

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 9th April 2014 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. G. C. Seddon (Chairman); Cllrs. I. M. P. Pritchard; Mrs M. Gair;
S. Browne; S. Holland.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)
Members of the public present: Philip Sharpe (Inland Waterways Association), Barry Stoney, Joy Fielding, Helen Whitehouse and Ray Griffiths.

Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 8.10pm.

Mr Griffiths asked about weed spraying in Alrewas Road and who cuts the grass verge outside numbers 8 to 16 Yoxall Road. Clerk to investigate. Cllr. Browne asked if anything was known about the closure of the A513 Armitage Road. No one did. Clerk to investigate.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. W. Taylor (unwell)

2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs. Browne and Gair on their involvement with the Stop HS2 Action Group. The chairman also asked that all councillors declare an interest if an item is discussed subsequently.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was good to see the longer days but not the sight of more heavy traffic. Road works were taking place in the village and it is hoped that this may be to bring faster Internet access.

4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 12th March 2014.

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

5. HS2 Update and presentation by Philip Sharpe of Inland Waterways Assoc.

Mr. Sharpe summarised his involvement with the Association and HS2. He said that the planned route involved constructing 9 crossings of the canal in the locality. This had prompted the appointment of a consultant and a new line was proposed and presented to HS2. The new line would save in excess of £50m and was being considered by HS2. Full details of the consultant report are available on the IWA web site. He then issued a summary sheet to all Councillors and the clerk.

Cllr. Pritchard added that a decision on whether LDC will be petitioning is to be made soon. Originally it was thought they would petition along with SCC – this will not now happen. He asked Mr Sharpe if he would send him the information as presented. Cllr. Browne said that Action Groups / Councils need to submit their petitions by mid-May. There had been over 21,000 comments made about the HS2 Environmental Statement. He has attended a meeting at LDC offices and there will be a further meeting on 22nd April. Only 2 representatives from each group are invited to attend. There will be a half day course on how to petition. Both Cllrs. Browne and Gair feel that a working group ought to be formed to aid in compiling the petition. After discussion it was suggested by the clerk that a sub-committee be formed – he will check the legality of this as it will involve inviting in 2 members of the Action Group.

All public present, with the exception of Mr Griffiths, left the meeting at 20.40

6. Clerks Report.

- a) Correspondence / emails received.
 - i) Email Mrs. Coulborn re parking outside School. See below.
 - ii) Letter – Mrs Berry re parking outside school. After further discussion it was decided that the Council would write again to the head teacher about the problems and to copy the letter to Mrs Berry and Mrs Coulbourn. **Action: Clerk.**
 - iii) Email – Alan Howard re maintenance of war memorial and vacancy application. It was decided to take up the offer to have the war memorial garden maintained at the cost specified (an additional £55). This was agreed.
It was proposed by Cllr. Holland and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that Alan Howard be co-opted to fill the vacancy of the parish council. Clerk to contact Mr. Howard. **Action: Clerk.**
 - iv) Letter – Alrewas Parish Council re Neighbourhood Plan – to inform the council that Alrewas are in the process of compiling their plan.
 - v) Letter Grant Thornton re this year's audit and forms. Clerk has taken these to our internal auditor and will be meeting with them on 10th April.
 - vi) NALC Financial Briefing paper – Placed in circulation file.
 - vii) SPCA News – Placed in circulation file.
 - viii) Dept. of Communities and Local Gov. – Consultation on draft Transparency Code – Placed in circulation file.
 - ix) Letter – Came and Co re Council Insurance – Placed in circulation file.
 - x) Letter from CPRE – posters etc. – distributed.
 - xi) Document - Dept. of Communities and Local Gov. re Parish Precepts – Placed in circulation file.
 - xii) Document NALC – Draft Financial Regulations – Placed in circulation file.
 - xiii) Document – Safeguarding Public Money – Placed in circulation file.
 - xiv) Email re localising council tax support grant - Placed in circulation file.
 - xv) Letter – 10 Downing Street re National Insurance tax cut for businesses and charities. The clerk said that this does not apply to this council as it does not pay any National Insurance.
 - xvi) Email – Police Report. Clerk read this out. Doorstep traders were in the area and should carry identification and be licensed. An attempted break-in had occurred in Leofric Close.

Letters Sent.

- i) Letter to Mrs Berry re school parking.
- ii) Letter to internal auditor asking if they will undertake the work again this year.

b) Finances.

