

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 11th June 2014 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Present: Mrs. M. Gair (Vice Chairman); Cllrs. I. M. P. Pritchard; S. Browne; S. Holland; W. Taylor; A. Howard.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public present: Lesley Dargan, Andrew Dargan, N. Crawley, M. Crawley.

Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 7.55pm.

Mr Crawley and Mr Dargan asked what the council intended to do about the large sycamore tree outside their property and standing on council land. The tree is causing problems with access and dropping honeydew on cars. There is also the possibility that roots are blocking drains. They said that there is no preservation order on the tree and asked that the council have it felled. The acting chairman said that the matter was to be discussed under item 9 on the agenda and invited the public to remain to hear the discussion.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. G. C. Seddon (unwell).

2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs. Browne and Gair on their involvement with the Stop HS2 Action Group. Cllr. Browne also said he lived in Leofric Close and would mention this as item 9 will be discussed. The chairman also asked that all councillors declare an interest if an item is discussed subsequently.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The chairman was not present.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2014.

These had been distributed previously. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Taylor that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour.

5. HS2 Update.

Cllr. Browne said the petition had been delivered by Michael Fabricant MP. There were 1925 petitions submitted. Some members of The House of Lords are now objecting as the route passes over their lands. The Church of England has also petitioned. Cllr. Browne said he is now waiting to see if he is summoned and the date.

6. SCC Mineral Extraction – presentation by Matthew Griffin from SCC.

Cllr. Gair then invited Mr Griffin to make his presentation. He gave a brief background and stated why the County Council needs to update its policy. The new policy will cover the period to 2030. The draft is on the web site and consultation ends on 4th July. Questions were asked by Councillors as to why the original policy said there would definitely be no extraction to the west of the A38 whereas the new policy suggests they may be if existing quarries become exhausted. The coming years will see much new development in the West Midlands area and the local sites will be expected to meet the demand for sand and gravel. After more questions and answers it was suggested that the council needs to dedicate more time to this subject to enable a considered response to the consultation. To this end the clerk was asked to make a booking of the village hall on 19th June at 7.30pm for a working group to meet to formulate its response.

Cllr. Browne asked about the existing exhausted quarry at Manor Park which has changed hands three times. Mr. Griffin said that the County Council is 'on the case' and will be finalising the position.

The acting chairman thanked Mr. Griffin for attending.

7. SCC Mineral Extraction Policy Consultation Response.

The Councillors present said that next Thursday suited the majority best. Clerk to arrange meeting on 19th June at 7.30 pm at the village hall.

The clerk said he was unsure at this stage if he would be able to attend.

Action: Clerk

8. Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015 and 2015/16.

A letter and documents from LDC had been distributed prior to the meeting. Cllr. Pritchard said that LDC has been passing on the grant to parishes while other councils had not. He said that they had no option other than to only pass on the equivalent amount in future so that if LDC receives less it can only pass on less.

9. Parish Council owned trees in Leofric Close.

Cllr. Browne commented that the images of the tree (distributed earlier) do show there is a problem. The tree is healthy and crown reduction should be considered at cost to the council. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard that the tree be felled. He added that it goes against his principles but he foresees problems in the future. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Holland. The chairman asked if there were any other proposals. Cllr. Browne proposed that the tree be 'trimmed' and this was seconded by Cllr. Gair. A vote was taken on the second proposal. Before the vote, the clerk repeated the proposals to Cllr. Taylor who is hard of hearing. He confirmed that he understood the proposals. Those in favour were Cllrs. Browne, Gair and Taylor, against were Cllrs. Holland, Pritchard and Howard. The chairman then exercised her casting vote and the second proposal was carried, that being the tree is 'crown lifted' by the removal of several of the lower branches and boughs. Cllr. Tittley advised that the council speaks to LDCs legal team to ascertain the rights of residents over whose land the tree overhangs. He also suggested that the clerk speak to Gareth Hare their tree officer.

The clerk was then asked to obtain two quotations for this work to be undertaken.

Action: Clerk.

10. Clerks Report.

- a) Correspondence / emails received.
- i) Letter from SCC re the New Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire. This was discussed under items 6 and 7 above.
 - ii) Letter John Taylor High School – invitation to 2 representatives to attend their presentation evening. Cllr. Browne said he would attend. Clerk to inform school. **Action: Clerk.**
 - iii) Letter from Boundary Commission re Electoral Review of Lichfield – Draft Recommendations. Placed in Circulation File.
 - iv) Quote for repair to notice board. Covered in item (v) below
 - v) Quote for war memorial surface cleaning. Covered in item (vi) below
 - vi) Letter from LDC re Local Council Tax Support Scheme. Covered in item 8 above.

