

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held on

Thursday 8th July 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; J. Burkinshaw; S. Browne
J. Bowman; Mrs. G. Pitchford.
County and Dist. Cllr. R. Cox; Dist. Cllr. T. Marshall.

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

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

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

1. **Apologies and approval of absence.**
None made.
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 item6 – 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 10th June 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 vice chairman signed the minutes.
4. **Clerks Report.**
 - a) **To consider correspondence received.**
 - i) SPCA news – several issues. Placed in circulation file.
 - ii) Letter from MD Consulting offering help with grant applications. Passed to Cllr. Burkinshaw.
 - iii) NALC flier – funding bulletin – Placed in circulation file.
 - iv) Email from Mr. Lambon re sycamore tree outside his house. The clerk read out the email. It was decided to discuss this under item 8.
 - b) **Finance.**
 - i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £21,171.28. Reserve a/c £9,303.60. Un cleared cheques – none.
 - ii) Payments Received. None.
 - iii) To authorise payments.
 1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £567.72
 2. Perennial Landscapes – grass cutting - £282.85 inc. vat
 3. CPRE subscription - £36.00
 4. SPCA – training course fee - £25.00
 5. LDC – supply and install dog waste bin and additional emptying - £315.00 plus vat.
 6. Lichfield Tree Works – numerous works to trees - £1,555.00 plus vat
 7. Ian Colclough – gratuity to Internal Auditor, Tomkinson and Teal - £39.25

8. G. Bancroft – handyman work inc. materials - £80.00
- iv) To resolve an amendment to previous minutes to allow a revision of the decision on capital project spend for the current year. All in favour.
- v) End of quarter 1 financial summary. The clerk went over the accounts. No questions were forthcoming. Cllr. Pitchford has made a quarterly check.

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

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

County and Dist. Cllr. Cox reported. He will wait until item 9 to comment on the Cemex application. Cllr. Browne asked if SCC has a policy on solar farm applications. This is a District function. Cllr. Marshall said that each application is taken on its merits and there are rules that have to be met. It is a transparent process and the parish would be informed through the usual channels. Farmers are being offered around £1,000 per acre to have a solar farm. This is often more than they can make by growing cereals. Cllr. Howard said that there is a section in the Neighbourhood Plan for comments on environmental issues.

Dist. Cllr. Marshall reported. There is a video available regarding the local plan consultation. Feedback is required by 30th August. He then gave the latest Covid and vaccination figures as they affect the District. Cllr. Browne asked when testing will be available. Cllr. Cox will find out and report back. There was an anti HS2 rally in Beacon Park with protesters then walking the route to Wigan. This raised a lot of press attention. Green Party members have offered to come to councils to talk on HS2 issues. The chairman thanked the councillors for their input.

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

Cllr. Cole said that closure notices have been placed on some local footpaths. The works affecting them will commence in July and end in Sept/Oct. Mr. Stoney commented that two large pipelines have to be moved.

7. To finalise Councillor's responsibilities for the coming year.

The clerk went through the various roles. It was agreed by all that these were acceptable. All in favour.

8. To comment upon / amend the council's draft tree policy (circulated previously).

The chairman read out the draft policy. Some minor amendments were requested. Clerk to amend and re circulate. **Action: Clerk.** Discussion then took place around Mr. Lambon's request to have a sycamore tree outside his house felled. This would be in line with others that have been taken down in the same row. It was agreed that this tree should be felled. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk.** A replacement tree will be sourced in the autumn. Mr. Lambon has offered to pay for this. He also asked about a Holly tree and who owned it. The Clerk and chairman will investigate. **Action: Clerk and Cllr. Howard.** Suckers are now sprouting from some of the stumps and some have been left proud of the ground by 4 feet. Clerk to contact arborist to find out why they have been left. Option is to grind them out at a cost or to treat them. Clerk to find out costs of both options. **Action: Clerk.** A suggestion was made that the area is used to create an orchard. Clerk to add to next agenda. **Action: Clerk.**

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

The SCC Planning Meeting is set for 15th July. Cllrs Cole and Howard will attend in Stafford. County Cllr. Cox will speak against the proposal but is unable to vote. LDC has objected however many other large organisations have not. Any decision cannot be appealed but could go to a Judicial Review. A question was asked if the parish council could help fund this. Clerk to determine from SPCA. **Action: Clerk.**

- 10. To receive reports on current highway and footpath issues.**
 Restricted turns and vehicle counts. Cllr. Browne undertook 3 counts on one day and gave his results. Many lorries continue to break the restrictions (approx 31%) which was much worse than expected. Application for weight restriction on the A513 is associated with the Cemex application and the construction of Wood End Lane as a new A class road. Suggestion was made that if Alrewas Road were to be downgraded to a C class road then it would not fall under SCC's gritting policy. Cllr. Browne said he thought that the council should write to SCC requesting that a weight restriction be placed on the A513 before the quarry operations are approved, if they are. Options to create walking / cycling routes were discussed. It was suggested that collaboration with HS2 might be feasible to gain information on the environment etc. Cllr. Cole will speak to them.
Action: Cllr, Cole. Scope and costs will be required. Staffs Wildlife may advise too. Cllr. Browne and Burkinshaw will look in to this. **Action: Cllrs. Browne and Burkinshaw.**
- 11. To receive updates from Councillors / Clerk on the following issues raised at the last meeting.**
 Grants – a grant is agreed in principal from Foresters Live – to be used on car park at village hall. Clerk to send bank details to Cllr. Burkinshaw. **Action: Clerk.** Comment was made again that CCTV and Wi Fi should be in place at the hall. Chairman will speak again to Julie Bamber. **Action: Cllr. Howard.** Car Park at village hall – the village hall committee has agreed to meet half the cost up to a limit of £10,000 but needs parish council approval to spend more than £3,000. This was agreed. All in favour. Post around War Memorial. Cllr. Burkinshaw will undertake the work with some volunteers on 31st July. He will need to purchase more posts. The gate may also require replacing. Clerk confirmed that £500 has been allocated, Cost may exceed this. Medical Transport Scheme. Joy Hutchinson has volunteered to run this. Expenses will be paid quarterly by the parish council.
- 12. To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan working group.**
 Consultations will now commence in September. Richard Crosse School has replied already with some very interesting comments from pupils.
- 13. To consider ways to mitigate risks to parish owned assets.**
 This item was suggested by Dist. Cllrs at the last meeting. After discussion it was felt that this would be dealt with if it should occur, though the planting up of an orchard on the land in Leofric Close may prevent its use by unwanted individuals. Item on next agenda. **Action: Clerk.**
- 14. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.**
 Cllr. Browne said that Mr. Bancroft has completed work on some of the benches and noticeboard. He has put up the CCTV cameras at the hall along with the parking signs. Cllr. Howard asked about the soldier cut out. It was agreed to place this by the War Memorial on Remembrance Day. A discussion took place over lighting of the memorial. Comment was made that the tree that has damaged a street light on Alrewas Road has not been attended too though SCC highways did take off the wrong bough. Clerk to notify them again. **Action: Clerk.**

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date: 12th August 2021.