

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday, 8th June, 2011, at 7.30 pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall

Present: Cllr G C Seddon (Chair); Cllr S R Browne; Cllr Mrs M Gair; Cllr S M Holland; Cllr I M P Pritchard (part); Cllr Mrs P Rothery (part); Cllr W A Taylor (part)

Cllr Taylor completed his declaration of acceptance of office prior to the start of the meeting.

In attendance: Mr Roger Whittle (Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership – Operations Manager); Mr Richard Rayson (Staffordshire Highways – Community Highways Liaison Manager); County Cllr Mrs Janet Eagland (part); Mrs S Buxton (Clerk); 18 members of the public

Public Session

Roger Whittle reported that the camera van has been out on a number of occasions in Kings Bromley and they have completed surveys using radar equipment. Neither operation has shown particularly high numbers of speeding vehicles.

There is speed data on all approaches over many years, the normal practice is to record vehicles as they enter the village and when they are in the village so that you get a mean figure. The data shows that the speeds are at the top end, but are not at a level at which the police take action. The data is collected for 24 hours a day over a 7 day period - so it covers every vehicle. It generally shows that 85% of the vehicles are within the speed limit or police enforceable limits. The speeds are recorded either by a loop across the road or by radar equipment.

Have also looked at accident statistics for the village - which are very low

Cllr Mrs Eagland arrived

Residents made the following comments:-

- the high visibility and position used for the camera van and the fact that motorists flash other motorists to warn them of the van's presence limit it's effectiveness, surely it should be a plain, unmarked van?
- the condition of the road makes the problem of the vehicles worse;
- where were the radar devices placed?

Staffordshire has done a major road review to ensure that all roads have the right classification and speed limits. It covered every A and B road in Staffordshire. There were no recommended changes to either of the A roads in Kings Bromley in terms of classification or speed limit.

Further resident comments included:-

- the Speedwatch team in Kings Bromley has been supplying data to the police inspector at Uttoxeter and at times it was over 400 reports of excessive speed at a time, but the police couldn't issue sufficient letters and limited it's operation.
- could there not be a weight restriction in Kings Bromley?
- at times when residents are slowing to enter or are leaving their drives, drivers travelling through the village often sound their horns and harass drivers
- a resident who has done road signage, believes that the speed limits in Kings Bromley are not enforceable as the signs are unlawful and not fully visible

Both the A513 and A515 form part of Staffordshire's Strategic Road network so there is nothing that can be done to prevent lorries from travelling into Kings Bromley.

If the residents provide information to the parish council, they can forward it to SCC and then a review of the information will be taken.

SCC Highways offered to take a new set of data, at a position to be agreed between SCC and the parish council.

Speedwatch co-ordinator commented:-

- why do the camera partnership vans so often come to KB if the data shows "relatively" low speeds;
- the Speedwatch has been stopped until control was taken over by the Road Safety Partnership, but there has been no contact since

One reason the vehicle comes to KB is because it is an area of community concern. The Safer Roads Partnership is here to support Kings Bromley. They are aware that PC Andy Brown has been in contact with the village organisation who communicates with Lucy Stone from the Partnership. Mr Whittle assured the meeting that the Partnership supports all Community Speedwatch initiatives and that there has been contact with the Kings Bromley team. This was strongly contested by the Speedwatch Co-ordinator, who recommended that Speedwatch should be put back under Police control.

The figures for Kings Bromley show that in 49.5 hours monitoring since January this year, 149 offences have occurred.

A resident suggested:-

- that the village could have continuous white lines to prevent overtaking, as there is a lot of overtaking as the road is very straight and if drivers can see that the road is clear people overtake
- when the van is in position traffic does slow down and there is a noticeable speeding up of traffic afterwards
- could a chicane be put on the road from Fradley to prevent large lorries coming through Kings Bromley?

SCC reported that there are discussions on going with the problem of heavy traffic from Fradley coming through villages, instead of the A50/A38 route.

The chairman thanked Mr Whittle and Mr Rayson for coming along to the meeting to discuss the situation and hopefully this will mark the beginning of further work on the issues of speeding and traffic in Kings Bromley.

The chairman asked the officers to keep the council informed about their work in looking at ways of deterring heavy traffic from travelling through Kings Bromley and to investigate the option of white lines in the village. He also looked forward to progress in agreeing a site for the collection of a new set of traffic data.

Mr Rayson offered to meet with representatives of the parish council to discuss site for collection of data and also agreed to look at signage within Kings Bromley.

Mr Whittle summed up by saying that they are not able to operate the camera out of unmarked vehicles, and that both mobile devices on trailers and police with a hand held speed gun have been operating in Kings Bromley. He also undertook to make contact with the Kings Bromley Speedwatch Team.

The formal parish council meeting commenced at 8.15 pm.

