

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 11th December 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.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public: 2 members of the public were present.

Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 7.58pm.

The main discussion took place with regard to HS2 and the action the Council will be taking to submit its petition by April 2014. Cllr. Pritchard said that LDC may do a joint petition with SCC or wait until SCC complete theirs and base the LDC on that. The Action Group will compile theirs but it was suggested that they liaise with the Parish Council, who will also submit their own.

The high, long brick wall that fronts Lichfield Road on the south side of the village has collapsed in places. The question was asked as to ownership. Cllr. Rothery will investigate but it was felt unlikely that it will be re-built, the cattle being enclosed with a barbed wire fence instead.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. W. Taylor; (illness) Cllr. S. Holland; (Other appointment)

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillors Seddon, Rothery 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 see the Christmas tree in place. He went on to thank all those that helped including three councillors, Mr. Rothery, Mr. Sutton, Mr. Gilmour, Mrs. June Baskerville and the donor of the tree. It was pointed out that one bulb was still not working and the clerk was asked to contact the electrical repairers to ask them to see to it. **Action: Clerk**

4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 13th November 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.

The two amendments to the minutes from the October meeting were then read out by the clerk. Item 2 was still incorrect and was amended by hand. Item 9 was now correct. With this amendment initialled by the Chairman it was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Rothery that the minutes from the October meeting be signed as a true record. All were in favour.

5. HS2 Updates.

Cllrs. Browne and Gair attended the Whittington Action Group meeting who had a copy of the Hybrid Bill on a memory stick. There are many anomalies on the plans. Cllr. Pritchard said he would try to obtain a memory stick off Michael Fabricant MP. It was stated that there will be 6 years of traffic disruption and control. Cllr. Browne said he went to London on 25th November. The Bill is 55,000 pages and there are only 56 days to respond and this is physically impossible. It had been suggested that the task be split up by the various Action Groups. Cllr. Browne had asked in the library, where a copy of the Bill is available to view on computer, how someone who was partially sighted could see the document. No answer was forthcoming. The clerk was asked to

contact SCC to ask how parishioners that have sight problems are expected to view the information. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr. Browne was of the opinion that many parishioners were not interested in HS2 and its consequences for the community. He suggested setting up a social media page/s but this would involve work for someone. The chairman commented that the council ought not assume everyone is against HS2. Cllr. Rothery did not think using social media was the way forward. It was suggested that perhaps a quarterly Newsletter be produced and circulated. The chairman said that any such Newsletter should portray a balanced view. After further discussion it was decided that Cllrs. Browne and Gair would meet with the Action Group to produce an A4 Fact Sheet with the main bullet points. This to be ready for the meeting in January but could be emailed around in advance if it is ready. Cllr. Pritchard offered to 'edit' the information and to obtain quotes for the printing. Circulation to be done by Councillors. **Action: All Councillors.**

6. Clerks Report.

- a) Correspondence / emails received.
- i) SPCA news – 15 Nov. Item on filming of meetings – see under item 10 below. Placed in Circulation File.
- ii) Email re Council Tax Benefit Support Grant – item 14 below. Placed in Circulation File.
- iii) Letter Action with Communities – Review of existing VAT legislation. Currently council can reclaim VAT whereas those that administer village halls for example cannot. It was suggested that this information be passed through to Julie Bamber. Placed in Circulation File. **Action: Clerk.**
- iv) Letter – Planning Inspectorate re Willington Gas Pipeline. Placed in Circulation File.
- v) Letter from Royal British Legion – thanking the parish council for its donation. The RBL raised £3170.63 this year which was slightly up on last.
- vi) Letter – Boundary Commission re review of Lichfield. The Commission has suggested a decrease in the number of District Councillors. Cllr. Pritchard informed the meeting as to why he believed this would not work and how it would mean extra work for those Councillors that remained. A suggestion that less Councillors were allocated in the urban areas was declined by the Commission. Anyone who wants to express their feelings can go on-line or information is also available on the village notice boards. Placed in Circulation File.
- vii) Letter SCC re CPI bid. The parish council has been awarded a small grant of £250 to purchase a strimmer to help maintain local footpaths. This to be fully discussed at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- viii) Letter SCC re roadworks.org. The software now shows diversionary routes. Placed in Circulation File.
- ix) Quote from Mr Bancroft – maintenance of PC assets. See under item 13 below.
- x) Quote Wicksteed – supply / and fit of new child swing seat. Two prices were given, £122.61 exc. VAT supply only and £273 exc VAT fitted. Clerk to determine if warranty is valid if the council fits the seat itself. **Action: Clerk.**
- xi) Letter Local Enterprise Partnership. Placed in Circulation File.
- xii) SPCA News re Local Council Tax Support Grant. (CTSG). To be discussed under item 14 below. Placed in Circulation File.
- xiii) NALC re CTSG. To be discussed under item 14 below. Placed in Circulation File.