Letters Sent. i) Letter to Mr Dargan re tree in Leofric Close.

b) Finances.

- i) Financial statement: As at 10/6/14– Current account – £5,000. Reserve account £19,474.60 (uncleared cheques approx. £479.73)
- ii) Payments Received: VAT refund of £1,748.27. Interest of 12p
- iii) Payments to be made:

300646	Ian Colclough	Clerks net salary (£288.50)	£393.06
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		and Expenses (£104.56 inc. £6.36 stamps)	
300647	HMRC	Clerks income tax	£72.00
300648	Ian Colclough	'No dogs' signs	£3.96
		Amazon vouchers – BKV	£108.00
300649	Ian Colclough	prizes	
300650	R B Hayward	Grass Cutting	£393.06
300651	B. Bankcroft	Asset maintenance	£135.00
300652	LDC	Bin emptying	£634 inc. vat

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

- iv) Account Signatories. The clerk had obtained the necessary forms from the bank. These to be completed at the conclusion of the meeting. The signatories to be Cllrs. Seddon, Pritchard, Taylor and Howard.
- v) Quotation for repair of notice board. The clerk said he had received a quote of £200 excluding the cost of the stain. It was proposed by Cllr. Holland and seconded by Cllr. Browne that Phil Brown be asked to undertake the work. All in favour. Clerk to instruct Mr Brown.
Action: Clerk.
- vi) Quotation for cleaning of surface at war memorial. The clerk had obtained a quote from the company that laid the original surface. The price was £480 plus vat. It was proposed by Cllr. Holland and seconded by Cllr. Howard that Tygar Surfacing be asked to undertake the work. All in favour. Clerk to instruct Tygar.
Action: Clerk.

11. County and District Councillors Reports.

Cllr. Tittley said that there was a meeting recently concerning HGV's using the local 'A' roads. He added that he had not had any requests from the council for a portion of his £10,000 Divisional Highways Grant allocation. Cllr. Pritchard commented that it would be unfair to deprive other village organisations of a share when the council has funds in reserve.

Cllr. Pritchard reported that LDC is trying to organise cattle grazing on Gentleshaw Common. He has been made the chairman of the Parking Board. He has attended the 'Connect Trade Show'. The new car park at the Trent Valley Station is to be closed for 9 months while a bridge is repaired. Finally, he has attended the Parish Forum to hear an interesting presentation from Matthew Ellis the Police Commissioner. The chairman thanked the two councillors for their reports.

9.32pm. Cllr. Tittley left the meeting.

12. Highway and Footpaths.

Nothing to report.

13. Children's Poster Competition – prize giving.

Cllr. Howard attended and made the presentations. He reported that the children were pleased with their prizes.

14. Neighbourhood Watch update.

Cllr. Pritchard said there is no need for a local co coordinator as messages are now passed around by email.

15. Any Projects for 2014 to be funded from Reserves.

No projects immediately came to mind. Mention was made that monies would be required to attend to the tree work in Leofric Close and the repairs as above.

16. Flood Officer and storage of sand bags.

The clerk said that Graham Rothery no longer wished to take this role. Some discussion followed and Cllr. Holland said he would contact Mr Rothery to see what equipment he held and consider storing it. No one volunteered to take on the role.

17. Status of the Village Hall – ownership investigation.

The clerk said he had taken a quick look through the file but as it was the centenary of the hall, wondered if any councillors might be willing to delve deeper. Cllr. Howard volunteered to have the file and produce a report for the next meeting. It was also suggested that the clerk invites Julie Bamber, the chairman of the village hall committee, to the next council meeting.

Action. Cllr. Howard and Clerk.

18. Communication with Parishioners.

Cllr. Howard thought that the council ought to look at ways to communicate better with parishioners. After discussion it was decided to make a presentation in early March and to place several announcements in the parish magazine and on the web site. Clerk to arrange.

Action: Clerk.

19. Councillors Reports for information only.

Cllr. Browne said he could not obtain any more information from SCC regarding the new bus services. He will chase Cllr. Tittley.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.58pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 9th July 2014.