

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 commencing at 7.15pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. G. Seddon (Chairman); Cllr. Mrs. M. K. Gair (Vice Chairman); Cllr. S. R. Browne; Cllr. I. Pritchard; Cllr. Mrs. P. Rothery; Cllr. S. Holland.  
County Cllr. Mrs. J. Eagland.

**In attendance:** Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)  
Members of the public: Andrew Cooper, Claire Cooper, Ray Griffiths.

**Public Session:** This took place between 7.20pm and 7.37pm. The main discussion revolved around HS2 and the effect on property values. It was pointed out that the revised line of phase 2 was not known until January and that the outcome of the judicial review was still not known. Comment was made that any property searches made should reveal the route anyway and the fact that signs had been placed on the roadside would not change this. County Cllr. Eagland said that around 80 had attended a recent meeting in the village hall and that it was apparent that many were not happy with the support coming from the Parish Council. The chairman said that was why the meeting this evening had been called, to enable council to answer questions put to it by the Action Group and to determine its future approach and strategy.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Cllr. W. Taylor. (Absent through illness).

**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. All other Councillors expressed an interest as they are all affected in some way by the proposal. Cllr Eagland said she was involved as a Councillor with Staffs CC.

**3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.**

None.

**4. Council level of support for the HS2 Action Group.**

Initially much general discussion took place around the four points listed below. In summary these were: Cllr. Eagland said that the signs placed by the roadside were funded by a grant from SCC. There is to be a Staffordshire Summit on 19<sup>th</sup> March which will take the form of a workshop with HS2 Ltd. Affected Parish Councils will be invited. Comment was made that there is a general assumption that the Parish Council is against HS2. Since the publication of the phase 2 route a new set of people have become interested. The line has been changed and this only serves to fragment opposition as one set of people then become against while another set are pleased the line has moved away from them. Opposition groups have differing opinions at different times, some looking at mitigation issues while others are looking at compensation. The campaign should simply be Stop HS2 as having several groups with differing agenda will not work. It is a single 'Stop campaign group' that the Parish Council should support. Whittington PC has the same set up as KB with one or two Councillors attending the Stop meetings and feeding back to full council. Comment was made that some councillors had come under criticism for not being at the last full council meeting and that this was not justified. Councillors have their day jobs to do and cannot help being unwell. The start time for the meeting was set to allow those that work to get along in time. Those that attended the Action Group meeting a few days ago also came under attack and this was not justified and very unwelcome. Councillors give their time freely.

Consideration was then given to the four points below.

- i) To establish the future relationship with the Kings Bromley HS2 Action Group.

Comment was made that the Parish Council has two representatives on the HS2 Action Group. Cllr. Browne said he thought the Group wanted something to go out in the name of the Council but before that can happen the Group needs to tell the Council what they want to say. Cllr. Eagland asked if one or two councillors could meet with the Group leaders on an informal basis. Cllr. Rothery said that the Group had not written to the Council other than the recent list of questions. Cllr. Pritchard thought there had obviously been a breakdown in communication between the Council and Group and added that the Group did not appear to have any structure. It was felt that the existing line of communication, via the two Councillors, was the right course of action and that the Group must feed their requests through them. The Council will consider such requests on their merits.

- ii) To formulate an official Council Policy in respect of anti HS2 Action. Council represents the village. What is the general view of villagers?

The Council backs the idea but feels that the Group should use the business and environmental case against and not the fact that there is no funding to justify it. Council decided two years ago to back the Group but can only give a general view of parishioner feelings as no survey has been undertaken.

- iii) Should council make/establish contacts with other affected groups/parishes and should it make official contact with our M.P to confirm what action he is taking on the councils behalf?

It was felt that this is what the Action Group should be doing. Michael Fabricant is coming to a meeting in the village on 19<sup>th</sup> April and says he will become more aggressive in anti HS2 speeches.

- iv) Any other general comments/suggestions?

Cllr. Rothery asked about the list of questions submitted by the Group. Council ran through each one in turn and asked the Clerk to make a reply.

**Action: Clerk**

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

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013.