

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 14th August 2013 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. G. C. Seddon (Chairman); Cllr. I. M. P. Pritchard; Cllr. S. Holland;
Cllr. W. Taylor; Cllr. Mrs. M. Gair and Cllr. S. Browne.
County Cllr. M. Tittley.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public: Mr R Griffiths.

Public Session: No issues were raised.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. Mrs. P. Rothery. (Work commitments)

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillors Seddon, Taylor, Holland and Pritchard declared an interest on discussions around traffic issues on the two 'A' roads. The chairman asked that all councillors state an interest if an item is discussed subsequently.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The chairman said that there was no agenda item covering the Best Kept Village and understood that the village has again won in its category. He wished to publicly thank all those that were involved in this achievement and in particular Mr Alan Howard who is the organiser. This is two years in a row that the village has won this award. The clerk was asked to write to Mr. Howard. **Action: Clerk.**

4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 10th July 2013.

These had been distributed previously.

It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Gair that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour.

5. Clerks Report.

a) Correspondence / emails received.

i) Letter from SCC re Draft Environmental Statement to HS2. This was placed in the circulation file. A comment was made that this file is not being seen by some. The clerk was asked to invest in a new large file that does not easily get mislaid amongst other papers.

Cllr. Tittley, regarding HS2, said that there was an amount of £5000 available to local action groups if they wished to apply to him. Cllr Browne said that a meeting with Whittington action group was scheduled for next week. He added that so far no parish councillor has asked to see the detailed documents.

Action: Clerk.

ii) Email re Parishes Delivering Localism. This was placed in the circulation file.

iii) Letter SCC re HS2 Route Consultation Response. Clerk to respond to SCC and arrange meeting with Dean Sargeant.

Action: Clerk.

iv) HS2 Ltd - letter re Hybrid Bill Document Deposit. Passed to Cllrs. M Gair and S Browne.

v) Letter from E-on re saving money on Highways Lighting. This was placed in the circulation file.

- vi) Letter from NPower re Willington Gas Pipeline. This was placed in the circulation file.
- vii) Letter Staffs Police re change of local policing team commander. Clerk read out this letter. The new Local Policing Team commander will be Rachel Joyce.
- viii) Email Age UK re Eat Well Staffordshire. This was placed in the circulation file.

Letters Sent

- i) Letter to Pre-school re recycling. The clerk said that no reply had been received as yet.
- ii) Letter to Glen Wright re maintenance responsibility for church clock.

b) Finances.

- i) Financial statement: As of 26/7/13 – Current account £9,648.65. Reserve account £18,428.93 (un-cleared cheques £755.64)
- ii) Payments Received: None
- iii) Payments to be made:
 - 300581 Clerk Salary £288.61 (net) and expenses of £65.92 (no stamps)
 - 300582 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £72.00
 - 300573 Village hall hire Apr 2012 to 22nd Apr 2013 - £312.50
 - 300583 R B Hayward – grass cutting - £222.64
 It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the above invoices be paid. All in favour.

- iv) Village Hall Invoices. The clerk said that he had clarified the invoice for the hire of the village hall and it had been reduced to £312.50.
- v) The clerk said that it is customary to donate to several village organisations and asked if this would continue. The amounts are PCC £250. Gardening Guild £65. Village Hall Committee £55. After a brief discussion it was agreed these amounts could be paid at the September meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- vi) Back dated cost of living salary increase – Clerk. The clerk said that the annual cost of living settlement was 1% and that it had been backdated to 1st April.

6. County and District Councillors Reports.

Cllr. Tittley said that there is much debate about ‘fracking’ and that the County Council is working on its policy. The Government has sold off areas for future extraction. It is not clear if the local responsibility rests with the District or County Council. The debate continues as to whether the initiative is good or bad with some saying that earthquakes can result from the extraction exercise. Further research is required.

He continued by saying that the local bus services have changed with new time tables affecting some areas.

A discussion on the HGV situation is planned with neighbouring parishes in September. He concluded by saying how much he enjoyed coming to the village fete and the clerk was asked to write to the organising committee to thank them for inviting him. This was reiterated by Cllr. Seddon. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Seddon thanked Cllr. Tittley for his report.

Cllr. Pritchard reported that there was a full meeting of the District Council yesterday when the budget cuts were approved. This is the culmination of work that commenced in January.

Further cuts need to be identified for next year. As for the Local Plan, no comments have come from the inspector so far.

The chairman thanked Cllr Pritchard for his report.

7. Highway and Footpaths.

- (i) Meeting with neighbouring parishes - update. Cllr. Pritchard said that a meeting is to take place in September.
- (ii) Arriva update. Cllr. Browne said that that there was nothing further to report and he was not aware of any further time table changes.
- (iii) Footpath issues. As Cllr. Rothery was not in attendance the clerk was asked to contact her to see if she has spoken to the householder whose hedge is overgrowing the wild flower field. If she has not then clerk to write to home owner. **Action: Clerk.**
- (iv) NHT. Clerk said that the team has already been in the parish.

8. Neighbourhood Plan – grant availability.

Clerk had distributed some information on this subject prior to the meeting. Cllr. Pritchard said he would bring more information to the September meeting.

9. HS2 latest.

Cllr. Gair said that the stand at the Show was very busy and the Action Group were pleased with the response. Cllr. Browne said that he was unable to attend the July meeting. Steve Deans from SCC will be attending next week's meeting. On 8th September there will be a 'walk the route' from Kings Bromley to Colton with a balloon race planned at the finish. Details are in The Mercury this week. Cllr. Pritchard said that a forum will be started in September.

10. Projects for 2013 funded from reserves: i) Slide. ii) Wildflower meadow sign.

- i) The clerk said that work on the new slide is due to commence next Monday and he will be on hand to let the contractors into the village hall when they require use of the facilities.
- ii) The clerk said that he had emailed Cllr. Rothery to find out if she had spoken to the homeowner whose hedge is overgrowing the wild flower area but he had not had a reply. Clerk to contact Cllr. Rothery again and then to write to the home owner. **Action: Clerk.**

11. Church Clock Maintenance.

The chairman thought that the Council had now done all it could to inform about this issue and said to remove the item from future agenda.

12. Recycling Scheme.

The chairman thought enough time had now been spent on this and as no reply from the Pre-School had been forthcoming, it was felt that Council ought to drop this proposal and remove the item from future agenda.

13. Appointment of Flood Officer.

As Cllr. Rothery was not present this item was deferred until the next meeting.

13. Councillor Reports for information only.

Cllr. Tittley reiterated his thanks to those that organised the village show.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 11th September 2013.