The clerk then read out a report emailed to him by PC Tracy Horton. Two incidents had been reported locally:-

11/11/2013. A 10 year old boy was stopped by a white male in van on the slip road opposite the pub; the male asked the lad his name, where he lived and what school he attended. The lad did not reply and walked off. The information given by lad was very good but he did not get the vehicle number so the male could not be traced. No other incidents like this have been reported in village. Following this the police

have attended Richard Crosse Primary and given a talk on Stranger Danger to all years at school.

On 18/11/2013 two children's scooters were left outside Richard Crosse Primary School between 8.50 - 9.30 and they were stolen, it is suspected that it was scrap men that took them but nothing was seen.

Letters Sent

- i) Letter to Mr Bancroft inviting a quote for maintenance of PC assets.

- b) Finances.
 - i) Financial statement: As of 11/12/13– Current account £3294.21 Reserve account £12,434.63 (uncleared cheques – unknown as no bank statement had arrived)

 - ii) Payments Received: unknown.

 - iii) Payments to be made:
 - 300605 Clerk Salary £280.20 (net) and expenses of £76.19 (no stamps)
 - 300606 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £70.00
 - 300607 Ian Colclough – British Legion Wreath £20.00
 - 300608 Turnock Electrical – Xmas lights repairs £116.40 inc. VAT
 - 300609 KB VH – HS2 meeting Oct £12.50
 - 300610 SPCA subs £330.00
 - 300611 SLCC proportionally subs shared with CEFC £77.00
 - 300612 Elmhurst Community Hall – arrive storage £102.00
 - 300613 LDC Play Inspection £60.00 inc VAT.

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

- iv) Review of Financial Regulations.

The clerk said these regulations are normally reviewed annually but because there are moves to change the law with regards to the number of signatories required he suggested that this be put on hold until more information was forthcoming. This was agreed.

7. County and District Councillors Reports.

County Cllr Tittley was not present and did not send a report.

District Cllr. Pritchard said he was Deputy Leader of the District Council and had responsibility for areas in Development Services, Business Regeneration, Local Planning, Stop HS2, Car Parks and Tourism. He was going to be very busy. The outcome from the local plan means that some greenbelt may have to be used and that large applications will have early input from local councillors. The chairman thanked Cllr. Pritchard for their report.

8. Highway and Footpaths.

- (i) Meeting with neighbouring parishes re HCVs. Cllr. Pritchard said that a meeting has taken place with Yoxall and Draycott parishes along with Michael Fabricant MP and County Cllr. Tim Corbett. Also present were Cllrs. Seddon, District Cllr. Tittley and County Cllr. Atkins (leader of SCC). Some present thought that HCVs were inevitable if commercial development needs to be encouraged to bring business to the area. Others thought a new approach was needed by encouraging HCVs to make more use of the A38 and possible new lorry parks. Better signing of parks was an option being considered. Cllr. Tittley presented a map of the area in question and there was some debate over traffic figures and how they had been interpreted.

- (ii) Footpath Issues. None reported.
Cllr Seddon said he has asked Cllr Tittley to come with him one evening to see how poorly lined the A513 is east of the village. There is now no edge of carriageway markings and in wet foggy weather it is hard to define just where the road edge ends and the verge starts.

9. Best Kept Village Prize.

- i) Purchase of lectern for wildflower area. Cllr. Rothery said the lectern will cost between £100 and £150 for the materials but will be made free of charge. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Gair that an order be placed. All were in favour.
- ii) Maintenance of hedge fronting the wildflower area. After discussion it was proposed that the clerk write to the owner suggesting he consider retaining on environmental grounds. **Action: Clerk.**
- iii) Allocation of remaining prize monies. This was put on hold until the final cost of (i) above is known.

10. Reporting of meetings through social media.

The clerk said he had placed advice and the results of a Q&A session copied from the media into the circulation file. There was also further advice from SPCA. Cllr. Pritchard and others were very concerned that if filming of meetings were to be allowed then council would have even more trouble attracting people to become councillors. It is likely that more information on this subject will become available in the near future and it was decided to monitor this and discuss at the next meeting if appropriate. Cllr. Pritchard suggested the clerk draft a letter on the matter and he would pass it to Michael Fabricant MP. **Action: Clerk.**

11. Grass Cutting for 2014 / Maintenance of War Memorial Garden.

Clerk asked about adding the verge fronting Yoxall Road to the grass cutting schedule. Clerk to first ask Highways if it is their responsibility. **Action: Clerk.**

12. Provision of a Christmas tree.

Tree now in place.

13. Tesco Community Projects Offer.

The clerk said he would update Tesco and ask that they attend to the major items as Mr. Bancroft will undertake the work on the small council assets. Mention was made that there are also 2 benches in Beech Avenue and that these should also be included. The surface around the war memorial also requires cleaning. Clerk to investigate best method. **Action: Clerk.**

14. Council Tax Benefit Support Grant.

Cllr. Pritchard suggested that he adds this to the Parish Forum agenda for the future. The clerk had produced several statements regarding the grant and these had been placed in the circulation file. The main concern is that this grant is not passed on to parishes and that this may mean having to increase parish precepts in future in order to maintain services. **Action: Cllr. Pritchard.**

18. Councillors Reports for information only.

None made.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.56pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 8th January 2014.