Cllr Pritchard arrived

122. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Pritchard was not at the public part of the meeting due to attending another meeting first

123. Vacancies on the Council and Co-option

The council currently has one vacancy and an expressed of interest has been received from Patricia Rothery

Agreed that Patricia Rothery be co-opted on to the parish council. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Gair and seconded by Cllr Holland

Mrs Rothery completed her declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

124. Declarations of Interest

- i. **Register of Members' Interests** - the clerk reminded all members of the need to send their forms to LDC in the SAE previously supplied
- ii. **Declarations relevant to this meeting**
None

125. Safer Roads Partnership and Speeding Issues in Kings Bromley

Agreed to request SCC to investigate the road signage in Kings Bromley and the clerk would arrange to obtain the necessary information from Mr Parry to send to SCC

Agreed to request that SCC should investigate the possibility of solid white lines in Kings Bromley to prevent overtaking

Agreed that the parish council would ask for a site meeting to agree where the data collection should be taken. Cllrs Seddon, Browne and Mrs Rothery would like to attend, but all councillors asked to be kept informed

Agreed to ask the Safer Roads Partnership to contact Mr Gilmour as the Speedwatch Co-ordinator and he agreed to the clerk forwarding his details.

126. Change Order of Agenda

Agreed that item 15 High Speed Rail Link should be taken next. This was proposed by Cllr Browne and seconded by Cllr Taylor

127. High Speed Rail Link – London to Scotland

- i. **Public Meeting 26th May, 2011** - The public meeting held last month was attended by around 120 people, and Ms Allsopp now has in the region of 50 – 60 people from the village on the mailing list. She expressed thanks to Cllr Pritchard for chairing the meeting.

At the last car boot sale in Wood End Lane there was a lot of interest expressed, but Ms Allsopp expressed concern that there still seems to be many people in Kings Bromley who are either unaware or uninterested in HS2, which will have a massive impact on the village if it goes ahead.

The consultation in Lichfield today was well attended and there is another opportunity tomorrow.

Mr Nason reported that there will be a feature on the Politics Show on BBC2 on Sunday, 12 June. Joan Cummings from the BBC had done some research travelling from Yoxall and people are still unaware that HS2 will cross the A515. He also encouraged everyone to write letters to Michael Fabricant on the issue. The group in Kings Bromley has other activities planned in the near future. If HS2 goes ahead, it is almost certain that HS3 will head straight for Kings Bromley.

It was commented that consulting on one section at a time was not really fair and that whole route should be looked at as a whole.

Cllr Pritchard and Cllr Mrs Eagland reported that a presentation to LDC last night did not really answer any questions that were raised

- ii. **Request from Kings Bromley Stop HS2 group for a grant** - the clerk had received a request from the Stop HS2 group for a grant. So far the Kings Bromley group has started it with their own money and they have requested a grant from the parish council of £150.

Cllr Browne proposed that a grant of £150 be given to the Kings Bromley HS2 group

Cllr Pritchard proposed that rather than giving a cheque for £150 it would be preferable if the group supplied receipts which could then be reimbursed.

Cllr Browne withdrew his proposal

Cllr Mrs Gair did ask the meeting to consider if the council was confident that in supporting the Stop HS2 Group, that this was representative of the whole village?

Agreed that the council feels that the issue of HS2 is a real concern to the whole village

Agreed that the council request the Kings Bromley HS2 group to submit receipts to the clerk who would present them to the next council meeting for reimbursement

- iii. **Letter from Mr C Jarman to Michael Fabricant MP** - the council had received a copy of a letter from Mr Jarman to Michael Fabricant MP objecting to HS2 and noted its contents.

- iv. **Parish Council Reponse to HS2 Consultation** – the deadline for this is 29th July and there is only one scheduled parish council meeting before this date. The council discussed the option of calling a special meeting to look purely at this topic.

Agreed that all councillors would consider their views on the HS2 consultation and forward them to the clerk as a matter of urgency and then the chairman would put together a response for the next parish council meeting to be considered by the council.

Agreed the clerk would supply a copy of question and answer leaflet on the consultation to all councillors, as the consultation was so worded so that respondents felt like they must answer yes, even if they know they should answer no

128. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May, 2011, be signed as a true and correct record

Cllr Browne reported that he had got confused when asking at the last meeting if the parish council could put aside some funds to award educational grants within the village, and that when this had happened previously in Kings Bromley it had not been through the parish council

129. Report of the Clerk

- i. **Services to development at the Rear of The Hollies** – the clerk reported that there has been no further progress on the finalisation of this matter
- ii. **Oaklands College** – the clerk had circulated to all councillors a report which had been forwarded to her by Jo Morris for the Annual Parish Meeting prior to the event, but which had not been included in the reports at the meeting
Agreed that the report was very informative and positive
- iii. **Public Sector Mapping** - the clerk asked for this to be carried forward
- iv. **Councillor's Contact Details on Noticeboards/Website** – a query has been raised regarding contact details included on the website. The current practice is that only telephone numbers are displayed, and outside the village not ex-directory ones.
Agree that where the a councillor is unable to include his home telephone number for contact purposes on either the website or village noticeboard, then the parish council address should be included and the clerk would forward any correspondence

