

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 9th October 2013 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. G. C. Seddon (Chairman); Cllrs. I. M. P. Pritchard; S. Holland;
Mrs. P. Rothery; Mrs M. Gair and S. Browne.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public: Mr. R. Griffiths. Dean Sargeant (SCC HS2)

Public Session: Mr Griffiths said that traffic through the village was increasing with more HGVs and asked if the council was doing anything about this. The chairman replied that County Cllr. Tittley was working on this and had recently taken a SCC representative to see the issues for themselves. The council is trying to get restrictions but it is likely to be a very long process. Cllr. Pritchard said that a meeting with two other local parishes was due to be held in the next two weeks.

Comment was made that a tree at the rear of the village hall was diseased and dangerous. Clerk was asked to contact Julie Bamber on the village hall committee. **Action: Clerk**

A member of the Stop HS2 Action Group apologised for not being at recent parish meetings but said there were just so many others going on at the moment. There then followed a discussion over the seam point where phase one and two meet. It appears that phase 1 has been extended. Cllr. Browne asked if Mr Sargeant from SCC could find out about the newly drawn extension. The public session ended at 8.15pm. The chairman thanked Mr Sargeant for attending.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. W. Taylor; (in hospital)

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillors Seddon, Rothery, Holland and Pritchard declared an interest on discussions around traffic issues on the two 'A' roads. Cllr Seddon said he had an interest in any discussion around the proposed meeting with neighbouring parishes. Cllr. Pritchard declared an interest in any business related to LDC and Cllr. Browne on his involvement with the Stop HS2 Action Group.

The chairman also asked that all councillors declare an interest if an item is discussed subsequently.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said he was pleased to go along again to the Best Kept Village presentation at the Jubilee Bench. He understood that the village had now entered 50 times and had numerous wins and that it was pleasing to see the village name on the plaque yet again. It was unfortunate that the presentation speeches had to be paused every time a large lorry went past.

4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 11th September 2013.

These had been distributed previously.

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

5. Clerks Report.

- a) Correspondence / emails received.
 - i) Letter – Npower re Willington Pipeline – Placed in circulation file.
 - ii) CC of Staffs – Judges' comments. The clerk summarised the comments which were generally very good. Clerk to copy to Alan Howard. **Action: Clerk**
 - iii) PCC – letter thanking the council for its donation.
 - iv) Email – Julie Bamber re Tesco offer – see item below.
 - v) J Went / Smiths – quote for clock maintenance – see item below.

Initial:

- vi) HS2 – Scheme refinements Phase 1. Handed to Cllr. Browne.
- vii) HS2 – Hybrid Bill Document Deposit. Clerk informed meeting that he has requested the paperwork on a pen drive and that HS2 indicated they will provide a means for the public to 'read' the data. It was suggested that this could be made available through the web site.
- viii) Letter – Grant Thornton re audit outcome. Clerk said that nothing of significance was highlighted but that it was suggested that the asset register is updated with new replacement estimates. **Action: Clerk**
- ix) Email from SCC re Revised Statement of Community Investment. Placed in circulation file.
- x) Email re Communications and Local Government re 'Our Place'. After consideration the Clerk was asked to contact SCC to ask if they keep council informed of developments. **Action: Clerk**

Letters Sent

- i) Letters to PCC, Village Hall and Gardening Guild re council donations to them.
- ii) Letter to Mr Cliffe requesting attention to overgrown footpath.

b) Finances.

i) Financial statement: As of 28/9/13– Current account £5181.26. Reserve account £14428.93 (uncleared cheques £465.20)

xi) Payments Received: £1.04 interest.

xii) Payments to be made:

300592 Clerk Salary £280.20 (net) and expenses of £72.01 (no stamps)

300593 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £70.00

300594 Wicksteed £1552.94

300595 R B Hayward – grass cutting - £278.64

300596 KB Village Hall - £25 – HS2 meetings – Aug and Sept

300597 Cllr Rothery who has paid an invoice to Malvern Art Products Ltd for the wildflower meadow signs - £69.60 inc. vat

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

xiii) Quarterly update. This had been distributed previously. The clerk went through the figures and said that a revised estimate of expenditure for the year was now £13,110, an increase from £12,643 at the commencement of the year. This meant an anticipated excess of income over expenditure of £525.

6. County and District Councillors Reports.

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

Cllr. Pritchard reported that he had attended the parish forum where the chief executive of the Community Council of Staffordshire spoke. He talked about the work he did helping parishes and also about the best kept village competition. He said they can provide a 'village agent' but this will cost. The leader of LDC also spoke about the way the council proposes making savings over the coming years. Cllr. Pritchard said he spoke about the LDF and his involvement with HS2. It was disappointing that only 13 parishes were present and this cast doubt as to whether it was worth continuing with this forum.

On 23rd September he chaired the HS2 forum at Whittington and also chaired the LDC Partnership Board with adjoining authorities.

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 with Yoxall PC and Draycott PC in the next 2 weeks and he will report back at the November meeting. The chairman said he had passed the speed data obtained from SCC to Cllr. Pritchard to aid in his discussions.
- (ii) Footpath Issues. The clerk said he had written to Mr. Cliffe but had not received a reply. Cllr. Holland said that no remedial work had been done to the path. It was agreed to monitor before contacting the farmer again.

