

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held on

Wednesday 15th April 2020 commencing at 7.35pm.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak and Countrywide 'lockdown' this meeting was held remotely using Internet based software.

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

Present: Cllrs. A. Howard (chairman); C. Cole; N. Crawley; S. Browne; J. Burkinshaw; Mrs. J. Higgins.

In attendance: Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk).

Public Session: One member of the public was present in the 'remote' meeting.

Forum. No members of the public wished to speak at this point.

1. Apologies and approval of absence.

Mrs. G. Pitchford (unwell). Dist. Cllr. N. Binney.

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

Cllr. Browne on item 6.

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 11th March 2020 are a correct record.

These had been distributed previously. It was proposed and seconded that the minutes are signed as a true record. All were in favour. The chairman signed the minutes and will return them by post to the Clerk. **Action: Cllr. Howard.** Cllr. Higgins commented that many items on the March agenda were not carried forward to this agenda. The clerk said that he and the chairman had reduced tonight's agenda to the minimum to save time at the remote meeting. The missing items will be reinstated for the May meeting. The clerk added that new legislation (Covid-19) means that there is no need to hold an Annual Meeting in May and that, if willing, the existing chairman of the council and planning committee would remain in post until May 2021. Both parties indicated their willingness to remain in post. All agreed with this action.

4. Clerks Report.

a) To consider correspondence received.

- i) SPCA news – several issues. Placed in circulation file.
- ii) NALC – Legal details concerning holding remote council meetings. Circulated previously.
- iii) Information – Decline of rural buses. Placed in circulation file.
- iv) CPRE – membership card.

b) Finance.

- i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £5,167.21. Reserve a/c £9,269.60.
- ii) Payments Received. Bank interest of £16.90
- iii) To authorise payments. a) Clerks Salary, expenses and income tax – total £592.71

It was proposed and seconded that the above invoice is paid. All were in favour.

- iv) Clerks salary 2020/21. The clerk said that there was still no information available on the national salary increase at this time.
- v) Website accessibility. The clerk said he is undertaking training on the new website administration. The layout of the site will remain unchanged to the viewer but the software behind the site is significantly different. It is thought the switch to the new site will take place in the next few days.
- vi) End of year financial summary. The figures had been circulated previously. No questions were forthcoming although Cllr. Cole had asked previously for a copy of last years 'end of years' figures for comparison reasons and these had been sent to everyone.

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

No Cllrs. were present and no written report received.

6. To consider the latest HS2 issues and receive reports from Councillors.

Cllr Cole said that it was a shock to him and the County Council that on 15th April, the Department for Transport gave approval for HS2 Ltd to issue 'Notice to Proceed' to four Main Works Civils Contractors working on Phase 1 of the Project. This enables them to progress from scheme design and preparatory work to detailed design, site preparation and placing sub-contracts. Phase 1 takes the HS2 route as far as Fradley. Phase 2a, from Fradley to Crewe has still not passed through all the legislative procedure. Surprise was expressed that any developments had not been delayed until after the Covid-1 lockdown had ended. Mr Stoney (member of the public) expressed great concern that investigatory work is progressing in one of his fields despite him having to self-isolate. He had been in contact with HS2 and Michael Fabricant MP, but to date had had no reply.

7. To hear comment about the suggested 'local electricity scheme'. (Circulated previously).

All thought it would be a good idea to express an interest in the scheme. Cllr. Cole to investigate. **Action: Cllr. Cole.**

8. Neighbourhood Plan – grant application update.

The chairman said he had been in contact with Localities.org.uk but had had little help so far. As the questionnaire cannot be distributed with the lockdown in place, there is now no real hurry to progress the plan. It could be that the grant application process is on hold anyway.

9. Update on actions undertaken with regards to the Coronavirus outbreak.

The chairman said that 65 volunteers had come forward to help 35 vulnerable people. Cllr. Higgins has taken on the role and is calling them at least once per week for a chat. She is also working with the WI to address those that are isolated and alone. A 'yarn bombing' project has been launched and this is keeping many occupied. She asked if the volunteer initiative could be attributed to the Parish Council. It was agreed that it could and should. She added that more volunteers are required to make phone call contact with those self-isolating.

10. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.

An email has been received from Hansons regarding the lakes at Manor Park. It is felt by the parish council that they ought to be used for the general use of the local community. Chairman to write to Hansons and also keep SCC and LDC in the picture.

Action: Cllr. Howard. Cllr. Higgins made the meeting aware of a new website set up to help those suffering isolation / loneliness during the lockdown.

20.10 The zoom meeting ended after 40 minutes. Several councillors were able to log back in. Cllr. Crawley left the meeting.

Comment was made that some workers at a local fruit farm had been seen packed on to buses and there was concern that these people would be using local facilities. Clerk to inform LDC Environmental Health team. **Action: Clerk.**

Comment was also made that there are not enough UK based people coming forward to undertake this type of work and that some will still be flown in from the far EU.

Cllr. Burkinshaw said that the small parcel of land in Manor Road had been removed from auction for now.

The clerk was asked to write to the Nursing Home on Manor Park thanking the staff and offering support from the parish council. **Action: Clerk.**

Now that there is less traffic, comment was made that several cars are speeding through the village often with young drivers. The chairman said he will contact the police to make them aware. **Action: Cllr. Howard.**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed (Chairman) Date 13th May 2020.