130. Finance

- i. **Parish Council Insurance** - at the last meeting it was not noticed that each of the insurance quotes had different excesses, and the cheapest quote did in fact have the highest excess. The clerk had contacted all councillors before taking out the policy and had contacted the insurer to see if the excess could be reduced.
Agreed that the council confirm its insurance with Came & Co, with the higher excess
- ii. **Finance Report to 31st May, 2011**
Agreed to note the content of the finance report to the end of May 2011
- iii. **Payments to be made**
Agreed that the following payments be made

21/426	Mrs S Buxton	378.99	Salary & taxable exps	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
22/427	SCC	81.11	Pension	LGA 1972 S.112(2)
21/428	Mrs S Buxton	19.80	Travel exps	LG(FP)A 1962 s.5
21/428	Mrs S Buxton	7.00	Telephone exps	LG(FP)A 1962 s.5
23/429	Community Council	22.00	Subscription	LGA 1972 s.143
24/430	B Hayward	216.86	2 grasscuts	OSA 1906 S.10
25/431	LDC	624.00	Emptying 4 dog bins & 1 litter bin	PHA 1961 s.52
	TOTAL	1349.76		

- iv. **Receipts**
None
- v. **HMRC and PAYE Records** - the clerk reported that HMRC has Kings Bromley Parish Council set up twice as an employer. The end of year return has been completed under one reference, but all the coding notices are coming out under the second reference. She has written to them asking them to sort out their records and combine the two records into one, but quite expects in the meantime to receive a penalty notice for non-completion of the annual return against one record
- vi. **Disposal of old Christmas lights** – the old Christmas tree lights have been used by the council for many years. Since the purchase of new lights last year, they are now redundant
Agreed that the old Christmas lights be given to Mr Sutton for use by the Scouts. This was proposed by Cllr Pritchard and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gair.

vii. Future Projects Funded from Reserves

Cllr Bronwe suggested a new Parish Plan, but Cllr Pritchard commented that it would be best to wait until the full impact of the Localism Bill was known before starting such a project. The council will be able to make a decision on whether to earmark part of their reserves for this project at the end of the current financial year.

viii. Independent Internal Audit – the clerk reported that she had collected the books and records from Mrs O'Brian prior to this meeting and she had found everything to be in order

Agreed the clerk should write and thank Mrs O'Brian for acting as the independent internal auditor.

131. Clerk to the Parish Council

i. Clerk's Hours – the clerk had prepared a report regarding additional hours she had worked during the period March/April this year, which were over and above normal hours. She had also recorded hours worked since the last meeting.

Agreed that the clerk be paid 14.25 extra hours with her June salary as a one off payment. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Gair and seconded by Cllr Browne. The clerk's record of hours since the last meeting was noted and the council felt that the clerk's interpretation of 8 hours being sufficient for the work required in most cases was correct.

Cllr Pritchard queried why all emails from the clerk included a note stating that the clerk only works for 8 hours per week. The clerk explained that she had included it as some residents assume that the clerk is always available to respond immediately, but at the request of the council she would remove it from future emails.

ii. Clerk's Laptop – at the Practitioners' Conference earlier this year, one session had advised against the retention of parish council records on personal computers and advised all councils to provide a separate laptop/pc for council use only. The clerk had prepared a report for all councillors detailing options for the purchase of a parish council laptop

Agreed that Cllr Seddon would take the specification for a parish council laptop to his workplace and seek the IT specialist's advice on the matter.

132. Correspondence

i. Election expenses – the clerk reminded all councillors that they are required to submit a statement of election expenses on the specified form, details of which have been supplied to all councillors.

ii. Verge in Beech Avenue – the clerk had received a complaint re: the verge on the corner of Beech Avenue and Manor Road. It has been sprayed and all the plants provided and tended by a resident sprayed too. A number of councillors had been and had a look and couldn't see where the spraying had taken place.

