

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Meeting held on
Thursday 14th December 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; N. Crawley; J. Burkinshaw.
County and Dist. Cllr. R. Cox; Dist. Cllr. Tom Marshall.

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

Public Session: Ten members of the public were present.

Public Forum:

No one wished to speak at this time.

- 1. Apologies and approval of absence.**
Apologies had been received from Cllr. A. Farrington; (unwell).
- 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. Burkinshaw, as an invoice from him will be discussed for payment under item 4 a iii.
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 9th November 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.

Item 7 was taken at this point
- 4. Clerks Report.**
 - a) To consider correspondence received.**
 1. Email – SCC re request for additional road lighting. This was discussed at length under item 7.
 2. BKV flier – invitation to enter in 2024. The parish will enter in 2024. Clerk to inform the organisers.
Action Clerk.
 3. BKV – judges comments from 2023. This was noted, the contents of which will be discussed at a future working group meeting. Cllr. Cole reported that he has spoken to Allan Howard, who has for many years led in organising the villages entry and he has indicated that he is still willing to help.
 4. Letter from Co Op bank – wrongly delivered cheque (£633.00). The cheque was submitted undated and returned. A new payment will be made by BACS direct to the Councils account. Cllr. Burkinshaw to arrange.
Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw.
 5. Email from PCSO with latest incident report. The clerk read out the report.

b) **Finance.**

- i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £6,558.80. Reserve a/c £15,676.79 (of which £2,080.11 is ring fenced for capital projects).
- ii) Payments Received. Donations totalling £950. £5,000 was transferred from the reserves to the current account.
- iii) To authorise payments.
 1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £621.78
 2. Perennial Landscapes – this was a reminder only.
 3. SPCA training - £30 plus vat.
 4. Parish Online subscription - £50 plus vat.
 5. SLCC subscription - £144.00
 6. A Howard – RBL wreath - £25.00.
 7. J. Burkinshaw – jet wash at War Memorial - £150.00 plus vat. Christmas tree £100 plus vat.
 8. Ian Colclough – purchase of Two Fruit trees - £70.00
 9. Lichfield Tree Works – take down group of trees and grind stumps - £333.33 plus vat.
 10. KBVH – hall hire – Feb to Dec - £165.00
 11. KB News – subscription - £6.00

All, except Cllr. Burkinshaw on 7 above, were in favour of paying these invoices.

iv) Online banking application. The clerk stated that he was not in favour of the council undertaking online banking and gave several reasons, all of which were accepted by the councillors. All were in favour of dropping the proposal.

v) Capital projects for 2024/5. The clerk said he had distributed a copy of the end of quarter 3 accounts summary to enable councillors to carefully consider projects and their funding for the next financial year. This will impact on the item below.

vi) Precept bid for 2024/5. The clerk asked that councillors consider carefully the finances ready for a full discussion at the January meeting. The bid to LDC needs to be made in mid January. He then gave examples of the amounts raised by various increases in the precept and how this affects the band D precept.

vii) 2023/4 pay settlement. The clerk said that the pay settlement had been made and the back pay claimed this month. It amounted to an extra £1 per hour or 6.7%.

viii) Meeting dates for 2024. It was agreed that the council should continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month. The clerk asked that the date in September is changed and this was agreed. Clerk to inform council of the new date.

Action: Clerk.

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

Dist. Cllr. Marshall reported. The multi storey car park in the city centre will be demolished early next year. The National Memorial Arboretum has made a planning application to extend its grounds to create a Covid Memorial garden. The cost of emptying the green bins next year will rise to £40. The cinema project will go ahead. County and Dist. Cllr. Cox reported. Extra money has been found to fill potholes and this is already having an impact. SCC and other public buildings will be lit up on 22nd December in aid of The Samaritans.

The chairman thanked the Councillors for their reports.

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

Cllr. Cole reported. A meeting with Liz Davies has taken place but little new information was gained. The burning question remains over the Handsacre link and how this will be

achieved. Cllr. Cox said that grants are still available from phase 1 and suggested that the council looks into these. He hopes that the face to face meeting will soon be arranged to go over how land is to be used / or returned to the original owners. The improvement to Wood End Lane will still go ahead but other significant issues still exist.

