

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday, 14th April, 2010 – 7.45 pm
Kings Bromley Village Hall

Present:- Cllr I M P Pritchard (Chair); Cllr S R Browne; Cllr Mrs M K Gair;
Cllr Mrs P Jarman; Cllr G C Seddon

In attendance: Mrs S Buxton (Clerk);

There were nine members of the public present

Public Session

Development of Eastfields Farm – residents expressed concern re: fencing being erected on the two acre paddock which fronts Eastfields Lodge. In the past it has been used for grazing, but now the Principal has informed them that 50% will be for horses with the remainder being used for a play area and garden. The enforcement officer at LDC has advised that he believes part of the development of this land will require a change of use application. It is believed the Estates Manager from Hillcrest is somewhat surprised by the fencing. The drive to Eastfields House and Eastfields Lodge is being used by contractors without permission as this right of access was withdrawn in June 1991. The new boundary fence is a low picket fence and residents would like to see a much more substantial boundary fence. An approach has been made to PC Andy Browne for details of calls out to incidents going back to 2004 and this information is still awaited.

Cllr Pritchard undertook to speak to LDC re: the fencing.

It is a case of waiting to see if a planning application is submitted

Land to the rear of The Hollies – BT has put in grey tubing along the kerb to take their cabling without permission

3731. Apologies

Cllrs Taylor and Holland

Agreed to accept the apologies of Cllrs Taylor and Holland

3732. Declaration of Interests

Land to the rear of The Hollies – Cllr Browne

Eastfields – Cllr Seddon

Mole hills on Leofric Close open space – Cllr Mrs Eagland

3733. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March, 2010 be signed as a true and correct record

3734. Report of the Clerk

- i. **Village Walk Leaflet** – Cllr Holland was to speak to Mr Rothery after the March meeting and no update is available for this meeting
- ii. **Services to development at the rear of The Hollies** – a letter has been received from a resident enclosing photographs of the development.

Cllr Pritchard reported that it could be that BT are putting in the cabling along the kerb under their rights of “kerbside access” which prevents unnecessary digging up of roads.

The clerk had spoken to the SPCA who advised that it would be very costly for the parish council take on one or more of the major utilities regarding the laying of cables/pipes over parish council land. There would be no guarantee of winning or of getting costs if successful. The parish council needs to ask itself if this would be a good use of public money. Mr Pitchford had spoken to the chairman and said that he had no part in the decision of the utility companies as to where pipes and cables were laid.

The parish council is concerned about this action had set a precedent **Agreed** that the clerk should write to BT and ask under what authority it had laid their cabling under parish council land, and if they have no authority what level of compensation they will offer to the parish council. In addition to ask for a wayleave agreement to be set up as the cables go under parish council land.

The issue of authority with regards to British Gas who had also laid their utility under parish council land could not be discussed as the parish council had already made a decision to take no action on this matter within the last six months. The clerk informed the council that if they wished to relook at this matter, she would need a resolution signed by two councillors asking for the matter to put on the next agenda for discussion. The council was also in receipt of photographs of the development from a Leofric Close resident

- iii. **Mole hills** – LDC had suggested that the parish council put up a sign warning of the presence of mole hills on the open space in Leofric Close. The clerk had requested three quotes and two had been received. **Agreed** that an order be placed for a sign from Hardy Signs of Burton at a cost of £95 plus VAT
- iv. **Rabbits in Manor Park bunds** – the clerk reported that she had received a communication from a resident expressing disappointment that no action was being taken with regards to the rabbits in the Manor Park bunds and she hoped they didn't spread within the village

3735. Finance

- i. **Finance Report to 31st March, 2010**
Noted
- ii. **Accounts to 31st March, 2010**
Agreed that the accounts be approved for signing by the chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Seddon and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gair.
- i. **Audit Return for the Year to 31st March, 2010, including the Annual Statement of Governance**
Agreed that the council approves the Audit Return and Annual Statement of Governance for signing by the chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Browne and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gair
- ii. **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

Agreed that the council would approach Mrs O'Brian to see if she would be willing to act as the independent internal auditor this year. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jarman and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gair.

iii. Pension – review of contribution rates and notification of rates for 2010/11

Agreed that the clerk's contribution rate for pension contributions should remain at 6.5% as she had not moved into a new band

Noted that the employers rate of contribution would rise from 13.8% to 15.0% with effect from 1st April, 2010

iv. Payments to be made

Agreed that the following payments be made:-

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
54/300177	Mrs S Buxton	375.63	Salary and taxable expenses	
54/300178	SCC	73.18	Pension contributions	
54/300179	S Buxton	16.00	Other expenses adjusted for previously overpaid telephone expenses. Includes £50 petty cash	
55/300180	M H & S Buxton	80.37	Photocopying – Jan – Mar 2010	
56/300181	E A Roy	130.00	Annual fee for hosting and maintenance of website	
57/300182	Sharp Landscapes	505.00	Replacement cheq	
58/300183	Information Commissioner	35.00	Data registration	
	TOTAL	1,215.18		

v. Receipts

None

vi. Future Projects funded from Reserves

The chairman reminded councillors of the need to consider other projects to be funded from reserves. Two suggestions were re-siting of the post box and a contribution towards improvements to the heating at the Village Hall.

