

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on
Wednesday 9th December 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; S. Browne; Mrs. G. Pitchford. Dist. Cllrs. Cox and Marshall.

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).
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. Pitchford on item 8ii. 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 Remote Extraordinary Meeting held on 11th November 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) Display screen equipment – self assessment forms (completed)
 - iii) Email from Cllr. Wilson at SCC – looking after those around us. (Circulated previously)
 - iv) Play equipment resurfacing quotes.
 - v) Quote – Wetpour – replace £5178, repair £1573.06
 - b) **Finance.**
 - i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £17,194.45. Reserve a/c £9,269.60. Un cleared cheques - none.
 - ii) Payments Received. £2,262 from Refurbishment Fund.
 - iii) To authorise payments.
 1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £680.06 inc back pay to April.
 2. Parish On-line subscription £42 inc. vat. .
 3. Allan Howard – one months' subscription to 'zoom' software - £14.39.
 4. LDC annual playground inspection - £78 inc vat. 4. LDC – share of 2019 election expenses - £73.27 no vat.
 5. Benhill Press – printing - £295.20 inc vat.
 6. Royal Oak – cleaning War Memorial - £80, Christmas tree - £180.
 7. Smiths – repair to church clock - £180 inc vat.

Cheques had been issued for signing in advance of the meeting to Cllrs. Howard and Burkinshaw. These will be returned by post to the clerk. It was agreed that the above invoices are paid and this action was acceptable. All were in favour.

c) Play Equipment Inspection report – work recommendations.

A summary of the main points in the report had been circulated previously. Many items do require attention but are minor in nature. After discussion it was felt these need to be attended to and it was suggested that a local resident is approached to see if he would be prepared to undertake the work on a paid basis. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk.** The chairman said he will attend to the moss and algae growth. **Action: Cllr. Howard.**

d) Grass cutting and tree survey / maintenance tenders.

The clerk reported that the draft tree tender had been checked by Cllr. Crawley. This, along with the grass cutting tender, will now be sent out to interested parties in the New Year. **Action: Clerk.**

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

A summary of suggested projects along with a summary of councils' accounts had been distributed previously. After discussion it was decided that priority was to have the wetpour surfacing around the climbing unit repaired at a quoted cost by Sovereign of £1,573.06. All were in favour. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk.** Other funds should be allocated to the general repair of various other parish council owned items such as benches. An amount of £1,000 was allocated. Replacement to the wooden posts around the War Memorial will be left in abeyance for now. A decision on providing financial help to some of the village organisations that may have suffered financially due to Covid-19 will be considered at a future date. A further quote is awaited for work on the village hall car park.

Councillors then debated what, if any, precept increase should be applied for next year. The clerk ran through the likely impacts depending upon percentage increases. After discussion it was felt that in the current climate it would be better not to apply for an increase in the parish precept for the year 2021/2. All were in favour. Clerk to complete forms and return to LDC. **Action: Clerk.**

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

Dist. Cllr. Cox said that car parking charges in the city would be suspended from 12/12 to 3/1. Consent has been given for 24 hour opening. A question was asked over the issue of the homeless. LDC is trying to ensure they are looked after. A new charity is being launched to help the homeless but not beggars. The church is offering accommodation as they did last year. Dist. Cllr. Marshall apologised for not attending last month – he was unwell. He then reported on the fire at Ridware House and said all residents had now returned. There will be a 'pedometer challenge' next month to encourage walking – details on the website. Concern was expressed over the future of the shops in the city with the loss of some of the large stores. LDC is working with landlords. Central Government is aware of the issues and new planning rules will mean that changes of use will be easier to obtain and this may help. The councillors were thanked for their reports.

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

Cllr. Cole reported that the Hybrid Bill for HS2 Phase 2 was progressing through the House of Lords. Royal Assent is expected end of 2020/early 2021. A long discussion took place with the District Councillors on the issue of HS2 contractors' week-end

working, which was contrary to HS2's draft Code of Construction Practice. Cllr Cox said he would clarify the position as soon as possible. It was also agreed that the Parish Council must be involved in the decision making process so that it can disseminate accurate information to its residents. A meeting with HS2 is to be arranged for late January. This is likely to include National Grid to discuss the work planned on the pylons running at the back of properties in the village. Sarah Mallen from SCC will also be invited to this meeting to discuss traffic issues particularly when work is taking place where HS2 crosses the A38.

7. To receive an update on the proposed Cemex quarry south of the A513.

The original application has been modified slightly. The parish council needs a guarantee that lorries do not come through the village even if the A38 is closed. A discussion took place around how this could be enforced without police help. It was suggested that Sarah Mallen at SCC is asked. A letter to Matt Griffin (SCC Minerals Team) will be drafted to highlight the councils concerns. **Action: Clerk.** LDC Planning Committee will discuss the revised application on 14th December. This can be viewed live if required. Final comments are due by 18th though an extension has been requested.

8. To receive reports on current highway issues. (i) Village sign damage (ii) Parking restrictions.

- (i) 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. Since then SCC have said they will attend to it. Dist. Cllr. Cox gave background as to how the signs were first placed. He said he too would look into it.
- (ii) A meeting was held with SCC Highways. It was suggested that yellow lines are installed each side of the cross roads (Manor Road / A515). This will cost around £4,000. Highways will write to the council with details. The County Cllr. does have a small budget that may be available next year.

The chairman reported on an issue with a public footpath near Victory Farm. He has spoken to the landowner and the details passed to SCC rights of way team. A problem has also been raised about bicycles using the link footway between Manor Road and Kings Walk. This will be monitored.

9. To receive updates from Councillors / Clerk on the following issues raised at the last meeting – Christmas tree and lights (JB), flag pole (JB).

The tree was erected last week. Comment was made that it looked the best it had for many years. Thanks to all those that helped. There are issues with the flag pole at the church in that the lanyard is chaffing the stonework. Cllr. Burkinshaw will look into issues around a pole in the village centre and report back. **Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw.**

10. To consider councils involvement in the LDC 'Good Neighbour' scheme.

Cllr. Higgins is dealing with this and will report at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr. Higgins.**

11. To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan working group.

A summary of responses has been circulated to all. The chairman asked for comments. None forthcoming. Cllr. Browne asked for a hard copy. The chairman said that the outcomes fit well with the LDC Local Plan. The next step is to incorporate the returns into a draft neighbourhood plan to be circulated by the end of the month. Patrick Jervis at LDC will be consulted. No referendum can be held until 21st May due to Covid-19 rules. It was agreed that the results are published on the website. **Action: Clerk**

12. To consider options discussed at a meeting with Bromford to re-wild land at the rear of Chamberlain Close.

The chairman and others met. They are keen to make the area wild-life friendly but first need to determine the legal status of the land parcel. They will write to the council. The council may then have to take over maintenance responsibility.

13. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.

Cllr. Howard said there is a new vicar and he / she will be based in Yoxall. Cllr. Burkinshaw said that through Support Staffordshire the council can 'claim' 20 hours of free time to help in making grant claims. SCC currently has a climate change action fund and HS2 an environment fund. He will look into these and report back. **Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw.**

The meeting closed at 9.28pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date 13th January 2021.