

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held on

Wednesday 13th September 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); S. Browne; C. Cole. Mrs. J. Higgins; I. Pritchard; N. Lee; County and Dist. Cllr. M. Tittley.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk). Members of the public present: Ray Griffiths, John Saddler, David Cliffe and Barry Stoney.

Public Session: Mr. Griffiths thanked the council for getting the grass cut on Yoxall Road. Cllr. Pritchard said that the grass is cut by LDC. Mr. Saddler asked if the speed limit signs on the Handsacre Road at Seedy Mill could be extended outwards. Cllr. Tittley replied and said that they were positioned based on accident statistics but that it may be something that is considered once HS2 gets underway. Many changes affecting highways in the area are on hold as HS2 may affect them.

1. Apologies and approval of absence.

Cllr. Mrs. M. Gair (holiday); District Cllr. R. Cox. District Cllr. Tom Marshall (both on holiday).

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 – HS2.

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 9th August 2017 are a correct record.

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

Cllr. Howard said he had received a quote for the repairs to the lettering on the War Memorial. This was for £498. Cllr. Howard proposed and Cllr. Browne seconded that the quote be accepted. All in favour. Cllr. Howard to instigate the work with the contractor before 11th November (Remembrance Day). **Action: Cllr. Howard.**

4. Clerks Report.

a) To consider correspondence received.

i) SPCA news – several issues. Placed in circulation file.

ii) Email AM Associates – re: building regulations for Village Hall work. This company could not respond for several weeks. The clerk said that a further company had not replied at all.

iii) CC of Staffs – re BKV award and date for presentation. Clerk to sort date. **Action: Clerk.**

iv) Email Mr O’Dea re footway near Cameron Homes development. After discussion the clerk was asked to contact Cameron Homes to request that they cut the hedge between their development and the school and also to ask the school governors to do likewise. **Action: Clerk,**

v) Letter – SCC re grant award. This sum granted needs to be spent before 31st March 2018 and SCC need to know how the monies are spent. Clerk to inform. **Action: Clerk.**

vi) NALC consultation on broadband – placed in circulation file.

- vii) Email – BT – adoption of phone box and contract to sign. The clerk, chairman and Cllr. Lee signed the agreement. Clerk to return to BT with £1 cheque. **Action: Clerk.**
- viii) Email Mr. Gilmour re war memorial work. This was dealt with under item 3 above.
- ix) Quote- John Keates Design for building regulation work. In view of the discussions at point ii above it was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Cole that the quote be accepted. Clerk to arrange for the building to be measured and plans produced. **Action: Clerk.**
- x) Email Mr O’Dea re speeding traffic. Clerk to reply stating that HS2 may be constructing a new roundabout at the junction of the A515 and A513 south of the village and it is felt that this in itself may be enough to slow traffic as it enters the village from that direction. **Action: Clerk.**
- xi) Email Mr O’ Dea re permissive footpaths. Again it was felt that this is under consideration with many other highway related issues that are coming to the fore with HS2. Clerk to reply to Mr. O’Dea along these lines. **Action: Clerk.**
- xii) Email Peter Young re Council Tax Support Grant and letter from LDC. The clerk read out the email in full. Cllr. Pritchard felt that the letter from LDC was misunderstood. LDC has always forwarded the support grant to its parishes. This grant, from central government will cease next year and at that point no payments will be forwarded to the parishes. Parishes will need to look at other means of covering this loss and that may mean a larger increase in parish precepts.
- xiii) Email – Charles Allen re Centenary Fields. Clerk to contact to ask that an endorsement is attached to the deeds. **Action: Clerk,**
- xiv) Email – Matt Griffin re HS2 borrow pits. This reply had been circulated previously.
- xv) Email quote – R. B. Hayward - £20 to cut extra grass on Yoxall Road. The grass is on the LDC schedule so no action required.
- xvi) Email – Eric Roy re feed to web site from Lichfield Mercury not working. Clerk to contact and ask Mr. Roy to determine if the newspaper is likely to re install the link and to amend the welcome page on the site. **Action: Clerk.**
- xvii) Email from SCC re libraries. Some libraries are now being administered by volunteers. Placed in circulation file.
- xviii) 3 letters from Community Council of Staffs – all placed in circulation file. Clerk to copy judge’s comments from BKV and to circulate. **Action: Clerk.**

Comment was made that more notice board magnets are required. Clerk to purchase. **Action: Clerk.** It was proposed by Cllr. Lee and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Higgins that the best kept village prize money is spent to purchase a plaque for display on the field at the rear of the village hall (part of centenary fields initiative) in memory of the only villager to have given his life in the Great War. All were in favour of this. Cllr. Lee to arrange purchase of plaque once the paperwork is finalised. **Action: Cllr. Lee.**

b) Finance.

