

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

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

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

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public: Mr. R. Griffiths. John Saddler, Barry Stoney,
Julia Allsopp, Wayne Bull, Joy Fielding.

Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 8.30pm.

The main discussion took place with regards to heavy traffic passing through the village and using the local A class roads. Cllr. Tittley informed the meeting that he was well aware of the issues and would be seeking meetings with local MPs. He added that parking of lorries locally was a major headache and that he is investigating the possibility of providing a lorry park. It is a long process obtaining a traffic regulation order. It was mentioned that there had been 2 accidents recently on the A515. Comment was made that lorries passing through the village make homes vibrate. Cllr. Tittley added that large businesses are required in the District, as in future they will contribute financially to help District finances.

A question was asked as to whether local parish councils work together against HS2 and the role of the Staffs Parish Councils Assoc. and their involvement. There then followed a debate on HS2 and the best way to petition in future. As this item was on the agenda later a request was made to bring this item forward to enable those present to hear the discussion before they departed. The chairman agreed to this.

The clerk then reported that, since the last meeting there had been no crimes reported locally to the police.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. W. Taylor; (in hospital) Cllr. S. Holland; (held up in traffic)

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillors Seddon, Rothery, Holland and Pritchard declared an interest on discussions around traffic issues on the two 'A' roads. 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 to the Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial. He said it was very well organised and that the traffic was stopped while the laying of wreathes took place. Cllr. Browne said that 30 to 40 turned out on Monday with many children from the school.

At this point **item 8** was taken – see below.

4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 9th October 2013.

These had been distributed previously. Two amendments were requested and as these required a re-write of parts of items 2 and 9 the clerk was requested to bring them to the December meeting for signing.

5. Clerks Report.

- a) Correspondence / emails received.
- i) Letter – from Gardening Guild re Wild Flower Meadow and War Memorial. The Guild has offered to maintain the war memorial planters and also to remove ragwort from the wildflower area. It was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and

Initial:

seconded by Cllr. Gair that their offer be accepted. Clerk to write. Cllr. Pritchard to speak with them to determine the level of contribution needed to meet the cost. Clerk also to write to Mr Jarman to thank him for his work and thanks also to be passed to Mr Gair for his. **Action: Clerk and Cllr. Pritchard**

- ii) SPCA Annual Report – Placed in the Circulation File.
- iii) SPCA Gazette – Placed in the Circulation File.
- iv) Letter – War Memorial Trust. The chairman said that he felt we were all well aware of the importance of these monuments and that ours was well maintained and accurate records kept. Placed in the Circulation File.
- v) Email from SCC re Infrastructure+. Cllr. Tittley said this was a very important initiative by the County Council and will determine who maintains several of the main services over the coming four years. It is vitally important that everyone reads the document and replies to the survey. Placed in the Circulation File.
- vi) Email from SPCA re Social Media at meetings – see item 10.
- vii) A further email from SPCA re social media at meetings – see under item 10.
- viii) CC of Staffs – letter re a BBC programme about BKV. Clerk to pass on to Alan Howard. **Action: Clerk.**
- ix) LDC – play inspection report. This has highlighted one defect and one recommendation. The cradle seat on one of the swings needs to be replaced as it is broken. Clerk to order new one and have it fitted. It is recommended that a hole be drilled in the centre swing station to allow water to drain out. This is reported every year. It was decided to monitor the situation. **Action: Clerk.**

Letters Sent

- i) Letter to Mr Bancroft re work maintaining PC assets.
- b) Finances.
 - i) Financial statement: As of 25/10/13– Current account £2812.18 Reserve account £14,434.63 (uncleared cheques £443.84)
 - ii) Payments Received: £6.37 interest.
Grass cutting contribution from Village Hall Committee - £280
 - iii) Payments to be made:
300599 Clerk Salary £280.20 (net) and expenses of £80.83 (no stamps)
300600 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £70.00
300601 Grant Thornton – audit - £120 inc. vat
300602 Smiths – Clock maintenance contract for 3 years - £566.40 inc. vat
300603 Parish online mapping - £24 inc. vat
300604 R B Hayward – grass cutting - £213.32

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

6. County and District Councillors Reports.

Cllr Tittley said he had been asked to comment about a proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit near to the village school. It was thought that this already existed as signs already flash 20. If this is to become permanent then the council would like him to press ahead.

With regard to the HCVs he is to meet with the local MPs, Michael Fabricant and Andrew Griffiths as well as Richard Rayson from SCC highways and Tim Corbett the County Cllr. representing ESBC.

HS2 – the County Council is committed to mitigation.

Cllr. Pritchard said he had been concentrating on meeting with the local business sector and the regeneration of the city centre. In future large developments will have local councillor involvement at an early stage. The last Parish Forum was poorly

attended but the speakers were excellent. At the next meeting the Police Commissioner will be present. Both Cllrs. Pritchard and Tittley expressed their disappointment in the lack of interest from parishes for this forum as it gives them an opportunity to get together and help one another. If attendance does not improve then the forums may cease.