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

Councillors and members of the public debated this emotive issue for some time. Many suggestions were made as to how the issue of speeding vehicles in the village could be addressed. Many would involve a great deal of expense. For example an additional pelican style crossing is around £150k. Speed Indicator Devices are £5k to £10k each. The parish clerk has written to SCC about the road lighting and a feasibility study has been promised. Cllr. Burkinshaw suggested speaking to The Safer Staffordshire Roads Partnership. He added that the local public house would be willing to have a boxed CCTV camera installed on the outside of its premises. The ICO say this can be done. It was also suggested that residents lobby their County Councillor and consider signing a petition that he can take to a full council meeting. This would need to be done for either the 8th February meeting or 14th March. It was suggested that the '20 is plenty' initiative is looked at again too. A member of the public said that many drivers run the red light outside the Co Op and that speeding at nighttime was a major issue. Cllr. Cox said that this is an enforcement issue and falls on the police. He added that, if a petition were handed to him, he would ensure that it was brought to the attention of the full council at Stafford. He added that installing SIDs was complex and they needed to be sensibly located taking into account road safety and neighbours. Cllr. Davies said that the working group is to meet next week and they will look into organising a petition.

Action: Cllr. Davies and working group.

A member of the public suggested that the traffic calming measures on the A513 had a negative effect, and he suggested that they should be removed.

Cllr. Davies left the meeting at 20.25.

Discussion then took place around exploring the possibility of using the residents footpath that front the houses on Newton Lane and is to the rear of the highway hedge. This would create a link from Newton Lane towards the school. Cllr. Till suggested a three way set of traffic lights at the Co Op exit. Cllr. Cox said that there is no evidence of accidents at this location so, without this it is unlikely anything like this would happen. Cllr. Till added that modern SIDs do have data logs and record number plates. It was suggested that 'crowdfunding' could be used to raise the necessary funds. A member of the public then raised an issue with flooding at Seedy Mill – this is outside the parish boundary.

8. To receive reports on current footpath issues.

None raised.

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

(i) Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Cole said that the working group needs to look at and agree what issues to take forward. A meeting will be organised in the New Year. Clerk to keep consultants informed.

Action: Clerk.

(ii) War Memorial fence replacement. Cllr. Burkinshaw said that he will be meeting with the clerk soon to discuss the drawings, design and the planning application.

Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw and Clerk.

(iii) Community Engagement and Communications. (CEC) Cllr. Davies will formulate the petition to go to SCC by 14th March.

Action: Cllr. Davies and the working group.

The map that was to be designed, not just for the BKV application, has become an ambitious project. Better signage, QR code scan walks and an 'interactive history wall' at the Show Field are also being considered. Funding will be required with match funding possible. BKV is on the 'agenda' for the CEC next month.

(iv) Manor Park quarry access. Cllr Till said there was no further progress and that he did not have time at present to work on this. It was suggested that this item is removed from the agenda.

10. To consider the village hall accounts and agreements.

Cllr. Burkinshaw said he had still not heard from Julie Bamber.

11. To consider additions to the play equipment.

Cllr. Burkinshaw said he will make contact with the resident that requested additional equipment and invite her to suggest what equipment she feels is required. He will report to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw.

12. To consider the future maintenance policy of parish owned areas.

The chairman said that this should be moved to the item 'key projects'. A clear policy is required. Cllr. Burkinshaw said he has a draft document prepared and will bring this to a working group meeting in the New Year.

Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw.

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

This will be discussed by the CEC working group in the New Year.

14. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.

Cllr. Till asked about the 30mph stickers. These are with Cllr. Cole and he will organise distribution in the New Year.

Action: Cllr. Cole.

Cllr. Browne said that Diamond Buses will be attending a site meeting in the New Year. A question was asked as to whether the public house is on the LDC list of village assets. Also the Hansons quarry. Clerk to find out.

Action: Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date: 11th January 2024..