- i) Financial Statement. As of 25/8/17 - the current account stands at £6,582.73 and the reserve account at £11,778.42
- ii) Payments Received. Grant from County Cllr. Tittley for £1200 and BKV prize of £200.
- iii) To authorise payments. a) Clerks Salary, expenses and income tax inc. postage stamps when required – total £539.53 b) R. B. Hayward – grass cutting - £487.00.

(iii) A. Howard – printing - £7.68 (iv) Grant Thornton – audit fee - £120 inc. vat (v) SPCA – Guide to Finance booklet £4.00

It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Higgins that the above invoices are paid. All were in favour.

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

No reports were made.

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

a) Highways updates. (i) Transport and Community Forum. There is to be a meeting with SCC this Friday when it is envisaged that a final report will be made to the Freight and Community forum. This will then be presented to the Prosperous Staffordshire Committee. If an appeal is required then this can be made directly to Staffs County Council. **(ii) Request for a speed camera.** This had been covered under correspondence above. **(iii) Wall on Lichfield Road.** Clerk had been unable to contact the landowner again. It was felt however that any possible road alterations at the nearby road junction would mean that the landowner was waiting to see the outcome. **(iv) Staffordshire road safety grant-fund application.** Cllr. Tittley said that this fund is for small amounts only circa £500. It was not thought it worthwhile making an application at this time. **(v) Purchase of a speed activation device.** Again this was thought not to be such a priority as the speed of traffic may be slowed when HS2 construct the new roundabout south of the village.

b) Footpaths / footways. Cllr. Lee has replied to the local resident regarding the blocked footpath and sent a link to the SCC web site where blockages can be reported. Many paths become overgrown at this time of year and it is the farmers' responsibility to keep paths clear.

7. To receive an update on HS2.

Cllr. Cole said there had now been two extraordinary general meetings with HS2 and several drop-in sessions which were well attended. He said there are three key issues. Namely, to agree a response from the Parish Council to the Consultation document, work with the District Council, County Council and MP to get a level of agreement on key issues and recommendations - so far the level of contact has been disappointing. Finally to ensure the parish council maximises any grants from HS2 that may be available. Any grants claimed will need to be matched by the parish. The meeting agreed that since the Consultation document had to be submitted before the next Parish meeting, the HS2 sub-committee were authorised to table the response. Cllr. Howard agreed that the council ought to be looking at obtaining grants and charged the working group to look at the criteria. **Action: HS2 working group.** Cllr. Browne added that he thought Kings Bromley PC was leading the way with its drop-in sessions and communications with its parishioners and local landowners.

8. To receive updates on (i) Purchase of the BT phone box. Covered under correspondence above. **(ii) Centenary Fields initiative.** Covered under correspondence above. **(iii) Village hall refurbishment and new bank account.** The account is now opened and active. Clerk passed paperwork to chairman for keeping. He will contact donors to say the account is open and will write a piece for the web site and parish magazine. **Action: Cllr. Howard.**

9. To determine areas of Councillor responsibilities.

The following amendments were identified. Ice busters - Cllr. Lee and parishioner Rob Boswell. Youth club no longer exists so this can be removed. Cllr. Higgins is on the Local Advisory Group at the Richard Crosse School. Cllrs Browne and Gair are HS2 phase 1 and Cllrs. Lee and Cole are HS2 phase 2.

10. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.

Cllr. Browne said he wanted council's approval to write to SCC Cabinet member Mark Deaville about the local bus services and the proposal to withdraw some services. This was approved. Cllr. Tittley requested a copy. Clerk to send. **Action: Clerk.** Cllr. Browne also commented on the fact that some residents remained unaware that the Yoxall Surgery are no longer allowing repeat prescriptions to be requested by telephone and that this was discriminatory against those

with no transport or no internet access. After discussion Cllr. Mrs. Higgins offered to contact the practice to determine the reason for their decision and to pass the information to the clerk.

Action: Cllr. Higgins.

There being no further business the main meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 11th October 2017.