

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 13th April 2016 commencing at 7.45pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall.

Note – corrections to these minutes will be recorded in the minutes for the following month.

Present: Cllrs. A. Howard (Chairman); S. Browne; I. Pritchard; Mrs. J. Higgins; N. Lee;
S. Holland.
County Cllr. M. Tittley; District Cllr. Tom Marshall.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk). 4 Members of the public were also present.

Public Session: This took place between 7.45 and 7.55pm.

Heather Bowman spoke to inform the meeting that Richard Crosse School had become an Academy School. It is set up as a Company with a new management structure. There are three layers in the structure, members, directors and advisors. This in effect means that the school is administered independently of the County Council and will be responsible for its own finances. The chairman thanked Ms. Bowman for attending. No other members of the public wished to speak at this point.

1. Apologies and approval of absence.

Cllr. Mrs. M. Gair; (On holiday) District Cllr. Richard Cox.

2. a) in accordance with Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011, members to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in items on this agenda.

Cllrs. Browne and Higgins on item 7 – HS2. The chairman asked that interests be declared if something else occurs subsequently.

b) Clerk to report any written requests for dispensations in respect of items on this agenda.

None received.

3. To resolve that the minutes of the Kings Bromley Parish Council General Meeting held on 9th March 2016 are a correct record.

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

4. Clerks Report.

a) To consider correspondence received.

- i) SPCA news – 5 issues. Placed in circulation file.

b) Finance.

- i) Financial Statement. As of 24/3/16 - the current account stands at £1,941.60 and the reserve account at £14,289.17.
- ii) Payments Received. None.
- iii) To authorise payments. a) Clerks Salary, Expenses and income tax – total £450.98 b) R B Hayward – gross cut £113.00 c) Staffs Parish Councils Assoc subscription for the year - £330.00 d) Staffs Parish Councils Assoc booklets- £21.00. Cllr. Browne proposed and Cllr. Higgins seconded that the above invoices be paid. All in favour.
- iv) End of year unaudited accounts. The clerk distributed a summary sheet of the accounts and went through the figures. No questions were asked. The excess of income over expenditure for the last year was £725.00. This compared to £3363.51 in 2014/15. The total worth of the council is now £16,230.77.
- v) To sign the annual governance statement. The clerk explained that under the new transparency regulations, this statement has to be signed before the Accounting Statement in May. The chairman read through the statement and signed.
- vi) To consider providing refreshments at the Open Parish Meeting. It was proposed by Cllr. Higgins and seconded by Cllr. Lee that £50 be allocated to buy wine and cheese. Cllr. Howard to arrange.

5. **To receive oral / written reports from County and District Councillors.**
District Cllr. Marshall reported that the paving in the city centre had been completed. The Strategic Plan was published. Plans for the Friarsgate development are expected to be received soon. Cllr. Browne asked about the lack of disabled parking spaces at the car park to the rear of the Market Place. Cllr. Marshall assured him that extra provision would be made around the city. There will be both a bus station and coach park at the new development.
- County Cllr. Tittley said that the report of the HCVs and possible weight restriction on local A roads would not now be discussed again by the county council until 16th May.
The chairman thanked both Councillors' for their reports.
6. **To consider on-going highway and footpath issues.**
- a) **Highway Issues.** i) Street lighting on Lichfield Road. A request from a resident had been made to have lighting installed along Lichfield Road from the village centre to the 30mph limit. After discussion it was decided to write to Cllr. Tittley who would try to make a case, although he felt it would be unlikely to succeed in the current financial climate. Clerk to write to him and to the local resident. **Action: Clerk**
 - b) **Footpath issues.** Cllr. Holland is to stand down from the parish council and Cllr. Lee volunteered to take over his footpath inspection duties.
7. **To receive an update on HS2.**
Cllr. Browne reported that the phase 1 bill had gone through the 3rd reading and was now due to go before the House of Lords. If passed it will be included in the Queens speech next year. Phase 2 provisional plans are being prepared. The National Audit Office is looking at the costs. The joint action group are meeting with HS2 next month with a list of their major concerns. Cllr. Tittley asked to attend. SCC and LDC are to petition Government about improving Hilliards Cross junction to improve access to and from the A38.
8. **To receive an update with regards to quarrying in the area.**
Cllrs. Howard and Browne had attended the inspectors enquiry and felt that SCC were somewhat powerless to stop the quarry companies who are intent on developing more economical sites to the west of the A38. Cllr. Tittley reaffirmed that SCC has to submit an acceptable plan. The best the action groups can do is mitigate and wait for full planning applications to be issued. Councillors made a point to the Inspector that the local area was already suffering from HS2, enlarged commercial development at Fradley and the extra burden of lorries on the local roads. The proposed Bankcroft Farm quarry site has been removed from the plan so there has been some success. The consultation may not have been undertaken correctly but this will only delay the plan.
With regards to Manor Park, this site has to be restored before new sites can be opened up. The Councillors have met with Hansons and will ensure that the aftercare is what the parish wants.
9. **To consider putting forward a representative to the Richard Crosse School Community Advisory Group.**
It was agreed that the council should put forward a councillor to represent it on the new advisory body. Cllr. Browne proposed that Cllr. Higgins, who was in agreement, be that person. This was seconded by Cllr. Lee. All were in favour.
10. **To receive an update regarding volunteers to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.**
The clerk said he had received no interest from parishioners in helping with this, despite adverts being placed. After discussion it was decided not to pursue this and to place notices to that effect in the parish magazine and web site. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk.**
11. **To receive an update with regards to adopting the BT phone box.**
The chairman said that BT are looking in to whether the box lies on private land and if there is a suitable electricity supply. The total cost is likely to be around £1500 to £2000. It was suggested that, as Cameron homes are not to pay Section 106 monies and fall outside of the Community Infrastructure Levy, they ought to be approached to see if they would like to fund this. Clerk to write to them. **Action: Clerk.**

12. To consider appointing a roofing contractor to attend to the village hall.

Cllr. Browne has obtained five quotes which he handed unopened to the clerk. These ranged from £9,300 inc vat to £20,044.57 plus vat. Debate followed as to how monies could be raised to fund this work as it is the responsibility of the parish council to maintain the outer structure of the building. It was felt that to spend on this would deplete the council reserves too much. It was decided to seek advice on funding / grant opportunities. Clerk to ask for guidance from SPCA and pass to the working group to pursue. **Action: Clerk.**

13. To consider Councillor report – for information only.

Cllr. Browne remains concerned that the bus service is not being used and asked that everyone tries to use the buses at least twice per week. He will get another notice placed in the parish magazine.

Cllr Howard said that he recently paid for and attended a civic function and was shocked at the number of civic cars that were taking up all the car parking spaces.

The clerk then issued a report on holiday pay for members to read prior to discussion at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.57pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 11th May 2016.