take place but a new date will be agreed soon. He asked if Cllr. Hughes (Yoxall PC) had sent a PowerPoint document to Cllr. Seddon. The answer was no. Cllr. Pritchard will let Cllr. Tittley know the date once the meeting is arranged and will also speak to Mr. Gilmour to see what data he holds
Action: Cllr. Pritchard.
- (ii) Arriva update. Cllr. Browne said he had not heard anything from Cllr. Eagland nor Arriva but that the bus company had amended some of their times slightly. He asked Cllr. Tittley if he would help now that Cllr. Eagland was not representing the parish. He agreed.
- (iii) Village Centre Road Works. The traffic lights had failed recently and there was resulting traffic chaos. Cllr. Rothery and other Councillors had tried to contact Enterprise using the emergency numbers provided but still could not get an engineer on to site. Cllr. Rothery said she would obtain the phone numbers again and pass them to the clerk.
Action: Cllr. Rothery.
- (iv) Parking near the school. This had been discussed under correspondence above. The Chairman said that the council had done what it could and that it was nothing to do with the parish council. Mr. Woodward commented that the problem was with all day parkers and asked if they could use the public house car park.
- (v) Footpaths. No issues at the moment.

11. Best Kept Village – Children’s Poster Competition presentation of prizes.

The A5 size posters have gone to every household but only four volunteers turned up to help which was disappointing. Cllr. Gair volunteered to present the prizes again and asked the clerk to provide certificates and named envelopes. **Action: Clerk and Cllr. Gair.**

12. Feedback from Annual Parish Meeting.

The clerk asked Councillors to consider ways of increasing attendance at future APM's. The chairman thanked Cllr. Rothery for providing refreshments. No other issues were raised.

13. HS2 latest.

Cllr. Gair said she and Cllr. Browne had attended a meeting at Whittington on 18th April. This was well organised. Many went along to hear Michael Fabricant MP at the Cricket Club. Not much new information was forthcoming. The National HS2 Group is asking for donations. A workshop on 20th April was well attended – compensation forms were signed and attendees encouraged to sign the various petitions. Cllr. Browne attended a meeting organised by Colton PC, this is a new group and felt that parishes must stop doing their own thing and to ask the County Council to head the many groups. 100,000 signatures are required to force a debate in parliament. It is hoped that a meeting with Clive Thomson of SCC can be arranged and Mr Richard Johnson, who was heavily involved in phase 1, may attend. He had pointed out obvious geographical difficulties. Cllr. Seddon said the article in the Mercury was good, well presented and positive. A doorstep ‘survey’ indicated the general feeling was NO to HS2. Cllr. Tittley said that UKIP were in favour of HS2 and that SCC and LDC were against. The cost of the scheme means that every household in the county will pay £2000 towards it. The need is to persuade 500 other MPs to vote against it not the others that are along the line. The cost is now expected to be £46 billion and this should be used elsewhere in replacing the infrastructure. Cllr. Holland said that the argument was to create northern regeneration. Cllr Taylor asked where the funding comes from – it is all borrowed government money. The campaign needs to be National.

14. Projects for 2013 funded from reserves: i) Replacement Slide. ii) Wildflower sign.

i) The clerk said that he was still waiting on some information from the manufacturers but once this is received will tabulate it and send out to all for perusal before the next meeting.

Action: Clerk.

ii) Cllr. Rothery said the sign had been sent off for the artwork to be done and she will hopefully bring it along to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr. Rothery.

15. Sandbag Purchase and Storage.

Cllr Pritchard said he has this in hand. He asked the clerk to send a list of Councillor Responsibilities to Nigel Walker at LDC.

Action: Clerk.

16. Councillor Reports for information only.

None made.

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

Signed (Chairman) Date 12th June 2013.