

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

**Present:** Mr. G. Seddon (Chairman); I. M. P. Pritchard; S. Browne; Mrs. M. Gair; A. Howard; S. Holland; W. Taylor.

**In attendance:** Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)  
Members of the public present: PCC Mr. Matthew Ellis, Ray Griffiths, Robert Gilmour.

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

Mr Griffiths asked that copies of the minutes be made available to the public at the meeting. The clerk said that these are usually provided but that this evening he had left them at home and apologised for this. He then asked what was happening to help reduce the number of heavy vehicles that pass through the village. The chairman replied and said that County Cllr. Tittley was looking at this and had held meetings with several other interested parties. He is looking at applying weight restrictions and organising a petition but it will be a long process.

#### **1. Apologies and approval of absence.**

County Cllr. M. Tittley.

#### **2. To receive declarations of Interest.**

Cllrs. Browne and Gair on item 10 – HS2. The chairman asked that interests be declared if something occurs subsequently.

#### **3. To consider requests for dispensations.**

Cllr. Taylor sought a dispensation as he had land affected by HS2. This was noted.

#### **4. To resolve that the minutes of the Kings Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 are a correct record.**

One typographical error was highlighted. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Holland that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour.

#### **5. Question / answer session with Staffs Police and Crime Commissioner Mr. Matthew Ellis.**

Mr. Ellis outlined the work he has been involved in since taking office 22 months ago. Many improvements and cost savings have been made without reducing the number of officers on the ground. Many new ideas have or are being implemented. Some police stations will close but this means more police in the community. Contact will be maintained by use of tablet computers giving them instant access to files and other data while on the move. Safer neighbourhood panels are to be set up, cadets enrolled and the placing of local police posts investigated. Crime is generally falling but challenges remain around organised crime, cyber-crime and terrorism. Much of the cyber-crime could be prevented if people spent approx £15 on software to protect themselves.

Several questions were forthcoming, many concerning neighbourhood watch and speedwatch. Mr. Ellis said that budget cuts had cost neighbourhood watch but that he is about to reinvigorate the scheme by using modern technology such as GPS and mobile devices.

The chairman asked about the grants that Mr. Ellis was offering and whether the resurrection of speedwatch would have the same difficulties as last time. The reply was that speedwatch suffered much the same as neighbourhood watch and that changes to the way the Safety Camera Partnership (SCP) works is required. Ground has been lost and it is a 6 year project to recover that. It is frustrating that council does not get any information from the SCP.

The chairman thanked Mr. Ellis for attending

Mr. Ellis and Mr Gilmour left the meeting at 9.05pm.

#### **6. Clerks Report.**

##### **a) To consider correspondence received.**

- i) SPCA news - several issues covering the last month. Placed in circulation file.
- ii) Email from Julie Bamber on behalf of the Village Hall Committee explaining that the tables will be cleaned but then asking if the council would be prepared to make a payment to cover the cost of the recent framing of a picture to commemorate the

centenary of the hall. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Gair that the council pays £78 to the village hall committee for the picture frame. A vote was taken with five in favour, one against and one abstention. Clerk to arrange payment. **Action: Clerk**

- iii) Note from Eric Roy re web site improvements. The document had been circulated previously and will be discussed under item 12.
- iv) CPRE – donation request. It was felt that public money could not be donated to this cause as council already subscribes.
- v) Letter from HS re Hybrid Bill Document Deposit. Cllr. Browne offer to check that the documents are still available to view at Lichfield library. **Action: Cllr. Browne.**

**b) Finance.**

- i) Financial Statement. The clerk said the current account stands at £1,445.59 and the reserve account at £17,479.56 as of 24/10/14. Un-cleared cheques totalled £20.
- ii) Payments Received. Bank interest of £5.00 and £615.00 from SCC – refund of HS2 expenses. Clerk to thank Cllr. Tittley for arranging this payment. **Action: Clerk.**
- iii) To authorise payments. a) Clerks Salary £288.30 b) Expenses £72.87 (£6.36 in postage stamps) c) HMRC £72.20 d) R B Hayward – grass cutting £243.12 e) Parish on-line subscription of £28 plus vat. f) Barcham Tree Specialists - £248 plus vat. g) P. R. Brown – repair to notice board - £225.00.

It was proposed by Cllr. Howard and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the above invoices be paid. All in favour.

