

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday, 9th December, 2009 – 7.45 pm
Kings Bromley Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs S Buxton (Clerk)

Public Session

Christmas Tree - comments had been received concerning the Christmas tree which it was felt was not up to the usual standard

Crawley Lane – it was reported that there seem to be a lot of lager cans being dropped in Crawley Lane

Drain at junction of A515/A513 – the drain is blocked with leaves and does not take away the water during heavy rainfall – the clerk will report this

3731. Apologies

Cllr Taylor – unwell

Agreed to accept the apologies of Cllr Taylor

3732. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Jarman – changing lives

3733. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November, 2009 be signed as a true and correct record

3734. Matters of Report

- i. **Walk leaflet** - following the award of a grant, Graham Rothery has agreed to lead the project to produce a new walk leaflet and asked if there was a councillor who would like to be involved too
Agreed that Cllr Holland would provide assistance to Mr Rothery in production of the walk leaflet
- ii. **Temporary Allotment** - Cllr Browne reported that the temporary allotment on the open space in Leofric Close had now been reinstated as a grassed area
- iii. **Church Clock charging** - following the letter received at the last meeting informing the council that a visit was to be made as a result of problems with the clock the clerk reported that no invoice had been received so the visit had presumably been covered by the normal annual charge
- iv. **Tree works** - the clerk reported that the work is to be undertaken this week
- v. **BKV Maps** – the clerk asked the council to consider if they were happy with the present map prepared by the clerk for the BKV competition, as some criticism had been made by the judges and the clerk felt that she was not the most artistic person to undertake this project.

- Agreed** that the map produced was absolutely fine and the clerk should continue with this task
- vi. **Manor Park signs** - following the query raised by Mrs Crittenden at the last meeting, it had been established by her that the new signs had been installed by LDC
 - vii. **Waiting on Laybys** – the clerk reported that LDC were going to make some early evening calls to lorries parked on the laybys to see if this was a deterrent to those staying over night

3735. Finance

- i. **Finance Report to 30th November, 2009**
Agreed to note the content of the finance report and the clerk's verbal report that there is likely to be a surplus on the year which will increase reserves

- ii. **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>
44/300157	Mrs S Buxton	337.06	Salary	
44/300157	Mrs S Buxton	27.71	Taxable expenses	
44/300158	SCC	73.18	Pension contributions	
44/300159	S Buxton	98.00	Telephone costs – none claimed in 08/09, but £113 claimed in 07/08. Assumed £24.50/quarter	
44/300159	S Buxton	40.00	Telephone costs Apr 09/Sep 09 – less usage now so 2 quarters x £20.00	
44/300159	S Buxton	2.40	Travel expenses	
44/300160	S Buxton	50.00	Petty Cash	
45/300161	SLCC	145.00	Membership for clerk of SLCC(Society of Local Council Clerks) & ILCM (Institute of Local Council Managers)	
	TOTAL	773.35		

- iii. **Receipts**
Noted that a grant of £457 had been received from SCC towards the footpaths leaflet
- iv. **Budget 2010/11**
The clerk reminded members that if they had any items they wished to see included in the budget, they should let the clerk know as soon as possible, so that they can be costed out for the January meeting

3736. Correspondence

- i. **John Taylor Community Learning Partnership Correspondence** – this information is emailed to the clerk
Agreed that the council would like to continue to receive this information
- ii. **Grant and other opportunities for community and voluntary groups in the Lichfield Area**
Agreed the clerk would include an article in the magazine so that any village organisation that may be interested in future grant and other

opportunities for voluntary groups can request to be added to a mailing list for forwarding the details by email

- iii. **Review of Correspondence list** – no other items to discuss

3737. Highways and Signs

- i. **Community Gangs** - there were no items to be reported for attention by the community gangs
- ii. **30 mph stickers/A boards** - the clerk reported that the A Boards through Darwin Park in Lichfield had not been put up by the council at all, as the road is currently not adopted. It is likely the developer had installed these
- iii. **Crawley lane blocked gulleys** – the clerk will discuss these with Richard Rayson at SCC
- iv. **Flashing speed signs** - the clerk reported that the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in Kings Bromley are fixed and only flash if a vehicle exceeds the speed limit by 8 mph. They pick up the vehicle about 100 m before the sign and use microwave technology. In the long term they show improvements of between 4 and 7 miles per hour. The Speed Indication Devices (SID) as seen in Armitage recently, only have an impact for around one month, so are only ever left in situ for 4 to 8 weeks maximum, but can be rotated over a period of time. SCC would not consider SIDs in Kings Bromley as they are less effective than VAS.
Agreed to note the comments made by SCC but the council felt that the Vehicle Activated Signs did not always appear to be consistent in their operation.
- v. **Overgrown trees obscuring signs and footpaths** - the clerk will discuss this with Richard Rayson and report to the next meeting

