

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 11th September 2013 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. G. C. Seddon (Chairman); Cllr. I. M. P. Pritchard (arrived at 8.37pm);
Cllr. S. Holland; Cllr. Mrs. P. Rothery and Cllr. S. Browne.

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

Public Session: Some councillors present thought that time was being wasted waiting until 8pm for the formal meeting to commence. Clerk to add an item to the next agenda to discuss including the public forum in the formal meeting agenda. **Action: Clerk.**

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. W. Taylor; (unwell) Cllr. Mrs. M. Gair (Holiday); County Cllr. M. Tittley (other parish meeting)

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillors Seddon, Rothery, 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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that the nights were drawing in and the temperature dropping.

4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 14th August 2013.

These had been distributed previously.

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

5. Clerks Report.

a) Correspondence / emails received.

- i) Letter CC of Staffs re £200 cheque for BKV prize. The clerk reported that the cheque had arrived. Some discussion took place over how it ought to be used. A suggestion was made that some could be put towards the cost of the new wildflower meadow sign with the remainder going to the churchyard gang. This to be discussed later.
- ii) SPCA news 23rd Aug – placed in circulation file.
- iii) Email – Tesco – see agenda item 12.
- iv) LDC – year book – placed in circulation file.
- v) Staffs Playing Fields Assoc – AGM – placed in circulation file.
- vi) CC of Staffs – AGM – placed in circulation file.
- vii) SPCA news – 5th Sept – placed in circulation file.
- viii) Letter – Local Gov Boundary Commission – re electoral review of Lichfield. Clerk to place posters on the notice boards and investigate having a link to the LGBC web site added to the village web site. **Action: Clerk.**
- ix) Letter – HS2 re Hybrid Bill. Passed to Cllr. Browne.
- x) Letter – Smiths of Derby re church clock maintenance. An offer to give discount if the council renews its maintenance with them. Clerk to determine when our contract ends and seek other prices. **Action: Clerk**

- xi) Letter – SCC re HS2 meeting. The Clerk read out details of this meeting to be held at Stafford. It will be on 19th September in the evening. Cllr. Browne said that he would attend but it did clash with the BKV presentation.

Letters Sent

- i) Letters to home owners re hedges at wild flower meadow / Lanes Close link footway.
- ii) Letter to Alan Howard – thanks for BKV organisation
- iii) Letter to Hort. Soc. – thanks for invitations to Show.

b) Finances.

- i) Financial statement: As of 23/8/13 – Current account £9,072.47
Reserve account £18,428.93 (un-cleared cheques £815.14)
- ii) Payments Received: £200 BKV prize and £1.09 bank interest.
- iii) Payments to be made:
 - 300584 Clerk Salary £280.00 (net) and expenses of £69.83 (no stamps purchased)
 - 300585 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £70.20
 - 300586 R B Hayward – grass cutting - £369.96. Mr Hayward suggested that a further 2 cuts will be required and that the verge by the pumping station needs to be reseeded. Agreed that grass should be cut but to wait until all works finished before considering the seeding.
 - 300587 Donations to PCC - £250- agreed.
 - 300588 Donation to Gardening Guild - £65 – agreed.
 - 300589 Donation to Village Hall Committee - £55 – agreed.
 - 300590 KB Village Hall - £25 – June and July hire – this for HS2 meetings.
 - 300591 Wicksteed – interim invoice for new slide £6557.32 – agreed to pay this and not wait until final invoice.

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

6. County and District Councillors Reports.

Cllr Tittle was not present and did not submit a written report.

Cllr. Pritchard said that an interim report on LDC Local Plan submission had been made by the inspector. He had complimented the plan but it was still in the inspection stage. He said that he thought a further 900 houses were required and LDC will need to identify locations for these.

Mr Griffiths asked Cllr. Pritchard if the extra housing will affect Kings Bromley. Cllr. Pritchard said not and the only houses likely to be built in the village would be 'in-fill' homes.

The plan to plant 7000 trees at Darnford Lane on Boley Park was causing a problem with people objecting, even though the council had consulted and only 49 replies received. The main concern is that the avenues through the plantation are only 8m wide and therefore intimidating to people walking alone.

