

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Meeting held on
Thursday 9th November 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; P. Till; C. Davies; A. Farrington; N. Crawley.
County and Dist. Cllr. R. Cox (arrived at 8.30pm)

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

Public Session: Eight members of the public were present.

Public Forum:

The chairman held a one minute silence in memory of the late June Baker who was killed tragically in a hit and run incident last month.

Pauline Greatrex then read out a report from the Community Speed Watch group. Copies will be placed on the website. There then followed lengthy discussions around improving road safety in the parish and in particular in the village centre. The clerk was asked to summarise these and to circulate for future discussion.

Action: Clerk.

It was suggested that the footways between Newton Lane and the school should be extended along with the section from Manor Road to the Yoxall Road service Road. The chairman then read out a report received from the PCSO regarding the recent tragedy. Cllr. Burkinshaw (in a written report) said that the Royal Oak was prepared to host a CCTV station such that the cross roads could be monitored. This will be looked into. The clerk then read out an email received from SCC following a request to extend the street lighting along both Lichfield Road and Yoxall Road. See under correspondence below. It was felt that until the final police / coroners report is received not much could be done in the short term. Mention was made of a large tree on the verge opposite Church Lane and that this too was blocking out the light in that area.

1. Apologies and approval of absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr. J. Burkinshaw (work commitments); Dist. Cllr. T. Marshall.

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. Davies on item 10 iii as his wife works as a website designer.

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 12th October 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 SCC regarding a request for additional street lighting. The clerk read out the email. The county is still subject to a private finance initiative for its lighting and this

runs out in around 5 years. It only provides for the maintenance of the existing stock not new lights. No other funds are currently available. County Cllr. Cox (who arrived at 8.30pm) said that the tragic events of last month may mean that the lighting issue is looked at again.

2. Email from Allan Howard regarding the BKV judges comments. The clerk read out the email and was asked to thank Allan for all his hard work over the years in administering the competition entry. It was thought that the setting up of a working group would spread the load. Clerk to contact BKV judge to ask him to attend one Sunday to undertake a 'walk around'.

Action: Clerk.

3. Email from PCSO regarding criminal activity in the parish. Besides the tragic hit and run reported above there have been two burglaries at empty property owned by HS2.

4. Email regarding parish invitation to church carol concert. Cllr. Crawley offered to attend to represent the parish and deliver a reading.

Action: Cllr. Crawley.

b) **Finance.**

i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £646.79 after this months invoices have been paid. Reserve a/c £20,676.79

ii) Payments Received. £750 CIL (plus 3no. cheques to be paid into the ring fenced War Memorial fund)

iii) To authorise payments.

1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £621.78

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

All were in favour of paying these invoices.

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

County and Dist. Cllr. Cox reported. Planning applications have now been made for the new leisure centre and pool and also the proposed cinema at the old Debenhams store. He has asked HS2 for the number of empty dwellings they purchased in his ward. County Cllr. Cox is hopeful that the road improvements to Wood End Lane will go ahead. He then spoke about speed and traffic issues. A member of the public highlighted the fact there are numerous dangerous potholes in Wood End Lane. Clerk to report.

Action: Clerk.

The chairman thanked Cllr. Cox for his report.

6. **To consider the latest HS2 information including Cemex quarry.**

Cllr. Cole reported.

Plans communicated by HS2 were now in disarray following the Government's initial decision to postpone, and recently to cancel Phase 2a of the project.

A meeting with Phase 2a had been postponed until more details were available.

Concerns had been expressed about how the decision will affect landowners whose land has either been compulsorily purchased or temporarily acquired whilst work had been carried out.

Also, questions about remaining satellite sites and tree planting were also raised.

At a recent meeting with CEMEX on the Pyford Brook facility, it was reported that because of recent decisions on HS2, they may be looking for alternative customers for their product.

Any change would require further planning applications to SCC.

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

Cllr. Burkinshaw was not present so it was agreed that this item should be deferred to the next or a future meeting.

The clerk was asked to thank the company responsible for jet washing the War Memorial area.

Action: Clerk.

8. To receive reports on current highway issues (i) Street lighting on A515 (ii) Speeding.

These had largely been covered above.

9. To receive reports on current footpath issues.

Cllr Burkinshaw, by text, raised the issue of surface water that accumulates on the A515 near the junction of Manor Road. The clerk said that he recalled Cllr. Cox telling the council that SCC had looked at the problem but had met with difficulties. He will find out what the problem is.

Clerk will report the issue again.

Action: Clerk.

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

(i) Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Cole has been in touch with LDC who suggest that the parish continues with its application. Cllr. Davies said that two grants may be available and he is working on them. It was proposed and seconded, with all in favour, that the plan is progressed. Clerk to re contact consultants.

Action: Clerk.

(ii) War Memorial fence replacement. Cllr. Burkinshaw said that he and the clerk should meet to discuss progressing this. A cheque for £50 was presented from the Bowling Club. Clerk to send a note of appreciation to the Club. Two cheques were also received from the Jubilee Committee (£633) and The Gardening Guild (£900). Clerk to also thank these two organisations.

Action: Clerk.

(iii) Community Engagement and Communications. Cllr. Davies said that an informal meeting had been held. A suggestion, tied into the BKV, was to produce a detailed map and that a graphic designer who is resident in the parish, had offered to help. A further meeting will be held next week. It was felt that the current website was difficult to navigate. A website assessment form has been circulated.

(iv) Manor Park quarry access. Cllr Till said there was no further progress.

11. To consider the village hall accounts and agreements.

Cllr. Burkinshaw was not present, but reported by email that he had heard nothing more from the committee.

12. To consider additions to the play equipment.

Cllr. Burkinshaw, by email, said that he felt the existing equipment was not fully inclusive. He suggested a 'resident sub group' under the councils 'community engagement' title.

13. To consider options to improve to the 'wild area' at the rear of the village hall.

Cllr. Burkinshaw, by email, suggested installing a bug hotel and had circulated some images.

Cllr. Till quoted from an email send to a resident who's fence lies adjacent to the area in question, that stated the area would be grassed. The clerk explained that this was a response to the email query based on what council had discussed at a previous meeting. There is nothing to prevent the item being raised again for further discussion.

It was proposed and seconded that the item is discussed again at the next meeting.
Five in favour and one against.

14. To consider Councils entry to the 2024 Best Kept Village competition.

This was covered above. A sub group will be set up.

15. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.

Cllr. Browne said he was waiting to hold a meeting with the bus company regarding pick up points for the school children. He suggested moving the point to outside the village hall so that children could wait in the car park area where it is safer.

A member of the public said that several speed signs are obscured by vegetation or moss and asked about cleaning. Clerk to report.

Action: Clerk.

The 30mph bin stickers have now been received and Cllr. Cole asked for volunteers to help distribute them.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date: 14th December 2023.