3736. Correspondence and Items for Information

- i. **Quarrying** – the council noted that several residents were forwarding numerous emails regarding the situation with regards to quarrying in and around Kings Bromley. Cllr Mrs Eagland commented that although a reduction had been achieved for Staffordshire towards the West Midlands aggregate requirements, SCC were keeping a close eye on the situation. They do not want any new quarries to be opened before all existing quarries have been fully investigated
- ii. **Review of Correspondence list**
No other items were discussed

3737. Highways and Signs

- i. **Neighbourhood Highway Teams** - the clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Highway Team were due in Kings Bromley this week although SCC had not notified the clerk. The clerk has made

arrangements to email the list of items to an officer at SCC and it is hoped that the works can be scheduled for next week.

- ii. **Gullies in kerbstones, Alrewas Road** – the gullies have been cleaned out by blasting water through them and all the debris has ended up on Alrewas Road pavements and the frontages of various properties. This has not been cleaned up and as soon as there is any rain it will be back along the gullies blocking them up again. It would appear that the debris is not taken away.

Agreed that the clerk would discuss this with SCC to see what action can be taken to ensure a more effective clearance of the gullies.

- iii. **Drains at junction of Alrewas Road/Yoxall Road** – nothing to report

- iv. **Chamberlain Close manhole covers** – this matter continues to be unresolved.

Agreed that the council write to Cllr Maryon who is the Cabinet Member at SCC responsible for Highways and ask if he can bring pressure to bear to get a resolution.

- v. **Road Sweeping** – there are many side roads which are in need of sweeping

Agreed the clerk will ask LDC to arrange an extra sweeping.

3738. Play equipment

No progress has been made on the agreement with SCC over ownership of the equipment once installed through the Pre School grant

Agreed that this matter be carried forward to the next meeting.

3739. Best Kept Village Competition

- i. **Children's Poster Competition** – the clerk reported that the posters will be available for judging by councillors after the Annual Parish Meeting

- ii. **Fencing along side Royal Oak in Manor Road** – this is in a particular state of disrepair

Agreed the clerk should write to Marstons Brewery with a copy to the landlord asking for the matter to be attended to

3740. Manor Park Development

The chairman reported on a letter from solicitors working for a developer to LDC which had identified the “cow field” (site between Lichfield Road and Manor Park quarry) for possible development, incorporating low cost housing, a Village Hall, shop, playing fields and houses for sale. As this would be an exception site it could only be used for social housing.

Agreed that the council write to LDC objecting to any development of this site for the following reasons:-

- The site floods in its present state and any development of the site would lead to deflection of the water which lies on this field to other areas of the village and flooding of property built on this site;
- There is no identified local need for such a substantially sized social housing site;
- Increased traffic resulting from this development will further exacerbate existing traffic problems in Kings Bromley

- The size of the site for social housing would completely change the character of the village of Kings Bromley.

3741. Development of Eastfields

The concerns raised by residents during the public part of this meeting were noted

Agreed that the council write to the Mr Greenwall at Hillcrest, with a copy to the Principal, Ms Morris, raising the following issues:-

- The council is concerned for the safety of the young people on the site without the installation of substantial boundary fencing. What fencing is proposed for the whole of the site and will it meet
- The safety of neighbouring property (both residential and industrial) needs to be considered
- In view of previous events and incidents involving residents what controls will be put in place to ensure there is no re-occurrence.

The letter to request a meeting be arranged between representatives of Hillcrest, the parish council and neighbouring residents to look at these specific issues.

3742. Staffordshire Cares

Nothing to report

3743. Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place on Thursday, 29th April, 2010 at 7.45 pm and the clerk will arrange coffee and biscuits

3744. Lichfield District Council

- Report on Parish Forum meeting 1/4/10** – this meeting was attended by Cllr Pritchard and focussed on parish plans

3745. Staffordshire County Council

- Chief Executive** – Cllr Mrs Eagland reported that a new Chief Executive, Mr Bell from Essex would be taking up his post on 1st May, 2010
- Local Community Fund** – there is £10,000 available in the fund for groups within Cllr Eagland's area to apply for grants from
- 20 mph Limits outside schools** – Cllr Eagland reported that at the recent Regeneration and Infrastructure Scrutiny Meeting, Richard Crosse School is on the list of schools where the council are looking to introduce 20 mph speed limits.

3746. SPCA

- Report on Lichfield Area meeting 1/4/10** – no one was aware that this meeting had taken place. The clerk reported that she had forwarded the notification to everyone by email.
- Newsletter March 2010**

3747. Review of Items for Future Meetings

- Health and Safety Risk Assessments**
- Health and Safety First Aid kit**

iii. **Review/introduction of council policies**

3748. Date of Next Meeting

Agreed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, 12th May, 2010 at 7.45 pm at the Village Hall, Alrewas Road, Kings Bromley.

There being no other business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm