

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 13th February 2013 commencing at 7.30pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. M. K. Gair (Vice Chairman); Cllr. S. R. Browne;
Cllr. Mrs. P. Rothery;

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public: Paul Waring, Wayne Bull, Barry Stoney, Julia
Allsopp, Ray Griffiths, Charles Jarman, Joy Fielding.

Public Session: This took place between 7.30pm and 8.10pm. The main discussion revolved around HS2 and the wish that the parish council were more involved. It was generally felt that the parish council were not giving their full support. The line of phase 1 has been moved and this will have implications to the parish. The vice chairman apologised for the absent councillors but said that illness and work commitments had prevented them from attending. She suggested that the best way forward would be for the council to call an extraordinary meeting within the next two weeks. Julia Allsopp undertook to email a list of questions to the clerk that could be used as a basis for discussion at that meeting. The vice chairman thanked the HS2 group for attending.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. G. C. Seddon (Chairman); Cllr. I. M. P. Pritchard; Cllr. S. Holland;
Cllr. W. Taylor. (Absent through illness or work commitments).

2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr. Rothery declared an interest in any discussion involving HS2 as her family had land over which the track will pass. She also said that any discussion about either the A515 or A513 affected her. The vice chairman asked that other councillors state an interest if an item is discussed subsequently.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

None.

4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 9th January 2013.

These had been distributed previously. Two corrections were identified both under item 8 Re. HS2. Cllr Gair said that her comment about the group having their own agenda was incorrect and what she actually said was that she was concerned that the parish council had to represent the parish as a whole and that this may not be the same as some of the local landowners. Cllr. Browne said that his reference to the posters was incorrect and that he actually said council should only pay for more once phase 2 was published. The clerk was asked to amend the minutes accordingly and to bring them to the March meeting for signing. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Rothery that the minutes be signed as a true record with the amendments above.

Action: Clerk

The vice chairman then signed the amended minutes of the December 2012 meeting.

To enable the HS2 group to shorten their stay, Item 8 was taken next – see minute below under 8.

5. Clerks Report.

a) Correspondence / emails received.

- i) Letter Co-op Bank re charges. The clerk said an oversight meant that the current account had gone overdrawn and the bank had notified council of charges. Clerk has written to the bank who says they will refund.

Initial:

- ii) SPCA weekly update – placed in circ. file
- iii) SPCA weekly update – placed in circ. file.
- iv) SCC Community Paths Initiative. The clerk read out part of this communication. After discussion it was felt that its content was worth consideration and Cllr. Rothery undertook to give it some thought and perhaps come up with some ideas as to where improvement could be made. She was particularly interested in the offer to supply a strimmer. **Action: Cllr. Rothery.**
- v) Email from Cllr. Pritchard sending his apologies for the meeting but also informing that Ruby O'Brian had passed away.

Letters Sent

- i) Letter to Alan Howard re BKV. Mr. Howard indicated his willingness to organise this year's event. Discussed below under item 13.
- ii) Letter of thanks to Christmas tree contributors.
- iii) Letter to Co-op Bank re charges. See above.
- iv) Letter to Tomkinson and Teal re this year's audit, to ask if they are prepared to act as internal auditor for council.

b) Finances.

- i) Financial statement: As at 25/1/13 – Current account £1,498.52, Reserve account £19,422.45
- ii) Payments Received: Transfer of £2000 from reserve to current account.
- iii) Payments to be made:
 - 300243 Clerk Salary £277.33 (net), Expenses £79.16, of which cost of stamps purchased was zero for Jan 2013 – Total £356.49.
 - 300244 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £69.40
 - 300245 Fairview Arborists - £80 inc. vat.
 - 300246 HS2 Hall hire - £12.50
 It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Rothery that the above invoices be paid. All in favour.

6. County and District Councillors Reports.

None present.