3738. Play Equipment

- i. **Designs for parish council play equipment**
Agreed that this could not be discussed until the exact outcome of the Pre School grant application and proposals for the outdoor play area are known
- ii. **Pre School Outdoor Play Area** – the clerk reported that the Pre School are not yet in a position to move forward on this as both the grant application and the designs for the site are at the very early stages.
Agreed to request the Pre-School to provide an update for the January meeting of the parish council

3739. Telephone Disruption due to cable thefts

The clerk had written to the Chairman of BT after failing to get any meaningful response through the automated telephone systems. A reply had been received stating that BT Openreach would be in contact with the council but to date this has not happened.

3740. Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree had been installed last week end. The comments of one or two residents about the tree were noted

Agreed that the clerk should thank, Mrs Baskerville, Mr Sutton and Cllrs Pritchard, Holland and Seddon and Mr Seddon's son, Andrew, for their assistance with the tree

3741. Clerk's Training

The paper prepared by the clerk regarding the Practitioners' Conference to be held in February 2010 in Stoke on Trent was considered

Agreed that the council would support the clerk's attendance at this two date conference and that the clerk should apply for a bursary towards the cost

Agreed that the next two agenda items "Manor Park Bunds" and "Water Issues" be discussed together

3742. Manor Park Bunds and Water Issues

Concern has been expressed regarding the condition of the bunds and the management of water in and around Kings Bromley.

The clerk reported that in August 2009, the Environment Agency had written confirming that the bunds are inspected every two years with the next inspection being due in August 2010. Following receipt of this letter she had written and requested an earlier inspection in view of the rabbit activity which can be seen on site and to date no reply has been received

Agreed the clerk would contact the Environment Agency to seek a response on the concerns raised by the council at the state of the bunds with particular reference to the rabbit activity

Cllr Pritchard reported that he will be contacting both the Environment Agency and Lichfield District Council about the management of water in and around Kings Bromley. In parts the River Blythe is only 25% of the width it should be and in places the River Trent has trees lying in the river. This means that at times of heavy rainfall, the rivers are simply not able to deal with the increased water levels and flooding occurs. Cllr Pritchard wishes to raise awareness of the situation and in particular the inability of the rivers to take away the water when necessary. He is also asking Lichfield District Council to look at the road side ditches.

It was also reported that the brook down Crawley Lane that Gordon Baskerville used to maintain is considerably overgrown and it is likely that other brooks within the parish are in a similar condition.

Agreed the clerk would investigate landowners with water courses running through their land with a view to reminding them of their duties with regards to water courses

3743. Village Contingency Plan

The council is currently looking at issues related to flooding and water in the village

3744. Social Services – Changing Lives

It was reported that there has been no improvement in the transport arrangements and no outings, but an excellent programme of in house activities has been arranged.

3745. Lichfield District Council

i. **Christmas and New Year Refuse Collection details** had been received

3746. Staffordshire County Council

- i. **Neighbourhood Highway Teams**
Agreed that the clerk's report on this matter should be carried forward to the next meeting
- ii. **Chamberlain Close Verge Manhole Covers** – these have still not been attended to and the barriers which had been put up to protect people from the risks of the unsatisfactory manhole covers have been removed too.
Agreed the clerk would take the matter up with SCC again to see if the utility providers can be encouraged to attend to these as a matter of urgency
- iii. **E Bulletin** – details had been circulated to all members providing them the opportunity of signing up for the e-bulletin

3747. SPCA

- i. **Lichfield Area Meeting** – this will take place on the same evening as the Parish Forum – 19th January 2010
- ii. **Training** – details of the training being offered early in 2010 have been received
- iii. **Newsletter** – this was circulated to all members

3748. Review of Items for Future Meetings

- i. **Health and Safety Risk Assessments**
- ii. **Health and Safety First Aid Kit**
- iii. **Review/Introduction of Council Policies**
- iv. **Village Hall – February**
- v. **Website - January**

3749. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Agreed that the next meeting of the parish council will be held on Wednesday, 13th January, 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 8.52 pm and wished everyone a very merry Christmas.