

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on

Thursday 20th May 2021 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; N. Crawley; S. Browne; J. Burkinshaw; J. Bowman.
County and Dist. Cllr. R. Cox; Dist. Cllrs. N. Binney and T. Marshall.

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

Public Session: Four members of the public were present at the meeting.

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

1. **Election of Chairman and Completion of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**
It was proposed and seconded that Cllr. Howard is elected as chairman for a further term. No other nominations were put forward. Cllr. Howard was duly elected. All in favour.
2. **Election of Vice Chairman and Completion of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**
It was proposed and seconded that Cllr. Browne is elected as vice chairman. No other nominations were put forward. Cllr. Browne was duly elected. All in favour.
3. **All Councillors – Completion of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**
All Councillors present completed their declarations in the presence of the clerk.
4. **Apologies and approval of absence.**
Cllr. Mrs. G. Pitchford (work commitments).
5. **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 11– HS2.
b) Clerk to report any written requests for dispensations in respect of items on this agenda. None received.
6. **To resolve that the minutes of the Kings Bromley Parish Council Remote Extraordinary Meeting held on 14th April 2021 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.
7. **Clerks Report.**
 - a) **To consider correspondence received.**
 - i) SPCA news – several issues. Placed in circulation file.
 - ii) Email from SPCA regarding advice on capital projects. Council's projects can be altered provided standing orders are met and a resolution approved.
 - iii) Email from LDC – rates for bin emptying for coming year. LDC is unable to incorporate additional emptying in their schedules. It was felt that the issue of bins being full was now somewhat resolved as a new bin has been installed outside the school. It was suggested that a notice is attached to this bin suggesting that the one a little further along Crawley Lane is used if this one is full. **Action: Clerk.**

- iv) Email from LDC – CIL return. Clerk will make the return. **Action: Clerk.**
- v) Email from VH Committee regarding Covid rules and risk assessment. Clerk has completed this and returned it to Julie Bamber.

b) Finance.

- i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £27,510.82. Reserve a/c £9,303.60.
- ii) Payments Received. Precept - £16,410. VAT refund – HMRC - £1,113.44. Bank Interest - £34.00.

To authorise payments.

1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £594.42
2. ICO subscription - £40.00
3. Eric Roy – website HS2 news page - £50.00
4. Lichfield Tree Works – survey - £400 plus vat
5. Perennial Landscapes – grass cutting - £282.85 inc. vat
6. Zurich – insurance - £548.52
7. A. Howard – Zoom subscription - £14.39 inc. vat

It was agreed that the above invoices are paid. All were in favour.

- iii) To review the internal auditors report. The clerk said that Tomkinson and Teal had reviewed the accounts and had no queries or comments to make. There is no requirement to send the accounts for external audit this year. The forms will be scanned and placed on the council website for public inspection in due course.
- iv) Signing of the Annual Governance Statement and certificate of exemption. The chairman signed the statement and certificate.
- v) Signing of section 2 of the audit return – Accounting statement. The chairman signed the statement.
- vi) Signing of the annual CIL return for LDC. The chairman signed the form. Clerk to return the form to LDC. **Action: Clerk.**

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

The chairman congratulated Cllr. Cox for his being elected as the new County Councillor. County and Dist. Cllr. Cox continued and said that it has been a steep learning curve for him and he has been very busy including attending various training courses. He then went on to explain his role.

Dist. Cllr. Marshall said that an interim CEO had been appointed until a new officer comes into post in late August. The Annual Council meeting was held at Burntwood Leisure Centre. There has been criticism of the local plan. There could be 5,000 houses built east of the A38 near Whitmore Lakes. The Government want to free up the planning process. LDC has the lowest instances of Covid in the county. Staffs have vaccinated 1 million. A Cemex document of 13th March clearly states the plant will supply to HS2 despite HS2 denying this in a FOI request. LDC is receiving many applications for solar parks on agricultural land because HS2 need the power. There was a proposal to build a new power station near Colton. There is no policy to make builders put solar panels on buildings. Dist. Cllr. Binney added that there is no doubt that Cemex will be supplying to HS2.