7. Highway and Footpaths.

- a) Traffic issues.
 - (i) Meeting with neighbouring parishes. Cllr. Pritchard was not present. It was felt that this had dragged on too long and that this meeting needs to be arranged quickly. Clerk to email Cllr. Pritchard. **Action: Clerk and Cllr. Pritchard.**
 - (ii) FOI request to SCC. The chairman was absent and no communication as to whether a meeting is arranged has been received by the clerk. **Action. Cllr. Seddon.**
 - (iii) Re-classification of local A roads prior to HS2. Cllr. Browne said council needs to push Michael Fabricant on this issue as any changes could affect traffic used when the HS2 is constructed. This links in with item (i) above.

b) Footpath issues. None were known or reported at this time.

8. HS2 latest.

- (i) Cllr. Browne reported that the last HS2 meeting was well attended and that some councils and individuals are heavily involved. He said that there is a need to contact other parishes further along the route. There is continuing discussion about the cost / benefit / capacity of the route. Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Heeler to attend meetings in London. All the action groups need to work together. The next meeting is 26th February with LDC and SCC.
- (ii) Continuation of support for HS2 group. This will be discussed at the proposed extraordinary meeting.

9. Projects for 2013 funded from reserves: Wildflower meadow sign / slide.

Cllr. Rothery proposed that council goes ahead with the quote she obtained in December. This was for £500 plus the cost of artwork at around £100. Carl Easter will erect and fit the sign. It was felt this should be done before the BKV judging begins. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Browne. Cllr. Rothery to order sign and arrange erection.

Action: Cllr. Rothery.

Discussion on the expenditure for the slide was deferred until the March Meeting when more councillors should be present.

10. Review of Health and Safety Policy – Risk Schedule.

The clerk said it was necessary to make this review every year. He went through the various risks as identified in the schedule. A copy will be placed in the file. The only issue that caused discussion revolved around computer backups and the storage of same 'off site'. It was felt that a DVD should be made on a monthly basis and the disk left with a councillor at a meeting. It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Rothery that the risk schedule be signed by the vice chairman. All were in favour.

Action: Clerk.

11. Grass Cutting Quotes for 2013 and 2014 and award of contract.

The clerk said that he has received two quotes, one from Mr Hayward for £1,710 (2013) and £1,774 (2014) and the other from R B landscaping for £4,095. It was proposed by Cllr. Rothery and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the contract is awarded to Mr. Hayward. Clerk to write to him and the unsuccessful tenderer.

Action: Clerk

12. Possible Purchase and Storage of Sandbags.

This deferred to March Meeting.

13. Best Kept Village Competition 2013. Allocation of funds.

The clerk said that council had spent £46.75 last year and that the entry fee was £15 plus around £30 on posters. It was proposed by Cllr. Rothery and seconded by Cllr. Browne that £50 be allocated this year. Comment was made that parish councillors ought to lead by example by keeping their front gardens tidy.

Clerk to complete entry form and send off.

Action: Clerk

14. Councillor Reports for information only.

Cllr. Rothery reported that the brook will be / is being cleaned out towards Lupin Farm but that the ground was very wet and this made access difficult. She asked about the dog fouling and if LDC were going to put painted signs on the footways near the school. Clerk to chase.

Cllr. Browne said that Alan Howard had given a very interesting talk about the link between the village and the Bahamas and asks if he might write something for the web site. Cllr. Browne to ask. He also said that he is to attend a meeting with SCC, Fradley PC and Arriva buses in Stafford on 22nd February to discuss the removal of several services through the village. This to be added to the agenda for the March meeting.

Cllr. Rothery said she was now a trustee and treasurer at the Alms houses and that if there is a link with the parish council she felt she must record this. Clerk to determine the necessity to do this.

Cllr. Gair then suggested several dates for the proposed extraordinary meeting. The preferred dates were either 18th or 19th February. Clerk to check hall availability.

Actions: Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed (Vice Chairman) Date 13th March 2013.