

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held on

Wednesday 11th April 2018 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); C. Cole; Mrs. J. Higgins; S. Browne; N. Lee; I. Pritchard. County and Dist. Cllr. M. Tittley; Dist. Cllr. T. Marshall.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk). 7 members of the public were present along with 2 members of Staffordshire Police.

Public Session: PCSO Rhys Rockley introduced himself as the new officer covering the parish. A parishioner made comment about several rumours that were circulating concerning his motives for being involved over discussion around village security. He assured the meeting that he was only concerned as a parishioner and not for any commercial gain. He offered his help and advice in any such security measures that the council may feel appropriate in future including grant application of which he said he had an extensive knowledge. The chairman thanked him for this.

1. Apologies and approval of absence.

District Cllr. R. 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. S. Browne on item 6 – HS2.

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 14th March 2018 are a correct record.

These had been distributed previously. One error in the minutes was recorded. Item 8 last line should have read Transport Forum Working Group. With this amendment made and initialled by the chairman, it was proposed by Cllr. Gair and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the minutes are signed as a true record. All were in favour. Cllr. Higgins said that the whole conversation regarding security measures held during the public session of the last meeting was not recorded. The clerk said that the item was added to tonight's agenda for full discussion and that comments made by parishioners at the forum are carried forward to the next agenda if thought necessary.

4. Clerks Report.

a) To consider correspondence received.

i) SPCA news – several issues. Placed in circulation file.

ii) Letter from SCC re Results of Rights of Way Consultation. Discussion took place around the fact that SCC was relinquishing much of the responsibility for footpath maintenance. Cllr. Lee said that paths had been prioritised and that only low priority paths passed through the parish. He added that farmers are good in attending to problems. Cllr. Pritchard said that the parish does have some maintenance equipment. The clerk said that SCC does offer an annual grant for items such as stiles but the work has to be done by volunteers.

iii) Letter from Land Registry re Fields in Trust. The clerk said that further documents had been requested and that he had posted them off.

iv) Emails SLCC and SPCA re GDPR. The clerk said that it was still unclear as to whether the clerk can also be the data protection officer. He recommended waiting until the May meeting before making a final decision as the new legislation was not coming into force until late May. This was agreed.

- v) Email from HS2 – announcement of first round of funding from the Environment Fund. All Councillors had been circulated with this email.
- vi) Letter from Kings Bromley United Charity re Nominated Trustee. Item 11 below.
- vii) Letter from Community Council of Staffs re uniting with Support Staffordshire. The clerk read out the letter.
- viii) Letter from HS2 re Deposit of Additional Provision. (Including memory stick). This was passed to Cllr. Cole.
- ix) Letter from Barclays Bank re closure of Rugeley Branch. The council banks with the Tamworth branch.
- x) Email from Julie Bamber re tree at rear of the village hall and date of the Village Hall Committee AGM. The tree is to be felled. Once done the parish council will seek to have it replaced. The AGM will be on 10th May Cllrs. Gair and Browne will attend.
- xi) Email from the police crime prevention officer saying he is unable to attend tonight or at the open meeting on the 25th.

b) Finance.

- i) Financial Statement. As of 26/3/18 - the current account stands at £4,633.82 and the reserve account at £9,233.27.
- ii) Payments Received. None.
- iii) To authorise payments. a) Clerks Salary, expenses and income tax inc. postage stamps (£13.44) – total £551.17 b) Repair to church clock – new battery - £282.00 inc. vat. c) R B Hayward – grass cutting rear of village hall - £123.00
It was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr. Gair that the above invoices are paid. All were in favour.
- iv) End of year unaudited accounts. These had been circulated previously. The clerk went over the figures. No questions arose. The accounts have now gone off to the internal auditors, Tomkinson and Teal in Lichfield and will be collected around 23rd April.
- v) To consider entering into a service level agreement with SCC regarding Data Protection services. (Information circulated in March). This was covered under correspondence above.