8. Neighbourhood Plan – grant availability.

Cllr. Pritchard said that a grant of £7k was available from LDC to aid in the council compiling a neighbourhood plan. He said he thought that it was not worth pursuing as far as the parish was concerned as it would be expensive to compile and would require someone to administer it. He referred to the Parish Plan and the fact that it had not been used for anything despite the work that had gone in to it. Neighbourhood Plans are for those larger parishes that are expecting large housing developments. A proportion of the District Council income generated from these developments can be claimed by the parish and this will boost their income. No large developments are expected in our parish so income would be generated. Any plan developed would have to dovetail with the LDC local plan anyway.

After discussion it was felt that this initiative was not worth pursuing and would be taken off the agenda for future meetings.

9. HS2 latest.

i) Cllr. Browne said that he had attended 2 recent meetings at Stafford. A new team from SCC was working on phase 2. The Stop Group and other parishes attended. A change in the way they operate is proposed – under phase 1 all interested parties and groups were involved but under phase 2 they want to channel all communication through the parish councils. Cllr. Gair thought that neither she nor Cllr. Browne should take on the sole responsibility of HS2 liaison and that the full parish council ought to now become fully involved. A brief discussion followed as to how this might work but no solution was reached. Cllr. Browne said a meeting / demo is planned at Handsacre Village Hall on 26th October between 12 noon and 8pm. Cllr Browne had complained about this, saying that the time was inappropriate and that resident would have trouble travelling to the venue. It was suggested that this meeting also be held at Kings Bromley and the clerk was asked to contact HS2 to arrange this.

Action: Clerk.

ii) Meeting with Dean Sargeant at SCC. Mr Sargeant had attended this evenings meeting.

10. Projects for 2013 funded from reserves – Wildflower sign.

Cllr. Rothery said the sign had been ordered and paid for and would be available to view at the next meeting. No price had been obtained for the lectern but a local joiner would be approached for a quote.

Action: Cllr. Rothery.

11. BKV Presentation.

a) Allocation of prize money. It was decided to leave this until the next meeting when the total cost of the wildflower meadow sign was known. b) Placing of winners certificates. It was decided to place these in an existing frame and Cllr. Pritchard volunteered to do this before the November meeting. **Action: Cllr. Pritchard.** c) Judges' comments. These had been read out under correspondence above. Clerk to send copy to Alan Howard.

Action: Clerk.

12. Tesco – Community Projects Offer - update.

The clerk said he had received replies from the Garden Guild and Village Hall Committee. The former did not require any help but the latter sent through a list of possible jobs. After

consideration it was felt that only the outside decoration work was appropriate and the clerk was asked to add this to the parish council list of possible work. See under item 15 below.

Action: Clerk.

13. To consider including the Public Forum within the agenda.

There was much discussion on this issue with Cllr. Pritchard making several points as to why the current situation should not change. The chairman said that time was being wasted when no members of the public were in attendance. After debate three proposals were made, two of which received no seconder so were not considered. It was finally proposed by Cllr Gair and seconded by Cllr. Browne that 5 minutes be allocated for the public to speak before the formal meeting commences and that this time would be extended to 15 minutes or more with the chairman's sanction on the night. A vote was taken with Cllrs. Gair, Browne, Holland and Rothery in favour, Cllr. Pritchard against. Cllr. Seddon abstained. Clerk to amend notice of meetings and agenda.

Action: Clerk

14. Responsibility for waste bin at Village Hall.

The clerk read out the email received from the Village Hall representative, Julie Bamber. After considering its content, council felt that she ought to be approached again to determine how she had arrived at the decision that the bin was the responsibility of the parish council. Clerk to contact Mrs Bamber again.

Action: Clerk.

15. Electoral Review of District Council Wards.

This had been placed in the circulation file last month. Cllr. Pritchard detailed why these reviews are triggered and said that it was the desire of LDC to remain with 56 councillors as at present.

16. Maintenance of PC Assets.

It was decided to obtain a quote for the maintenance of the assets after the Clerk has produced a list of those that require attention. Mr Bancroft to be approached. The maintenance of the War Memorial area was then raised as it had been mentioned in the BKV judges report. It was felt that the person who had currently undertaken this role no longer had the time. It was suggested that the local British Legion be approached to see if they knew of anyone that could do the work. Clerk to contact.

Action: Clerk

17. Annual Maintenance of Church Clock.

The clerk had obtained a quote from Mr Went – this was £150 per year. Clarification with Smiths suggested that the council does not have an on-going maintenance contract with them. After discussion it was decided to remain with Smiths as they had given good service. A quoted price of £473 plus vat for 3 years was given – this to be paid in advance. It was proposed by Cllr.Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Gair that this quote be accepted. All in favour. Clerk to place the order with Smiths.

Action: Clerk.

18. Councillors Reports for information only.

Cllr. Pritchard made reference to the 'Village Market' circular and said that figures produced in the latest edition were incorrect. All Councillors at LDC receive the same basic payments with certain officers only (chairman of various committees) having extra to recognise their higher levels of involvement.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 13th November 2013.