Cllr. Browne made mention of the notice board in the village centre and that the glass cover came free after a cyclist had lent on it. The clerk explained that both locks had broken and that a locksmith had indicated they could not be fixed. The glass door was held in place by a screw and this worked as long as no one pushed on the glass. Cllr. Pritchard said he would take a look and advise the clerk of the best way to proceed. **Action: Cllr. Pritchard.**

- iv) Grass Cutting Contract for 2105/16. The clerk said the contract had now ended and asked if he should advertise a new one covering the next 2 years. This was agreed and proposed by Cllr. Holland and seconded by Cllr. Browne. All in favour. **Action: Clerk.**

**7. To receive oral / written reports from County and District Councillors.**

Cllr. Pritchard said he had been on ASBO training today. LDC is expecting a verdict from the Inspector on its Local Plan on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Details on the boundary changes are due next week.

**8. To seek a volunteer for the role of Flood Officer - update.**

No applications or volunteers had come forward. One more advert will appear in the next Parish Magazine.

**9. To consider on-going highway and footpath matters and a petition re HCVs.**

Cllr. Seddon said that County Cllr. Tittley was working hard on this and that he wants all those parishes affected to petition SCC in the New Year. He will contact the council in due course. There remains an issue with blocked road gullies and channels with grass growing in many. Clerk to inform Highways again. **Action: Clerk.**

**10. To receive an update on HS2.**

Cllr. Browne said changes to the route around Lichfield and south of the village have been agreed. Council needs to digest the changes and make a response by January. A meeting request has gone to Dean Sargeant for all interested parties to attend. Cllr. Pritchard said that LDC has accepted the deal with HS2 however its petition is still in place and not yet withdrawn. He asked if Kings Bromley still had its petition in place and Cllr. Browne confirmed that it is at present.

**11. To consider the findings regarding trees in the conservation area.**

Cllr. Howard said a meeting took place with Gareth Hare from LDC who produced a map of the village showing the actual conservation area and the location of trees that currently have TPOs on them. This was passed to the clerk. All trees in the conservation have blanket orders on

them. Besides these, he has asked for 3 other trees to have orders placed upon them. Council can apply to have an order placed on any tree at any time. Regarding the new tree in Leofric Close, this has now been planted. The chairman thanked Cllr. Howard for organising this and for planting the tree.

**12. To consider web site options.**

Cllr. Howard said he and the clerk had a successful meeting with Eric Roy the council's current web master. The other person invited to attend did not and has since not replied to messages left. Mr. Roy had furnished the council with a detailed note of his ideas for improvement and upgrade which had been distributed to all. It was proposed by Cllr. Howard that council asked Mr. Roy to provide a detailed quote based on his note. This was seconded by Cllr. Gair. All were in favour. Clerk to contact. **Action: Clerk.**

**13. To consider introducing bi-monthly 'parishioner surgeries'.**

Cllr. Howard said this would help improve communication with our parishioners and that several other councils now did this. It would mean one councillor being available for about an hour once a year. Many cannot use the internet or other social media so a change to express concerns on a face-to-face basis would be a good idea. He proposed that council instigate this idea. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchard. Five in favour with two abstentions. Clerk to find out about room availability at the village hall, to place adverts in the parish magazine and web site and draft a rota. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Taylor left the meeting at 10pm.

**14. To consider the meeting schedule for 2015.**

Clerk asked if the usual schedule would be the same, namely the second Wednesday of each month. The chairman asked if council thought that a break in August was to be considered. It was felt that council ought to meet every month. Cllr. Gair asked if a hard copy of the most up-to-date councillor contact details could be distributed. Clerk to include with papers for next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

**15. To review councils working practices.**

The clerk asked if there were any issues over the way the administration works. Some debate ensued regarding the circulation file as it appears some are not receiving it. It was suggested that the papers get scanned and distributed but this would amount to a lot of extra work for the clerk and would exclude at least two councillors. It was decided to continue with the circulation file and all councillors would ensure it is passed on quickly. Cllr. Pritchard requested that he receive his papers electronically. Clerk will do this but cannot, until the law changes, issue the summons by that medium. The clerk then requested that he incorporate the summons with the meeting papers to save administration costs. This was agreed. The only proviso is that councillors must remember to notify the clerk about any items they wish to be included on the agenda.

**16. To consider alternatives to the file archive storage at Elmhurst.**

The clerk reminded the meeting that the archive had been flooded and that the papers were still somewhat damp. It is not known exactly what papers there are and which are affected. The hall at Elmhurst is to be sold so action is required. It was suggested that the archive could be located in the upstairs store room at the village hall but there would be a charge. An alternative was to use a self-storage facility. Clerk to take inventory and report back. **Action: Clerk**

**17. To consider this year's provision of a Christmas tree.**

Cllr. Pritchard said he had this in hand.

**18. To consider Councillor's report – for information only.**

None made.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.19pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014.