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

Cllr. Marshall has been to see the priests at The Temple on Alrewas Road regarding complaints by one or two local residents about noise levels. This has not been reported to LDC. There is also an issue with the rear access road being blocked. He undertook to investigate this. There may also be a breach of planning and a lawful development certificate may have to be sought. Comment was made about the large garish signs located on the verges. He said that these too may require planning approval. He will go to see them again.

Cllr. Tittley said that SCC were longer subsidising the buses and that residents must begin to use the local service or it may be lost. Cllr. Browne said that the service support local schools so hopefully will be preserved. Ring and ride in association with adjoining parishes is one option to look at. The consultation on library services has finished.

The chairman thanked the two councillors for their reports.

- 6. To receive an update on HS2.** Cllr. Cole said that the petition had been submitted and that a reply was received yesterday. The main concern remains Common Lane access and further discussion with SCC as highway authority, will be necessary. He is now waiting to see if he gets called before the select committee at the House of Parliament. If so, he asked if Mr. Sadler could accompany him and if the council will meet his costs. This was seconded by Cllr. Gair. All were in favour. He added that 'additional provisions' may be contentious but that there is not enough detail yet. There is still time left to petition again these provisions but it will mean calling a meeting in the next few days. Cllr. Browne said that a date of 17th July had been set for the

next Community Forum. Cllr. Howard expressed dismay in the fact that none of the main HS2 contacts had attended any of the parish meetings lately despite them promising to do so.

7. To consider new and on-going highway and footpath matters.

a) Highways updates. (i) Speed indicator device – update if any. Cllr. Howard said he had met with a local parishioner who wished to purchase a device and made it clear that the parish council would have nothing to do with it if erected. The resident said he now has a letter from SCC stating that a new generation of devices will be available in future. It was felt, after discussion that it may be better to await the outcome from any security debate around the village to see if an ANPR camera would be better anyway. **(ii) Transport and Community Forum – weight restriction update if any.** Cllrs. Browne and Howard had attended the latest Transport Forum and were told that £100,000 had been set aside to implement some sort of weight restriction on the local 'A' roads. Amey have several proposals with a draft to go to County soon. Hopefully this will be made known at the next working group meeting. Cllr. Tittley said that the work will happen this year and that he is pushing for a full weight restriction not just turn restrictions. The next forum will also look at issues at Hilliards Cross junction and Toyota island junction. **(iii) Other highway issues – speed limit stickers for bins.** It was thought this to be a good idea. Two stickers will be provided free to all households fronting the two 'A' roads. Cllr. Howard will undertake a property count. **Action: Cllr. Howard.**

b) Footpaths / footway issues if any. Cllr Lee had received an email from a parishioner regarding dog mess on his lawn. He has been to see the location and determined that the problem probably lies with local foxes as the property is tucked away and no one with a dog is likely to pass the lawned area. Clerk to email resident. **Action: Clerk.**

8. To consider the purchase of a dedicated laptop and external hard drive storage device.

The clerk said that the complexities of buying a new laptop and transferring data including years of emails would be too much and suggested that he continues using his own machine until such time a new one must be purchased. He asked the council to ring fence £500 to cover this possibility. He said that a new external mass storage device is required as the current one has problems. To save copying to CD he asked that two pen drives also be obtained. It was proposed by Cllr. Lee and seconded by Cllr. Cole that these purchases are made. All in favour. **Action: Clerk – to purchase external drive and two pen drives.**

9. To consider options to improve security around the village including 'smart water', CCTV and ANPR. (This item was taken before item 4 above to enable the police officers to contribute before leaving the meeting.)