- i) Financial statement: As at 26/3/14– Current account – £1,847.40. Reserve account £10,434.63 (uncleared cheques £30.00)
- ii) Payments Received: None
- iii) Payments to be made:
 - 300631 Ian Colclough – HS2 meeting notification in Lichfield Mercury - £201.60
 - 300632 Clerk Salary £280.20 (net) and expenses of £97.54 (no postage stamps) Total £377.74
 - 300633 HMRC – Clerk income tax - £70.00
 - 300634 Brian Hayward – grass maintenance - £236.63
 - 300635 Mr Hinsley – Wildflower lectern materials - £130.00
 - 300636 P. Easter – erection of lectern - £72 Inc. vat

It was proposed by Cllr. Holland and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that these invoices be paid. All in favour.

- iv) Unaudited end of year accounts. These had been distributed previously. The clerk went over the accounts and asked if there were any questions. None were forthcoming. He said that council had invested in the maintenance of the church clock by paying in advance for the next 3 years. The insurance was due for renewal this year and he would be meeting with the insurers soon.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Holland that the accounts were in order. All in favour.

7. County and District Councillors Reports.

Cllr. Pritchard said that there was not much to report at the moment. He had already talked about LDC proposal with regards to HS2 petitioning. He said that there is a proposal to include an extra percentage to local business rates in the town to fund a 'market manager' to help create a market city. This it is thought would help traders compete with out of town shopping facilities. He said that the city centre is to be improved and that some work may take place to attend to the defective block paving.

The chairman thanked the Cllr. Pritchard for his report.

8. Highway and Footpaths.

- (i) Parking issues around Richard Crosse School. This had been dealt with under 6 a) above.
- (ii) Neighbourhood Highway Team visit. The clerk has compiled a list of work and will send it to SCC. Cllr. Browne suggested they be asked to clear flood debris off local fields. The chairman said that was not in their remit as they only deal with highways problems.

Action: Clerk

9. Best Kept Village Prize.

- i) Erection of lectern for wildflower area. The clerk said the lectern was now in place and looked impressive. Clerk to write to Mr Hindley to thank him for his time in constructing the lectern and to Patricia Rothery for seeing the project through to fruition.

Action: Clerk.

- ii) Allocation of remaining prize monies. No monies remain after the purchase and erection costs of the lectern.

10. Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr. Pritchard said he has spoken to Mr Nunn and asked him to contact the local street co-ordinators. It was thought that information is being distributed rapidly and more easily with the use of email notifications.

11. Any Projects for 2104 to be funded from Reserves.

No projects immediately came to mind. Cllr. Browne thought it a good idea to appoint a local person to undertake odd jobs. The clerk said that SCC highways does offer funding towards appointing a 'lengthsman' who would undertake small highway jobs such as minor footway sweeping or grass verge cutting. Clerk to find out more. Cllr. Pritchard said he had heard of a possible 'grant' from the police and that more information would be sent to the clerk in due course.

Action: Clerk.

12. Possible Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulation.

The clerk said that many changes were taking place that may affect these orders and regulations. These included new guidelines on the two signature rule, payment of income tax to HMRC, social media at meetings and the implications of The Localism Act. Many of these were still under discussion and the clerk said he would monitor developments before amending Councils documents.

13. Annual Open Parish Meeting.

The clerk said this would take place at the village hall at 8pm on 14th April. A discussion took place around refreshment provision. It was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Pritchard that in the interests of making financial savings, no refreshments would be provided. All were in favour.

14. Councillors Reports for information only.

Cllr. Browne said he had heard that Arriva was to spend more on buses and that the No 7 route would possibly be improved.

Public, if present, were asked to leave the meeting.

15. Other Matters.

i) Council Finance. The clerk explained that he had rounded up the councils precept bid and that this had resulted in an increase of 5.2% not 5% as was minuted. However, it appeared that the council had been allocated 7.2% by LDC. At a meeting with LDC the clerk was informed that they then added a 'grant' to the bid. This was not made clear at the time the bid forms were completed as the grant amount was not known by LDC. After discussion it was proposed Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Browne that council ought to accept this amount as lean times may follow in future. All were in favour.

iii) Councillor Vacancy. One parishioner had expressed an interest in joining the parish council and his application was read out. After consideration it was proposed by Cllr. Holland and seconded by Cllr. Gair that Mr Alan Howard be co-opted onto the parish council. Clerk to inform him and LDC. **Action: Clerk.**

At this point the clerk left the meeting.

iii) Clerks Salary. The chairman reported to the clerk that it had been proposed by Cllr. Holland and seconded by Cllr. Browne that he be allowed to progress to the next salary scale in the range 23 to 25. All were in favour.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.04pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 14th May 2014.