The chairman thanked the councillors for their reports.

9. To discuss policy on works identified to parish owned trees.

The chairman said that in the past council had made decisions on each tree on its merits. Members of the public, Mr. and Mrs. Dargan then spoke. They had sent several emails to the council regarding a large tree on council land that overhangs their property. It is in their opinion, dangerous as some branches have fallen. The clerk said

that a recent survey of the trees in that location indicated no problem with the tree in question (a large Sycamore). An email from the arborist was then read out. After debate it was proposed by Cllr. Crawley and seconded by Cllr. Browne that in this one instance the tree is felled. Four were in favour with two abstentions. Clerk to contact arborist to request the tree is felled. **Action: Clerk.** Mr. Dargan then said he would fund the purchase of a replacement tree to be planted further from their property boundary. The chairman confirmed that the council requires a policy that is based upon the arborist report. Clerk to draft a suitable document for consideration. **Action: Clerk.**

10. To allocate Councillor's responsibilities for the coming year.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

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

Cllr. Cole said a virtual meeting with HS2 and National Grid has taken place. He awaits copies of the presentation slides. Next meeting is on 2nd June with the Community Engagement Team. He suggested a pre-meeting with working group parish councillors' early next week. Grant applications are now invited. An 'out of hours' protocol has been requested. LDC says it falls to HS2 to inform the parish and its residents about out of hours working. Dist. Cllr Cox would ask LDC to contact the residents who raised the issue. HS2 need to tell the parish that a section 61 will be in force. Cllr. Cole said he will liaise with LDC.

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

The chairman reminded the meeting it is proposed to upgrade Wood End Lane to an A road. This would mean that Alrewas Road is downgraded. Cemex will want their lorries to turn towards the village. Cllr. Browne thought that a letter should be written to SCC pointing out that a full weight restriction is placed on the A513. The chairman said he would draft a letter and asked for the item to be included on the next agenda.

13. To receive reports on current highway and footpath issues.

The footbridge on path 9 has now been replaced and Cllr. Burkinshaw has removed the closure signs. The vehicle count was not undertaken but will be soon. Speedwatch have been out four times. County Cllr. Cox asked if he too could attend. This was agreed.

14. To consider purchasing more waste bins.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

15. To receive updates from Councillors / Clerk on the following issues raised at the last meeting – Local Lottery update, Flag Pole, Grant Applications.

Local lottery – the parish council is not allowed to run this – a local organisation would need to be found that complies with the rules. Flag pole – the pole at the church is now back in commission. This item can be withdrawn as planning issues were difficult to overcome. Grants – HS2 grant checker indicated that providing a car park would not be considered. However a grant of 20% of the cost has been made to another body. The village hall committee should have applied for up to 3 Covid grants. One was received. Cllr. Burkinshaw will enquire of Julie Bamber if these grants have been received.

Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw. The chairman reminded the meeting that the parish council looks after the fabric of the village hall and that would include the car park. The lowest price quoted for the work is c£13k plus vat.

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

A public consultation is the next step. A draft document has been circulated and no comments received. it was suggested that the first public meeting is held in July on a Saturday. The village hall will be booked by the chairman. **Action: Cllr. Howard.** The

working group will meet on 26th May at 5pm at the chairman's home to discuss the format. There will be a need to write to the village organisations.

17. **To receive an update on the 2021 Best Kept Village 'Showcase Competition'.**
Cllr. Howard has compiled a presentation include photos and filled out the application form.
18. **To consider future 'prestigious projects' for / in the parish.**
This item was deferred until the next meeting.
19. **To consider Councillor reports – for information only.**
Cllr. Burkinshaw asked the clerk to find out if other parishes have an environmental policy. Clerk to find out. **Action: Clerk.** The chairman said he may already have this. General comment was made about the disappointing reply from the Show Society regarding the councils request to install a kissing gate on the show field second entrance. Clerk to write back to them. **Action: Clerk.**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date: 10th June 2021.