A background was given by the chairman who stated that there had been a spate of crime in the parish with 3 break-ins at the Co Op store, 2 at the Village Hall and 1 at the public house. The 2 local police officers were invited to report. Criminals had been apprehended for some of the crimes. The police are working with those affected to improve security. Reassurance has been given to those affected, particularly during the armed incident. Not too much detail on security measures was given for obvious reasons. Those affected said they were happy with the police responses. The Crime Prevention Unit has been involved along with the forensic team. Police cadets will be patrolling the area and new PCSO's are about to be appointed. Suggestions around the installation of cameras were discussed and will be included on the next agenda. It was felt that the posting of the crimes on local social media so soon after the incidents was not helpful and the chairman said he will contact those concerned to suggest they refrain from such activity for a few days to enable the police to do their duty. In summary the chairman said that 1. There will be cadets and specials in the area 2. He will speak to the editor of the local social media site 3. The Co Op will be taking additional security measures and 4. that alternatives technological solutions will also be investigated. He then thanked the police officers and the public for attending. They all left the meeting.

10. To consider the councils Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy.

After discussion it was felt that the parish council and its Councillors are very unlikely to come into contact with vulnerable people or children but these may not be the case for those that use

the village hall facilities. The clerk was asked to contact the Village Hall Committee with the relevant information to inform them of their possible responsibilities. **Action: Clerk.**

11. To nominate Mr. Price as a trustee of the Kings Bromley United Charity.

The clerk read out a letter from Mrs. Howard regarding the nomination of a candidate for the board of trustees. It was proposed by Cllr. Howard and seconded by Cllr. Browne that Mr. Kev Price is nominated as the parish council's representative on the charities board of trustees. All were in favour.

12. To consider where to locate a dog waste bin in Manor Road.

Cllr. Gair suggested that the bin is located on Manor Road opposite Manor Walk. Discussion took place over land ownership and the fact that householders would not want the bin outside their homes due to odours. The clerk was asked to determine the status of the road to see if it was private or not and to send a plan to Cllr. Gair so that possible sites could be indicated.

Action: Clerk.

13. To receive updates on (i) Centenary Fields. Clerk said he has sent the legal documents off to

Land Registry but they have requested a copy of the deed of dedication which he has now also sent. **(ii) Village hall refurbishment.** Cllr. Gair said that the fund raising launch went very well with a good turnout. A further £1000 was donated by the Snooker Club, £500 from the Wednesday Club and £50 from the Whist Club. There is some interest in purchasing the bricks. The first grant application has been made to the Co Op. An analysis of the comments made by parishioners so far has been done and copied to Julie Bamber. A parishioner made mention of grants being available from Space Hive and Dewson's. The clerk was asked to write letters of thanks to the WI and choir and the resident that donated the scale model of the church. Cllr. Higgins said that the next working group meetings need to be held soon as some funding opportunities are due to close. Cllr. Howard has sent details of the council's insurance to the Show Society ready for a stall at the show. He added that The Historians want to celebrate the centenary of the village hall and will be holding an event possibly in October.

14. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.

Cllr. Lee said that refurbishment work on the phone box had begun and that he will try to get the outside painted before the Best Kept Village judges arrive after 1st May. Cllr. Higgins said the Goldies Group were to use the hall on 25th April 11 am to midday and that posters are available. It will be free for the first attendance. She also attended the LAG meeting on 25th March. On 28th April she will be attending a GDP course in Stafford. She said she was worried that some of her emails to other Councillors were being 'lost' and asked that once received they are acknowledged. She added that she felt sometimes she was being excluded from email circulation. Cllr. Howard said there will be a village tidy-up on 1st May. Clerk to arrange for overgrowth at the rear of the village hall to be removed. **Action: Clerk.** He said that the school were aware of the children's BKV poster competition. Cllr. Browne offered to call at the school to make sure they knew of the closing date. The clerk asked for approval to have one of the cradle swing seats replaced at a cost of £135.63 plus vat. Cllr. Browne proposed and Cllr. Pritchard seconded this expenditure. All in favour. Clerk to organise. **Action: Clerk.**

There being no further business the main meeting closed at 9.56pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 9th May 2018.