

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on

Wednesday 11th November 2020 commencing at 7.35pm.

Due to the continuing Coronavirus pandemic 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; J. Burkinshaw.

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

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

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

## 1. Apologies and approval of absence.

Cllrs. Mrs. J. Higgins (holiday); S. Browne (unable to gain access); Mrs. G. Pitchford (unavailable); Dist. Cllr. R.Cox (unable to gain access).

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

None made.

**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 Remote Extraordinary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 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.**

## 4. Clerks Report.

### a) To consider correspondence received.

- i) SPCA news – several issues. Placed in circulation file.
- ii) LDC - precept bid forms. These need to be returned in January.
- iii) LDC – annual CIL return forms. These have been completed and returned.
- iv) Quote – wetpour – replace £7467, repair £2613 plus vat
- v) Quotes – noticeboard - £1646.02 (£1636.44 Oak),
- vi) Quotes – noticeboard - £1915 small, £2310 large.
- vii) Quote – Wetpour – replace £5178, repair £1573

### b) Finance.

- i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £17,617.56. Reserve a/c £9,269.60. Un cleared cheques £2,670.72. The clerk said that several cheques remained outstanding and thought that the slow postal service meant many had not received / paid them into their accounts.
- ii) Payments Received. None.
- iii) To authorise payments. 1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £564.53 .2. Perennial Landscapes – grass cutting - £271.72 inc. vat. .3. Allan Howard – one months' subscription to 'zoom' software - £14.39. 4. X2Connect – phone box parts - £685 plus vat.

Cheques had been issued for signing in advance of the meeting to Cllrs. Howard and Burkinshaw. These were returned by post to the clerk.

It was agreed that the above invoices are paid and this action was acceptable. All were in favour.

iv) External Audit Outcome. The clerk said that the audit was complete and had been signed off by the external auditor and the necessary paperwork added to the website and noticeboards.

**c) Play Equipment Inspection report.**

The report had been circulated previously. It contains recommendations. The clerk said he would itemise these ready for the next meeting where a decision on actions can be taken. Many items are minor in nature and ideally require the services of a local handy person to attend to them. **Action: Clerk.**

**d) Grass cutting and tree survey / maintenance.**

The clerk said that a new tender for the grass cutting would be sent out in the New Year and that he was preparing a tender for the tree survey. He asked if Cllr. Crawley would help in its preparation to which he agreed. **Action: Clerk and Cllr. Crawley.**

**e) Precept bid for 2021/2 including finalising a list of capital projects.**

Councillors considered each identified option. It was decided to remove the replacement of the noticeboard as it was felt that this could be repaired using local volunteers. The wooden bollards by the lay by off the A515 are the responsibility of Highways and these can be taken off the list too. Cllr. Crawley has further quotes for the resurfacing of the village hall car park - £13,382 and £19,500 plus vat. The clerk suggested that he finalise the list and that Cllrs. make a final decision at the December meeting. This will enable him to include the information in the precept bid to be submitted in January 2021. **Action: Clerk and all Cllrs.**

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

No Councillors were present.

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

Cllr Cole reported that HS2 contractors had commenced taking out vegetation and trees in the Shaw Lane/Wood End Lane areas. HS2's Draft Code of Construction Practice states that week-end work should not take place except in exceptional circumstances. However, it has been reported that Lichfield District Council have agreed for an exemption in this case. Cllr Cole expressed his annoyance that if this was a case, why KBPC were not notified so they could keep local residents informed. **Action: Cllr Cole to follow up with District Councillors.**

Parishioner Mr. Stoney said he was concerned that much effort is made about conserving bats and newts but that the removal of so many trees mean that migrating birds that roost locally are returning to find their habitat has gone. There then took place a discussion around the lack of communication between HS2 and its partners and the Council.

Cllr Cole had written to Michael Fabricant MP about a scheme linking the new HS2 line with the West Coast main line south of Lichfield to take away the requirement to tunnel under the A38. Mr Fabricant had responded that there was little support for this suggestion. However, he was in favour of opening up the Lichfield to Burton line for passenger traffic, including a station to serve the National Memorial Arboretum. A request had been made that National Grid should attend the next KBPC Working Group with HS2 to discuss work being carried out on the pylons near Victoria

Meadow/Lant Close, affecting some local properties. This meeting will take place in the New Year.

7. **To receive an update on the proposed Cemex quarry south of the A513.**  
No decision is to be made until February. The council will be informed when the application goes before SCC. More information is still emerging.
8. **To receive reports on current highway issues. (i) Village sign damage**  
The clerk has reported this firstly to SCC Highways who said it was the responsibility of LDC. He then reported it to LDC who said they had no funds to make a repair and suggested that the parish see to it. After discussion it was agreed to ask LDC, as it is their sign, to either repair it or to have it removed. Clerk to contact them. **Action: Clerk.**
9. **To receive updates from Councillors / Clerk on the following issues raised at the last meetings – re-glaze of BT Box (AH), flag pole (JB), Flooding (MT).**  
BT box - Cllr. Howard said the work was completed. Flag pole – Cllr. Burkinshaw said he may be able to obtain a pole for free. The clerk reminded the meeting that planning approval may be required. He was asked to contact LDC again. **Action: Clerk.**
10. **To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan working group.**  
The chairman said that the return box was now located in the Co Op and that he had received 90 so far. This was about 25% of the number issued. The deadline for return is 14<sup>th</sup> November. It was decided, after discussion to use social media and the website to remind residents to make the reply. **Action: Clerk (website) and Cllr. Burkinshaw (social media).**
11. **To consider ways to make the parish more wildlife friendly.**  
The clerk said he continues to chase Bromford for a meeting. Clerk to chase again. **Action: Clerk.**
12. **To consider provision of a Christmas tree and lights.**  
Cllr. Burkinshaw said the lights have been PAT tested and will send the certificate to the clerk. **Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw.** He is still waiting to hear about the supply of a tree but is confident that the same supplier will come forward again. The tree will be erected in early December.
13. **To consider Councillor reports – for information only.**  
Cllr. Howard and Cole to draft a reply to an email received from the sailing club regarding a request for support for a grant bid from HS2. Clerk to make the reply. **Action: Clerk.** The Planning White Paper raises cause for concern and may take planning powers away for local authorities. This could mean the termination of CIL monies. Cllr. Crawley said that work commitments mean he can no longer continue as councils' representative on LAG. Cllr. Pitchford has volunteered to take his place. Clerk to inform the school. **Action: Clerk.** Cllr. Crawley has spoken, as requested, to the school about using their car park but it seems that logistically this may be impossible. They are still considering the request. A question was then raised about having no waiting restrictions in place at the junction of Manor Road and the A515 as many cars are parking on the junction making access difficult and dangerous. The clerk was asked to contact SCC to enquire about the process. **Action: Clerk.** Comment was made by some residents that they felt it inappropriate to have lights on the War Memorial. After a show of hands all Cllrs. were in agreement that they should remain.  
The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.