Agreed that the clerk should write to the resident who had complained and state that councillors had taken a look but couldn't see exactly what the problem was but that Cllr Seddon would be willing to meet them on site if they wanted him too

iii. Review of correspondence list

The correspondence list was reviewed

133. Parish Council Meetings

Agreed that the parish council meetings for 2012 will be held as follows subject to confirmation of availability by the Village Hall

Wednesday, 11th January, 2012
Wednesday, 8th February, 2012
Wednesday, 14th March, 2012
Wednesday, 11th April, 2012
Wednesday, 25th April, 2012 – Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday, 9th May, 2012
Wednesday, 13th June, 2012
Wednesday, 11th July, 2012
Wednesday, 8th August, 2012
Wednesday, 12th September, 2012
Wednesday, 10th October, 2012
Wednesday, 14th November, 2012
Wednesday, 12th December, 2012

134. Highways

- i. **Crawley Lane parking** – Cllr Eagland had met with Highways and Cllr Mrs Jarman and then followed it up with the school. Highways are willing to help with the groundworks, but it is the governors decision as to whether the work goes ahead. Mr Lovern had indicated that it was too expensive, but his last email indicated that he was going to take it back to the governors before half term. A resident suggested that it may be something that a local constructor might do under the considerate constructor's scheme.
Agreed the clerk will email Mr Lovern and ask him for an update on the current situation with regards to the parking.

Cllr Taylor left the meeting

- ii. **Neighbourhood Highway Teams** - the clerk reminded members that any items for the NHTs for their visit to Kings Bromley in August or December should be forwarded to the clerk as soon as possible.
Could the triangle at the junction of Manor Road and Beech Avenue be included? The clerk explained that if small grassed areas are not looked after by residents they automatically fall within the SCC grasscutting contract which is just a few times each year
- iii. **Other** – nothing else to report

135. Play Equipment

- i. **Installation** – the clerk reported that after several phone calls to Lappsett over the last few days, the installation would now commence on Monday 13th June and take two days.
The chairman expressed the council's thanks to Mr Gilmour and his team of young volunteers who have done a lot of tidying up at the Village Hall
- ii. **Levelling and reseeding** – to be discussed after installation complete
- iii. **Opening** – the clerk had received an enquiry from the chairman of the Village Hall Committee regarding any plans to have an opening ceremony for the play equipment
Agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting

136. War Memorial

- i. **Material** – Cllr Pritchard had taken the gravel samples to a meeting of the Royal British Legion and they had chosen their preferred gravel

Agreed that the council will support the Royal British Legion's choice of trent pea gravel

Agreed that the clerk will confirm with Tygar Surfacing which gravel and arrange an installation date

Agreed that the clerk would contact Cllr Pritchard with the date for installation so that he could make arrangements for the crazy paving to be repaired prior to the installation of the bonded gravel

Agreed that the clerk would write to the Royal British Legion confirming the work to be done and the timescale.

ii. **Confirmation of Acceptance of Contract by Tygar Surfacing** – the clerk reported that they had signed the acceptance of the contract and returned it to her this week.

iii. **Footpath on Lichfield Road** – it was noted that due to several lots of resurfacing over recent years, the kerb height on Lichfield Road adjacent to the War Memorial is very small, and the highway and footway are almost level. This obviously increases the amount of road debris which gets thrown onto the footway and War Memorial by passing traffic

Agreed the clerk would email Cllr Mrs Eagland to ask if Highways could take a look at the problem with a view to making the footway higher to create a decent kerb height and thus trap debris on the road rather than on the footway and War Memorial.

137. BKV

i. **Presentation** – Cllr Mrs Gair reported that she had been to the school and presented the certificates and book tokens.

ii. **11-16 competition** – the Community Council are running a special competition for 11 – 16 year olds along side the BKV competition this year. It is on the theme of Remembrance and entrants can do more or less anything on this theme. E.g. write a report, prepare artwork etc

Agreed that the clerk would forward the details to the Youth Club, include an item in the parish magazine and put it on the noticeboard

iii. **Other** – nothing to report

138. Walk Leaflet

The clerk reported that she had contacted Cllr Pritchard, Graham Rothery and Judith Berry regarding the completion of this project which was started last year. An informal meeting has been arranged for next week to agree what work is completed and what work is still to be done. Once the content and photographs are completed it will be necessary to seek quotations for printing

Agreed that the clerk will seek quotes for the printing from the company giving the cheapest quote last time and Benhill Press as they have a Kings Bromley connection A resident commented that one of the walks contained a short cut that did not ideally fit and suggested just changing the order slightly. He would send details to the clerk for discussion at the meeting next week.

139. Staffordshire Cares

Nothing to report

140. Lichfield District Council

Nothing to report

141. Staffordshire County Council

Nothing to report

Cllr Mrs Eagland left the meeting

142. SCPA

Nothing to report

143. Review of items for Next/Future Meetings

- i. **Standing Orders**
- ii. **Financial Regulations**
- iii. **Play Equipment Inspection Records**
- iv. **Health and Safety Risk Assessments**
- v. **Review/Introduction of Council Policies**
- vi. **Public Sector Mapping**
- vii. **Christmas Tree – October 2011**
- viii. **Provision of Reserve for Parish Plan – April 2012**

144. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Agreed that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13th July, 2011 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, when Anne Anderson will be present to give a brief update on the gravel situation

There being no other business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.46 pm

Signed _____

Date 13th July, 2011