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 later this month with Yoxall PC and Draycott PC.

- (ii) Footpath Issues. The footpath from the end of Crawley Lane towards the brook is overgrown and full of badger holes. The clerk was asked to write to the farmer to ask him to cut back the vegetation. **Action: Clerk.**

8. Neighbourhood Plan – grant availability.

Cllr. Pritchard said he was awaiting details and will bring to a future meeting.

9. HS2 latest.

i) Cllr. Browne said that there was a meeting in August with Steve Dean, the senior archaeologist with SCC. He talked about 'vulnerable' sites around Kings Bromley. The scheduled walk of the HS2 route took place last Sunday with 100 attending. It was featured on the TV and in the media and the organisers was pleased with the outcome. The Hybrid Bill is a huge document, the Clerk added that he has requested it on a pen drive and would make it available to all once it was received. Cllr. Browne continued and said that a recent survey in The Guardian newspaper showed 74% against the project. The Stop Group has asked for speakers on the impact to local woodlands and listed buildings etc. Staffs may join the 51M Group. Cllr. Pritchard said that the forums will begin on 23rd September at the village hall and in Tamworth on 3rd October. Staffs CC has held meetings with the various action groups but these now seem to have stopped. Cllr. Pritchard questioned the worth of all these meetings and asked what they achieve.

ii) Meeting with Dean Sargeant at SCC. The clerk said he had been trying to find a suitable mutually convenient date for this meeting but had little success so far. After discussion it was decided to leave this until Mr. Sargeant returns from his holidays. Clerk to arrange 'best fit' date. **Action: Clerk.**

10. Projects for 2013 funded from reserves – update on Slide and Wildflower sign.

The clerk said that work on the new slide is complete and that a quick visual inspection suggests that all is satisfactory. The new slide is of metal construction and slightly higher than the old. The wet pour surfacing has been replaced.

Cllr. Rothery produced a proof of the sign that is to be erected on the wildflower meadow measuring 500 by 350mm and made of acetate. The text was amended slightly and approval given to have it produced at a cost of £58 + vat. It will be a lectern style and the cost does not include the stand. It was proposed by Cllr. Rothery and seconded by Cllr. Holland that the sign be ordered. All were in favour.

It was suggested that part of the BKV prize monies could be used to fund the stand – this was thought to be a good idea and Cllr. Rothery was asked to obtain a price.

Action: Cllr. Rothery.

11. BKV Presentation.

This will take place at 6.30pm on 19th September at the Jubilee Bench then onto the village hall. Cllr. Pritchard offered to purchase biscuits and the clerk will sort out tea, coffee and sugar etc. **Action. Cllr. Pritchard and Clerk.**

12. Tesco – Community Projects Offer.

The clerk read out an email from Gordon Shelby of Tesco at Fradley offering to help with the labour element of any community projects. After discussion it was felt this to be a good offer and the clerk was asked to inform the Show Committee, Village Hall Committee and Church about the offer. Replies to be made to the clerk within two months. Clerk was also asked to contact Mr. Shelby to say we will reply after our November meeting.

Action: Clerk.

13. Appointment of Flood Officer.

Cllr. Rothery said she would be unable to undertake this work now that the requirements were known but said her husband was willing to take on the role. All were in favour of this and thanked her husband for making this offer.

14. Responsibility for waste bin at Village Hall.

The clerk said that the bin by the bench at the rear of the hall was being used by dog owners to deposit dog waste and that it was also used by children to place litter. This was a serious health hazard. After discussion the clerk was instructed to contact the village hall management to determine who is responsible for emptying this bin and to state that the council would not be. If no one takes responsibility then the council will remove the bin.

Action: Clerk.

15. Maintenance of PC Assets.

The clerk said that some assets such as the benches were now requiring some maintenance in the form of re-varnishing. It was suggested that this would be a useful request to make of Tesco under their offer as in item 12 above. Clerk to instigate.

Action: Clerk

16. Councillors Reports for information only.

None.

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

Signed (Chairman) Date 9th October 2013.