

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

**Present:** Mr. G. Seddon (Chairman); I. M. P. Pritchard; S. Browne; W. Taylor; A. Howard; S. Holland.

**In attendance:** Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk)  
Members of the public present: Barry Stoney, Guy Allsop.

**Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 7.59pm.**

W. Taylor said that the road side channels and some road gullies had weeds growing in them. This was mainly in Alrewas Road and Grange Lane. Clerk said he would report this to Highways.

**1. Apologies and approval of absence.**

Cllrs. Mrs. M. Gair. (Holiday)

**2. To receive declarations of Interest.**

Cllr. Browne on item 9. The chairman asked that interests be declared if something occurs subsequently.

**3. To consider requests for dispensations.**

The clerk was asked to reiterate what this actually meant for the benefit of Cllr. Taylor. Cllr. Taylor then sought a dispensation as he owns land on the A515 near the railway and is in negotiation with HS2 over its possible sale. This was noted by Council.

**4. To resolve that the minutes of the Kings Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014 are a correct record.**

One minor amendment was highlighted and corrected before being initialled by the Chairman. Cllr Holland had tendered his apologies and this was missed off the minutes. With this change made, it was proposed by Cllr. Howard and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the minutes be signed as a true record. All were in favour.

Cllr. Pritchard said that he had been to see Major Conningham about the traffic issues referred to at the last meeting and that he was pleased to know that action is being taken.

**5. Clerks Report.**

**a) To consider correspondence received.**

- i) Four issues of SPCA News. These were placed in the circulation file.
- ii) Letter from KB PCC thanking the council for its donation.
- iii) Letter from SCC regarding Infrastructure + presentation. The clerk had reserved one place but no one was able to attend. Clerk to cancel. **Action: Clerk.**
- iv) Letter from Co Op Bank asking that a formal resolution be passed before a new signatory is added to the account. This to be done under 5d below.
- v) Email from LDC re grass cutting areas. The clerk had noticed that both LDC and the parish council cut the same areas in 4 instances. LDC cut every month. After discussion it was felt that it better to have too many cuts than not enough and to leave the situation as it is.
- vi) Letter from Staffs Playing Fields Assoc inviting council to their AGM. Placed in circulation file.
- vii) Letter from the CC of Staffs enclosing a cheque for £200 as prize in this years best kept village competition. See under item 10 below.
- viii) Letter from SCC Re Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Clerk was requested to circulate the internet link. **Action: Clerk.**
- ix) Letter from CC of Staffs re their AGM. Placed in circulation file.
- x) Email from the Police and Crime Commissioner Mr. Ellis, stating that he will be attending the parish meeting in November.

**b) Finance.**

- i) Financial Statement. The clerk said the current account stands at £1,306.30 and the reserve account at £19,474.60 as of 26/8/14. Un-cleared cheques totalled £705.24 and monies will be transferred soon to cover this and this evenings invoices.
- ii) Payments Received. Bank interest of 31p and £200 from the CC of S – BKV prize (to be paid in)
- iii) To authorise payments. a) Clerks Salary £288.30 b) Expenses £72.86 including postage stamps of £6.36 c) HMRC £72.20 d) R B Hayward – grass cutting £165.12 e) Hall Hire for parish meetings Apr 14 to Mar15 plus 2 extra meetings £165.12 f) Fairview Arborists £600.00

It was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the above invoices be paid. All were in favour.

**c) To consider a review of the council's standing orders.**

The clerk said the last review was in 2012 and that a new model set was distributed in 2013. Changes are constantly being made, such as allowing recordings of meetings, paying invoices electronically and distributing agenda and minutes via email. With so many possible changes the clerk said he would monitor the situation and present the model standing orders at a future meeting. The chairman asked for an electronic copy of the existing orders to be distributed.