The chairman thanked Cllrs. Tittley and Pritchard for their reports.

7. Highway and Footpaths.

- (i) Meeting with neighbouring parishes - update. Cllr. Pritchard said that this had largely been covered above. There had been some confusion about the meetings and who was organising them but this was now resolved. All will meet at Cllr. Pritchard's home in the very near future.
- (ii) Footpath Issues. None reported.

8. HS2. A proposal that Cllrs. Gair and Browne no longer take on the sole responsibility of HS2 and that the Parish Council now becomes fully involved.

Members of the public present expressed a view that future guidance would indicate that any petitions to mitigate would only be heard from the parish council and not an action group. This means that the Action group will no longer receive communication. After discussion it was felt the best way forward is for the clerk to disseminate any emails and hard copy to the parish councillors and the public via all means possible (web site, email, notice boards and local newspaper). It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Gair that the parish council becomes the central point of contact for future information. All were in favour.

Cllr. Pritchard arrived at 8.43

Cllr Gair said that she and Cllr. Browne attended a meeting at SCC on 7th November along with representatives from LDC to discuss the petition process. There is now an obligation on the parish council, as the elected body representing their parishioners to make that petition. This to be done before 1st April 2014. Cllr Pritchard said that the petition should be based on mitigation. It was thought best that each parish council ought to petition not one body such as the SPCA.

The clerk was asked about the Hybrid Bill deposit documents. These are available to view at Lichfield library as the council has no facility to allow daytime access to the computer that will store these. The data will be locked in to that computer and the taking and distributing of the data on portable media is not allowed.

Cllr. Tittley thought that two delegates from the parish council are likely to be invited to any future meetings and they would report back to full council.

The clerk was asked to try to determine what format the data will be in and how it is stored, along with access, and to report this back to the Action Group. **Action: Clerk.**

9. Best Kept Village Prize.

- i) Purchase of lectern for wildflower area. Cllr. Rothery presented a brochure of various lecterns and the councillors chose one asking her to obtain a price.

Action: Cllr. Rothery.

- ii) Allocation of remaining prize monies. This was put on hold until (i) above is known.

10. Reporting of meetings via social media.

Cllr. Tittley highlighted that the parish council held the copyright of its meetings and that the minutes are not signed off as a true record until the following meeting. By allowing, for example the filming of meetings any subsequent correction to the minutes would not be recorded on the film. Besides that, digital images and recording can be manipulated. His view was that no recording or filming should be allowed under councils standing orders. Cllr. Pritchard thought that if filming were to be allowed then many types of council would lose councillors. To clarify, the clerk was asked to contact SPCA to ask the question with regards to the copyright position as highlighted above and to add to the agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

11. Meeting schedule for 2014.

Clerk said that the monthly meetings would be as usual on the 2nd Wednesday of each month with the Annual Parish Meeting being on Monday 21st April.

12. Review of Working Practice.

The clerk asked if there were any issues with the way the council is operated and administered. No comments on change were made.

13. File archive storage at Elmhurst.

The Clerk said this was costing £2 per week and that he had not had cause to extract any files over the last 2 years. After brief discussion it was felt that the council should retain this facility and the clerk asked to raise a cheque at the next meeting. This was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Browne. All were in favour.

Action: Clerk.

14. Provision of a Christmas tree.

Cllr Pritchard will organise and contact an electrician. Many bulbs require changing and the equipment should be PAT tested.

Action: Cllr. Pritchard.

15. Tesco – Community Projects Offer – maintenance of assets and War Memorial.

The clerk said he has sent a list of suitable work to his contact at Tesco and asked if the wooden oak posts around the memorial ought to be included. It was felt that oak should be left to weather. Council had asked him to contact Mr Bancroft about his interest in doing some of the maintenance work and whether council should still pass some to him. It was decided to ask him to quote for the maintenance of the smaller assets and to leave Tesco to tackle to village hall items. Clerk to contact Mr Bancroft and Tesco.

Action: Clerk.

16. British Legion.

Cllr Pritchard had asked for this item to be included but said that it had mostly been covered under discussion around the war memorial above. He did feel that the surfacing around the memorial was now rather dirty and slippery and suggested that the surface be jet washed. Comment was made that this may loosen the chipped surface. A decision on this will be made in the Spring. Clerk to add to agenda for March 2014.

Action: Clerk.

17. Broadband.

Cllr Browne said that several parishioners had complained to him that their broadband was slow and unpredictable and they were not getting the 'extra fast' service promised. The chairman said that the providers only promise a maximum speed and this is often a lot slower than they say. There is nothing the council can do to help but to only suggest that customers speak with their providers.

18. Councillors Reports for information only.

Cllr. Browne said that the Arriva buses had taken more services off. Cllr. Tittley said they had amended timetables and that there were often problems with local bus services. The County Council has employed someone to look in to this.

The clerk reported that the notice board in front of the village hall was in need of repair. It was suggested that Colin Revitt be asked to quote. Clerk to contact. **Action: Clerk**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.14pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 11th December 2013.