

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014 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; S. Holland. District Cllr. M. Tittley (arrived at 9pm)

**In attendance:** Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)  
Members of the public present: Barry Stoney, Wayne Bull, Julia Allsopp, Guy Allsopp, Di Allsopp and Ray Griffiths.

### **Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 7.50pm.**

Mr Griffiths said that the traffic and HCVs was now a lot worse. Cllr. Seddon told the meeting that the parish council was actively involved in meetings with other parishes, the county council and local MPs to try to resolve the issues. This was on-going and a solution would not be found instantly.

Cllr. Pritchard asked that neighbourhood watch be included on the next agenda. **Action: Clerk.**

#### **1. Apologies for absence.**

Cllr. W. Taylor; (illness)

#### **2. Declarations of Interest.**

Councillors Seddon, Holland, and Pritchard declared an interest on discussions around traffic issues on the A513 and Cllr. Rothery on both 'A' roads. Cllrs. Browne and Gair on their 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 it was good to see so many members of the public present. It was a very wet evening and it has highlighted just how much standing water there is along Alrewas Road and on the junction with the A515. He had to step aside several times to avoid being soaked by passing vehicles. Many of the roadside channels are blocked and water is sitting in ruts on the road surface. He then wished everyone a Happy New Year. The Christmas tree was well received and thanks should go to those who helped put the tree up and take it down. The tree went for recycling at the National Memorial Arboretum.

#### **4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013.**

These had been distributed previously. Three amendments were made – in the public session the date for submission is 24<sup>th</sup> January. Item 5. Cllr. Pritchard did not offer to obtain quotes. He also added that he did not think he had said that discussion on the Council Tax Support Grant should be included in the Parish Forum agenda. With these amendments made and initialled by the chairman it was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour.

#### **5. HS2 Updates.**

Cllr. Browne met with the HS2 group on 2<sup>nd</sup> January to go through the main points to include in the 'fact sheet'. This was then circulated for comment to the other councillors. Whittington Parish had sent a copy of their literature which was impressive. Dean Sargeant at SCC has made comment and suggested amending some of the detail. Cllr. Gair then read through the 'fact sheet' with Mr Sergeant's comments. Cllr. Seddon said that a fantastic job had been done so far and asked what the next steps should be. After some discussion it was suggested that Benhill Press, a local printer, be approached with a view to designing a flier to include some images taken from the

HS2 web site. The proof will be sent to the clerk who will distribute it to the councillors. The HS2 group said they would obtain 500 reply cards to accompany the flier. Cllr. Rothery offered to accompany Cllr. Browne to meet with the printers' representative. A reply has to be made by 24<sup>th</sup> January otherwise a petition will not be considered. The petition has to be ready for April. Cllr Pritchard offered to evaluate the card responses, meet with councillors and summarise the replies on a lap top. He will suggest a time and date.

**Actions: All and Clerk.**

## 6. Clerks Report.

- a) Correspondence / emails received.
  - i) SPCA News – 2 editions. Placed in Circulation File.
  - ii) Letter from Michael Fabricant MP acknowledging receipt of council's letter regarding social media at meetings. He promised to respond again in the future.
  - iii) Letter from CC of Staffs re Best Kept Village entry for 2014. Clerk to ask Alan Howard if he will still co-ordinate this.

**Action: Clerk.**

### Letters Sent

- i) Letter to Mr Bancroft asking him to proceed with maintenance of assets and also to include extra seats as identified.
- ii) Letter to Michael Fabricant MP re social media at meetings.
- iii) Letter to home owner at 42 Alrewas Road re rear hedge backing on to wildflower area.

### b) Finances.

- i) Financial statement: As at 24/12/13– Current account – £2671.42. Reserve account £12434.63 (uncleared cheques £521.50)

- iv) Payments Received: 19p interest.

- v) Payments to be made:

300614 Clerk Salary £280.20 (net) and expenses of £92.74 (inc. £12 in stamps)

300615 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £70.00

300616 Wicksteed swing seat - £147.13 inc. vat

300610 – cancelled – SPCA – subs not required until 1/4/14.