**Action: Clerk**

**d) To resolve that Cllr. Howard be designated as an additional signatory to the council's accounts.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Holland and seconded by Cllr. Taylor that the above resolution be passed. All were in favour. Clerk to return paperwork to the bank. **Action: Clerk**

**6. To receive oral / written reports from County and District Councillors.**

Cllr. Pritchard informed the meeting of a new initiative, the Local Government Association Peer Challenge where senior officers from other authorities visit and comment upon the way LDC operates. There is no cost to the authority for this. The chairman thanked Cllr. Pritchard for his report.

**7. To consider applications / seek volunteers for the role of Flood Officer.**

Cllr. Howard said he had spoken to Graham Rothery who indicated that he was able to retain the equipment in his garage. However he did not say whether he was prepared to take over the role of flood officer. After discussion the clerk was asked to write to Mr. Rothery to ask if he would be interested in taking on the role.

**Action: Clerk**

**8. To consider on-going highway and footpath matters.**

Cllr. Browne said that a large bough had broken off and was hanging loose over the lay-by opposite the church. He had spoken to highways twice who had taken 10 days to attend and then only cut the bough and left it on the verge. The clerk said that he has arranged, as requested, that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr. Ellis would attend the parish meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr. Browne asked if the previous speedwatch coordinators ought to be invited but it was felt that this was not appropriate at this stage.

**9. To receive an update on HS2.**

Cllr. Browne has been summoned to attend at the Houses of Parliament at 9.30am on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Mr Saddler will also be there. On 16<sup>th</sup> September the HS2 (Phase 1) Parliamentary Select Committee will be looking at the route at various points. Five minutes will be allocated at each stopping off point for objectors to express their concerns. A large compound will be located at Wood End Lane and this will cause traffic problems. Cllr. Browne asked if there was a specific approach that they wanted him to take. It was felt that he should concentrate on items that affect Kings Bromley and were mentioned in our petition. He said he had counted 47 lorries per hour in the village when the A38 was shut recently. Cllr. Pritchard said that HS2 wanted to negotiate with LDC over some issues but that the council were unwilling to cooperate. LDC has employed a barrister to represent at the House.

At this point the two members of the public left the meeting.

- 10. To consider this and future Best Kept Village competitions.**  
 Cllr. Howard had asked for this agenda item but as there had been no feedback from the CC of Staffs the item should be retained for the October meeting. He added that the judges liked the work the churchyard gang had done and the numbers of posters in houses and the village hall. They also like to see signs on the approach to the village and thought this is something the council may wish to consider spending its winnings on.
- 11. To consider issues regarding trees in the conservation area.**  
 The clerk said that he had been asked about the pile of chippings left over when the tree in Leofric Close was felled. Consensus was that the pile will settle naturally so should be left. Clerk to inform residents. **Action: Clerk**  
 Cllr Howard thought that a good English tree ought to be planted to replace that lost. After discussion it was decided that he asks several nurseries about a price for a Fastigate Oak. Cllr. Browne has contacted the tree officer at LDC and will arrange to walk the area. Add to next agenda. **Action: Clerk**
- 12. To consider possible improvements to the web site.**  
 This was added at the request of Cllr. Howard who had seen Haughton's site and thought ours could be improved to be similar. He added that it was difficult for local organisations to input to keep it feeling new and fresh. The clerk added that our current provider had also intimated that the site was now somewhat dated. After discussion Cllr. Howard was asked to approach a local web designer to see what options are available and to distribute his findings to the rest of the councillors. **Action: Cllr. Howard.**
- 13. To consider extra grass cutting requirements.**  
 It was proposed by Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Holland that the contractor be asked to undertake two more cuts this year. Clerk to inform Mr Hayward. **Action: Clerk**
- 14. To consider Councillor Reports - for information only.**  
 Cllr. Holland said the footpath at Crawley Lodge was overgrown again and that people were walking along the field edge instead. The farmer must be aware of this but it was felt the best option as the path line is dangerous with many rabbit holes.  
 Cllr. Browne said he had not heard any more about the possible new Arriva timetable.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.26pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014.