

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Note – corrections to these minutes will be recorded in the minutes for the following month.

**Present:** Cllrs. A. Howard (Chairman); Mrs. M. Gair; S. Browne; Mrs. J. Higgins; N. Lee; C. Cole: County Cllr. Martyn Tittley (arrived at 20.15); District Cllr. R. Cox.

**In attendance:** Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk). Members of the public present: Mr. R. Griffiths. Mrs. P. Griffiths, Bill Brown, Phil Brown, Pat Shalts, Bob Shalts, Mike Dunning.

**Public Session:** Mr. Griffiths reported a sunken road trench on Lichfield Road near the Cameron Homes development. Clerk to report to SCC Highways. Mr. Brown spoke about a near accident when a lorry went through a red light at the pelican crossing and nearly ran over his wife. The chairman informed the public present about the protracted actions that have been taken to date by the parish council to bring these issues to the attention of SCC. This included involving other affected parishes and local MP's. Traffic issues are a continuing agenda item. The parish action groups will continue pressuring the county council. An update will be placed on the web site and in the parish magazine encouraging parishioners to write to SCC (Mr Mark Deaville) insisting that action is taken.

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

Cllr. I. Pritchard. District Cllr. T. Marshall.

2. **a) In accordance with Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011, members to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in items on this agenda.**

Cllr. Browne on item 7.

**b) Clerk to report any written requests for dispensations in respect of items on this agenda.** None received.

3. **To resolve that the minutes of the Kings Bromley Parish Council General Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 are a correct record.**

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

4. **Clerks Report.**

a) **To consider correspondence received.**

- i) SPCA news – several issues. Placed in circulation file.
- ii) Letter from Michael Fabricant MP re local government finance settlement. The clerk said that the Government were not now considering capping parish precepts.
- iii) Email from SCC re speed cameras. Clerk to contact SCC to say that the parish council are prepared to pay to have a camera relocated. **Action: Clerk.**
- iv) Petition received from numerous residents on Yoxall Road concerning the hedge that is cut by one resident despite being told that the hedge belongs to SCC. Clerk to write to resident to remind him of this. **Action: Clerk.**

County Cllr Tittley arrived.

b) **Finance.**

- i) Financial Statement. As of 23/12/16 - the current account stands at £7,047.61 and the reserve account at £19,778.26.
- ii) Payments Received. £280 – village hall contribution to grass cutting.
- iii) To authorise payments. a) Clerks Salary, expenses and income tax – total £512.90 It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Higgins that the above invoice is paid. All were in favour.
- v) Budget / Precept Bid. Chairman signed LDC forms authorising a 5% increase.

Initial:

- c) **Servicing of church clock** – to consider quote from Smiths of £486 + vat (£583.20) for 3 years. The clerk said that to have the clock serviced annually would cost £222 so over 3 years this would equate to £666. It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Cole that the council authorises Smiths to do the work for the next 3 years. All were in favour.
- d) **To review Council's working practices.** The clerk asked if the council was operating in a successful manner and if any improvements to the administration could be made. All were pleased with how things ran at present.
- e) **Date of the Annual Parish Meeting** – Mon 10<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm. This was the week of the Easter holidays and it was suggested that the date be moved to 24<sup>th</sup> April. Clerk to see if hall is available. **Action: Clerk.**
- f) **Grass cutting quotes for 2017/18.** The clerk said it was now time to ask for quotes. He has made a rough estimate of the area of highway grass that LDC currently cuts. This amounts to around 2000m<sup>2</sup>. The clerk will issue the paperwork and ask for prices for cutting the current areas and as a separate item the road side areas. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk.**

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

District Cllr. Cox apologised that he had no report due to the fact he had been unwell and not attending meetings. County Cllr. Tittley repeated that the county council has a huge shortfall in its funding. He is still fighting the battle with regards to obtaining a weight restriction through the village.

The chairman thanked the Councillors for their reports.

**6. To consider new and on-going highway and footpath matters.**

**a) Highways updates.** (i) Street Lighting. No more to report. (ii) Ice busters. Clerk has collected the equipment and this is now stored in the chairman's garage. Chairman to get key cut to shed in village hall car park. A request was made to obtain a grit bin for siting at the junction of Crawley Lane / Lichfield Road. Clerk to contact SCC. **Action: Clerk.** (iii) Weight restriction. This had been covered above. (iv) Hedge on Yoxall Road. Covered above.

**b) Footpaths.** Some paths had been resurfaced recently but others left. Clerk to ask SCC when the other paths will be resurfaced. **Action: Clerk.**

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

Cllr. Browne said that some senior HS2 executives had resigned.

**8. To consider raising funds to commence the refurbishment of the village hall.**

Cllr. Browne said that the roofing and chimney work was completed. He suggested a 500 club to help raise money for the internal work which is likely to cost around £50,000. Cllr. Gair suggested a 'pledge form' or the setting up of a 'trust'. It was decided to create a working party consisting of Cllrs. Gair, Cole, Higgins and Browne. Julie Bamber will also be invited. Clerk to contact our bankers, the Co-Op, about a new separate account. **Action: Clerk.** A member of the public said he had requested that a fire / smoke alarm is installed at the top of the stairs to the snooker room. Chairman will speak to the Fire Service. **Action: Cllr. Howard.**

**9. To discuss whether Councillors ought to undertake 'parish' work.**

The clerk has sought advice from the insurers who gave examples of the types of work that could be undertaken. Risk assessments would be required and suitable protective clothing issued and worn. Cllr. Tittley offered to send to the clerk a risk assessment template. Further discussion will be deferred until the next meeting when it is hoped Cllr. Pritchard will be present.

- 10. To receive updates on (i) the village hall roof. Covered above. (ii) chimney repairs. Covered above. (iii) installation of a defibrillator. Cllr. Cole has met with the ambulance service. The

device will be installed on the outside wall of the village hall at a cost of around £2,000 of which vat can be reclaimed. It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Higgins that an order is placed. All were in favour. A local electrician will be asked by Cllr. Pritchard to install the equipment. (iv) Purchase of the BT phone box. Clerk said he is still waiting for a reply from BT. (v) Centenary Fields initiative. Clerk has written to Ty Leyland and if he does not reply by 20<sup>th</sup> January it will be assumed he is satisfied with the letter contents and that the council can press ahead with its application. (vi) web site. Clerk asked for images of councillors but most did not want theirs to appear. It was suggested that a group photo is taken perhaps when the defibrillator is installed.

- 11. To consider a request from SCC that parishes donate funding to Citizens Advice.**  
The clerk read out an email from SCC regarding their withdrawal of funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau and asking 'partner' organisations to step in. after discussion it was felt that more information was needed especially around how their funding is allocated and how many parishioners have used their services. Clerk to write to them. **Action: Clerk.**
- 12. To review the provision of Christmas decorations.**  
This was deferred to the next meeting when it is hoped Cllr. Pritchard will be present.
- 13. To receive an update on the status of the village public house and trees.**  
The clerk said that this is with Cllr. Lee who has additional forms to complete. To be discussed at next meeting.
- 14. To consider Councillor report – for information only.**  
Cllr. Higgins made mention of the War Memorial Trust who provide funding for the repair and maintenance of memorials. Clerk to look at web site and pass information to Cllrs. Higgins and Howard. **Action: Clerk.**

There being no further business the main meeting closed at 9.48pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017.