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

- vi) Financial statement to end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. This had been distributed previously. The clerk ran through the figures and the projections until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. No questions were forthcoming.

## 7. County and District Councillors Reports.

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

District Cllr. Pritchard said the local plan was completed but that two areas had to be taken out of green belt. There was nothing else to report. The chairman thanked Cllr. Pritchard.

Cllr. Browne asked if Cllr. Pritchard knew anything about Arriva and its sale. Cllr. Pritchard suggested he speak with County Cllr. Tittley.

## 8. Highway and Footpaths.

- (i) Meeting with neighbouring parishes re HCVs. Cllr. Pritchard said that the meeting held recently had prompted some discussion at County level. He said that part of the problem is that lorries leaving the various industrial units at Fradley would not access

the A38 because they could not easily enter the traffic, especially at busy times. Many drivers choosing instead to use Wood End Lane, A515 and A513 to Alrewas. This is several miles longer. It was suggested that council ought to write again to the local businesses asking them to instruct their drivers not to use local roads. Cllr. Pritchard offered to obtain a list and the clerk will write. **Action: Cllr. Pritchard and Clerk.**

County Cllr. M. Tittley arrived.

(ii) Footpath Issues.

A question was asked about the collapsed wall on Lichfield Road. The clerk said he had informed highways. Cllr. Rothery was still investigating the name of the landowner and will inform the clerk once it is known. Cllr. Tittley said that highways will no longer remove obstructions but will ask the landowner to see to these in the first instance. Cllr Seddon referred to the poor drainage at several locations in the village. The roads are swept by LDC but this often makes things worse as debris is pushed into the drainage channels and holes blocking them. Cllr. Tittley said it best to contact Matt Bulzachelli at SCC highways, Lichfield. Clerk to make contact. **Action: Clerk.**

**9. Best Kept Village Prize.**

- i) Purchase of lectern for wildflower area. Cllr. Rothery said the lectern was not ready yet but would be for the spring.
- iii) Allocation of remaining prize monies. This was put on hold until the final cost of (i) above is known.

**10. Budget / Precept bid for 2014/15.**

The clerk ran through his estimates of the likely income and expenditure for 2014/15. Estimated income, with the precept set as for this year and expected VAT returns, was £14,905. This included £280 contribution from the village hall for grass cutting. Estimated expenditure, assuming a 1% increase on salaries and other items and 5% on expenses would be £14,604. This would leave an excess of income over expenditure of only £310.

Some debate followed when it was pointed out that the council ought to operate with a larger margin, this in case of unexpected additional expenditure for example, if the clerk was to be unwell and a locum employed. The precept has remained static for several years and it is uncertain what grants will be passed down from Government and the District after 2016. If parishes are capped they will then have to use their reserves. It was then proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Gair that council applies a 5% increase to its bid. This would amount to an increase of £644 per annum. A vote was taken on the proposal and all were in favour. Clerk to complete form and return to LDC.

**Action: Clerk.**

**11. Purchase and storage of strimmer.**

After debate it was felt that perhaps this was not such a good idea as someone would need to be trained in its use and all the peripheral safety equipment purchased. Councillors were asked to consider options as to how the grant could be used and bring to the next meeting. **Action: All Councillors.**

**12. Tesco Community Projects Offer.**

The clerk said he had not heard from Tesco but had informed them not to attend to the small parish assets such as the benches.

**13. Annual Parish Open Meeting – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm.**

The Clerk said that the village hall had been booked. The Chairman said that he may be on holiday that day. It was suggested that the date be changed but a final decision was not made.

**14. Repairs to Play Equipment / cleaning of surface at War memorial.**

Cllr. Pritchard said he now had the special key to make the repair and was in receipt of the replacement swing seat. He will try to attend to it this weekend.

The clerk said he has spoken to the contractors that laid the original surface at the memorial. They will provide an estimate for cleaning in due course.

**15. Councillors Reports for information only.**

Cllr Browne asked Cllr. Tittley about the situation regarding Arriva. Cllr. Tittley confirmed that the bus company had been sold and that the new timetable may see an hourly service reinstated for the village. More information can be found by asking Geoff Tucker at SCC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.01pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014.