

# KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held on  
Thursday 12th October 2023 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. C. Cole (Chairman); S. Browne; J. Burkinshaw; P. Till; C. Davies.  
Dist. Cllr. T. Marshall.

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

**Public Session:** Seven members of the public were present.

**Forum.** Mr. William Reid, lead judge in the Best Kept Village competition spoke for 15 minutes and outlined the scheme and gave specific details of what the judges looked at and where he thought Kings Bromley could make improvements. The chairman then thanked him for attending. Clerk to summarise comments and to distribute to all.

**Action: Clerk.**

Cllr. Browne suggested that the Council makes contact with the applicant (Land and Water) to hold dialogue with them over their proposals for the Bromley Heyes Garden Centre site. After brief discussion it was felt that the council should wait to see what their next move will be but that the clerk should seek to find a contact. **Action: Clerk.**

**1. Apologies and approval of absence.**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. A. Farrington; N. Crawley. County and Dist Cllr. R. Cox.

**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 General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 are a correct record.**

The minutes from the meeting above had been distributed previously. It was proposed and seconded that these minutes are signed as a true record. All were in favour. The chairman signed the minutes.

**4. Clerks Report.**

**a) To consider correspondence received.**

1. Email from resident regarding replacing trees removed in Leofric Close open space. After discussion it was decided that two new apple trees are purchased by the council and the resident at No. 17 Leofric Close will be asked to pay for them (maximum of £80). Trees to be planted at least 5m from the rear boundary and to be staked. Clerk to arrange purchase. **Action: Clerk.** There then followed further discussion around the overgrown hedge fronting the open area. This was dealt with under item 7 below. 2. Speed and volume survey on A515. This had been distributed previously. It was decided to wait until County Cllr. Cox was in attendance before discussing further. Comment was made about low street light levels on parts of Lichfield Road and Yoxall Road. Clerk to inform SCC. **Action: Clerk.** 3. CIL notification from LDC. The clerk said

that a CIL payment of £750 would be made soon by LDC. 4. Email from resident regarding purchase of wreath for Remembrance Day. Cllr. Browne has this in hand at a cost of £25.00. Discussion took place around the process on various days as the 11<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday. Cllr. Davies will liaise with Glen Wright the church warden. **Action: Cllr. Davies.** 5. Email from Carnell – works at rear of village hall will be completed hopefully on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Cllr. Till will monitor. **Action: Cllr. Till.** 6. Letter from Co Op Bank listing current signatories (2 are out of date). 7. Email regarding the village carol service on 10<sup>th</sup> December requesting attendance from a parish council representative to make a ‘reading’. Clerk to say someone will attend and that the council will let them know who. **Action: Clerk and all councillors.** 8. Email from PCSO – police report. Nothing to report for the last month. 9. Quote for jet washing the War Memorial area of £220. After discussion it was decided to reject this quote. Cllr. Browne to liaise with the gentleman that undertook the work last year. Cost will be £150 plus vat. Invoice will be raised by Cllr. Burkinshaw. **Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw.**

b) **Finance.**

i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £2,969.49 Reserve a/c £20,544.43.

ii) Payments Received. None.

iii) To authorise payments.

1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £628.90

2. Perennial Landscapes – grass cutting - £247.50 plus vat

3. G. Bancroft - £350 – removed old fencing from around War memorial.

4. LDC Annual Play Equipment Inspection report - £75 plus vat

5. Perennial Landscapes – fill hole at Leofric Close open space £95 plus vat

6. Charles Cole – defibrillator battery replacement - £160 plus vat.

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

(iv) To update council on the work undertaken by Carnell. This was covered in correspondence above.

(v) To review councils standing orders. These had been distributed previously. No comments were made. All in favour of their adoption.

(vi) End of Q2 accounts summary. These had been distributed previously. No questions were forthcoming. The clerk said the projected underspend was circa £2000.

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

Dist. Cllr. Marshall reported. Brown bin waste collection will now go up to £40 if payment is made by direct debit otherwise it will cost £42. Pedestrianisation in the city centre is on-going. Comments are welcome through the website and other means. He believed that the cancellation of HS2 is excellent news. This may now release funds to build a rail link to The National Memorial Arboretum and beyond to Burton and York. However the spur linking phase 1 and the West Coast main line at Handsacre will still go ahead.

The chairman thanked Cllr. Marshall for his report.

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

Cllr. Cole reported that he met with Phase 1 representatives of HS2 the day before the cancellation of the rest of the line was announced. Phase 1 will now include the link to Handsacre but there is uncertainty over how this will affect the widening of Wood End Lane. Cllr. Cox may know more. He said that the sooner phase 1 is completed the better. A proposed meeting with Liz Davies of HS2 to discuss phase 2a has been postponed. A ‘by pass’ for the A38 at Streethay is being constructed so that the old road can be closed this will enable tunnelling under the existing road. This will now take until early 2024.

