

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held on

Wednesday 14th February 2018 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); C. Cole; Mrs. J. Higgins; Mrs. M. Gair; S. Browne; County and Dist. Cllr. M. Tittley; Dist. Cllr. T. Marshall.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk). 4 members of the public were present and Michelle Straker (Staffs Police).

Public Session: The chairman asked if any members of the public wished to speak at this point. No one wished to speak. Michelle Straker from Staffs Police elected to contribute under item 4 a (i) below.

1. Apologies and approval of absence.

Cllrs. N. Lee (unwell); I. Pritchard; District Cllr. R. Cox.

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

Cllrs. S. 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 10th January 2018 are a correct record.

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

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

a) Highways updates. (i) Speed indicator device – update if any. The chairman gave a brief history of the Speed watch initiative in the village over the past few years. He then invited Michelle Straker to contribute. She gave a description of her role as Speed watch co-ordinator for Staffs Police and assured the meeting that they remained active in their pursuit of this initiative. Discussion took place around speed watch volunteers and using the equipment in the dark. A parishioner indicated his willingness to operate during the night. The police had no objection to this. The same parishioner is pursuing the purchase of a speed indicator device and liaising with SCC over its location. The parishioner asked for a private meeting with Cllrs. Lee and Browne – this was agreed. The chairman thanked Michelle for attending and also the local resident. **(ii) Transport and Community Forum – weight restriction update if any.** Cllr. Tittley said that Amey were doing a cost analysis at present but it is expected to be around £100,000. The turn restrictions are being progressed. Cllr. Browne said that Richard Rayson (SCC Highways) was not replying to his phone calls which was frustrating. Cllr. Tittley will find out the dates of the next meeting. **(iii) Other highway issues if any.** None raised.

b) Footpaths / footway issues if any. The chairman asked if a dog waste bin could be located in Manor Road. Clerk to obtain costs. Chairman to do leaflet drop to residents about the need to clean up after their dog. **Actions: Clerk and Cllr. Howard.** Complaints had been received by Councillors about the large number of potholes in Common Lane. These have been reported several times.

5. Clerks Report.

a) To consider correspondence received.

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

ii) Email from resident re parking at the turning head in Church Lane. Cllrs. Howard and Browne will investigate and possibly speak in person the local residents. **Actions: Cllrs. Howard and Browne.**

- iii) SPCA re transparency fund - £962.09 grant approved for new lap top and additional time required for the clerk to maintain the web site with the latest transparency information and audit papers. To be discussed at next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- iv) Letter from the Canal and Rivers Trust – placed in circulation file.
- v) Letter from Community Council of Staffs re 2018 best kept village competition. It was agreed that the council enters this competition again. Clerk to send in forms, payment and maps. **Action: Clerk.**
- vi) 2018 / 19 audit papers and forms. The clerk said that these were similar to last year and he would deal with them in April in the usual way. **Action: Clerk.**
- vii) Letter from SCC re public consultation re SCC managed and delivered libraries and the mobile library service. Runs until 1st April. Placed in circulation file. The clerk asked that Councillors inform him if they want this to be discussed at the next meeting. **Action: All.** Clerk to put notices on boards and web site. **Action: Clerk.**

b) Finance.

- i) Financial Statement. As of 26/1/18 - the current account stands at £2,642.06 and the reserve account at £9,233.27.
- ii) Payments Received. None but a transfer was made of £2,750 from the reserve account.
- iii) To authorise payments. a) Clerks Salary, expenses and income tax inc. postage stamps when required – total £538.97 b) CC of Staffs – Best kept village entry fee - £46.75
It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the above invoices are paid. All were in favour.
Cllr. Cole reminded the meeting that the defibrillator battery will need replacing soon at a cost of around £56.
- iv) To consider increasing printing allowance by 1p to 20p per copy from 1st April. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Gair that the rate is increased to 20p per copy. This amount covers all the clerks' stationary costs (paper, ink, envelopes etc).
- v) To authorise the progression of the clerk to next salary point from 1st April. This item was deferred until the end of the meeting when the public had departed. The clerk had distributed previously a breakdown of the likely cost of the pay increase and indicated that he is able to progress to the next point on the pay scale and that there is no bar to this progression. The clerk left the room. It was resolved that the clerk's pay should not be increased this year as he would likely receive a national pay award of at least 2% anyway. This decision to be reviewed next year.

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

Cllr. Tittley reiterated the dire financial position that faces the county council with funds being used mainly in the social care sector. Cllr. Browne asked if anything had been done about preventing lorries parking in the lay bys to the north of the village. It was suggested that the police be contacted. Clerk to write and copy in Cllr. Tittley. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr. Marshall reported that 47% of residents have elected to pay extra to have their brown bins emptied. The district council has a major funding gap and further significant cuts are required. It has been suggested that some local authorities are investing by purchasing commercial properties using loans and renting these out in order to make ends meet. This was thought to be risky.

The chairman thanked the two councillors for their reports.

7. To receive an update on HS2. Cllr. Cole said that the second reading of the HS2 bill went through parliament. Petitions on phase 2 need to be submitted by 26th February. A draft petition with 6 major concerns as they affect the village will be circulated and approval is required now for these to be submitted. It was proposed by Cllr. Cole and seconded by Cllr. Gair that this action is taken. All were in favour. Sarah Mallen at SCC tabled 5 proposals to solve the issues

around Common Lane and its access. None of these has been accepted by HS2. A question was asked as to whether LDC is to petition. Cllr. Marshall said they would be and that Craig Jordan is the contact. A role B agent is required to represent the council. Cllr. Browne proposed Cllr. Cole. This was seconded by Cllr. Gair. All were in favour. Clark to place petition information on the web site once it is provided to him by Cllr. Cole. The chairman thanked Cllr. Cole for all his work. **Actions: Cllr. Cole and Clerk.**

8. **To receive updates on (i) Centenary Fields update.** Waiting on a reply from the FIT staff. Clerk to chase. **Action: Clerk. (ii) Village hall refurbishment.** Cllr. Gair said that the launch date will be 24th March between 10am and 1pm. The WI has offered to decorate the hall and provide refreshments. The choir will also be in attendance. Donations can be made through gift aid but this will mean the village hall committee being involved as they are a registered charity. Three quotes will be required for the work. The clerk said he had already drafted a schedule of work based upon that supplied to him by a parishioner. He will forward this to Cllr. Browne. **Action: Clerk.**

9. **To consider Councillor reports – for information only.** Cllr. Howard has spoken to the Co Op regarding the re installation of the ATM. He is told that there are issues preventing its re instatement. Cllr. Browne said he remains extremely concerned about the local bus services as the route is not subsidised by SCC and if not cost effective it will be lost. He will again place a notice in the parish magazine stating that residents will have to use the service or it will go.

There being no further business the main meeting closed at 9.43pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 14th March 2018.