**7. To consider the future maintenance policy of parish owned areas.**

Cllr. Burkinshaw suggested the setting up of a 'friends group' amongst residents who live near the Leofric Close and Lanes Close open areas. The group/s will be given rein to look after these areas if they wish but within the guidelines given by a yet to be devised parish council policy. The group/s would be given a small maintenance budget but the parish council will continue to pay for the grass cutting and tree work. Residents would take 'ownership' of the areas. There followed discussion amongst councillors and the floor over what appeared to be a misunderstanding of what was proposed at the last meeting. The chairman commented that no decision on this was taken at that meeting and would not be at this meeting until such time that a draft policy is produced. He was disappointed that discussion had taken place and escalated to the level that they had. One resident who lives near Leofric Close open area thought that the idea was good. There then followed further discussion over the overgrown hedge. Clerk to check the contract with Perennial to determine if the hedge is due to be cut this autumn. **Action: Clerk.** Cllr. Burkinshaw to draft a 'friends group policy'. **Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw.**

Cllr. Marshall left the meeting at 9.08pm

**8. To receive reports on current highway issues.**

(i) Speeding traffic. 20 is plenty. Clerk to obtain copy of the '20 is plenty' groups recent slide presentation. **Action: Clerk.** It was then proposed to drop this item from future agenda. All in favour. (ii) Diversions. Nothing to report.

Cllr. Browne raised an issue with the possible danger to schoolchildren who are now forced to wait for the school bus on the busy A513 between the cross roads and the village hall. He has been in contact with the bus company, who recently changed their pick-up route, to see if an alternative can be offered. After discussion it was felt that perhaps the children could wait in the sanctuary of the village hall car park and the bus could pick them up on the road outside. Cllr. Browne to report back. **Action: Cllr. Browne.**

**9. To receive reports on current footpath issues.**

Cllr. Davies said that the footpath that leaves Crawley Lane towards the A515 is now overgrown in the vicinity of where HS2 had taken over. Clerk to find out who the landowner is and to report to SCC. **Action: Clerk.**

**10. To hear an update on progress on the identified key projects for 2023/4.**

(i) Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Cole said that the working group met last evening. Cllr. Davies will look at making a grant application via Localities and the clerk will look into finding consultants that may be invited to help. **Actions: Cllr. Davies and Clerk.**

(ii) War Memorial fence replacement. Cllr. Burkinshaw said that interested parties had met on 4<sup>th</sup> October with four main points up for discussion. Metal bollards not chain linked will be specified. The surface will be partly re-laid with wet pour and have a coloured stone finish. There will be raised planters and two metal benches, one dedicated to the Queens Jubilee and one to Dr. Crittenden. The Christmas tree hook up will remain. Funding raised to date is £633 from the Jubilee fund, £900 from the open gardens and £750 from this years CIL.

(iii) Community Engagement and Communications. Nothing further to report. The idea is to improve communications around the village with residents and local organisations. It is proposed to hold meetings twice a year.

(iv) Manor Park quarry access. Cllr Till said he would, in the first instance, make enquiries to ascertain the present situation before making a more formal approach to interested parties with the Working Group set up to progress this project.

**11. To consider the village hall accounts and agreements.**

Cllr. Burkinshaw said that as he has not heard back off Julie Bamber, there was nothing to report.

**12. To consider additions to the play equipment and the existing wildlife area.**

Cllr. Burkinshaw said he knew of a voluntary youth team that could be asked to make a wildlife area. There would be no cost to the council. He suggested a bug hotel made from several pallet bases. Concern was raised by Cllr. Till that the structure may be too close to the fence and cause an issue to residents. He was assured this would not be the case. After discussion it was agreed that the idea needed more consideration after it is seen what Carnell do in that corner. Cllr. Burkinshaw was asked to provide more details and plans at a future meeting. Further actions to be considered at the next meeting.

**13. To consider councils approach to future Best Kept Village entries.**

Previously the workload had been taken on by just one or two people. It was thought that this load should be shared around more by perhaps getting some of the local organisations involved.

**14. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.**

Cllr. Davies said that the issue over the waste bins at the Cricket Club had now been resolved. Cllr. Burkinshaw referred to a message he had received from a resident asking if the council could look into providing more play equipment aimed at younger children. Mention was also made of a section of wet pour that was causing a trip hazard. Clerk to investigate. **Action: Clerk.**

The meeting closed at 9.58pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023.