

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Meeting held on
Thursday 8th February 2024 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 (Chair); S. Browne; P. Till; J. Burkinshaw.
County and Dist. Cllr. R. Cox.

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

Public Session: Five members of the public were present.

Public Forum:

A member of the public pointed out that, in the December 2023 minutes, the flooding near Seedy Mill was in fact within the parish boundary. This was noted.

1. **Apologies and approval of absence.**
Cllrs. C. Davies; N. Crawley (both on holiday). A. Farrington (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.**
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 11th January 2024 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 Show Society secretary re kissing gate on show field. After discussion the clerk was asked to contact SCC regarding replacing the rotten stile with an easy access gate.
Action: Clerk.
 2. Email from Community Foundation for Staffs – Best Kept Village competition now open. It was proposed that an entry is made. All in favour. Clerk to inform them that the village will enter this year.
Action: Clerk.
 3. Asset of Community Value nomination – form to complete. See item 11 below.
 4. Letter from Eric Roy re website hosting and maintenance. After discussion it was decided to hold payment on this. Clerk to ask Eric what the cost is to retain the domain name only.
Action: Clerk.
 5. Remittance advice from Locality – grant of £8,742 approved for Neighbourhood Plan preparation.

6. Police report. Two incidents reported. Clerk was asked to obtain a crime number for the fatality on Yoxall Road so that the CCTV hard drive taken by the police can be recovered.

Action: Clerk.

b) Finance.

- i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £5,013.82. Reserve a/c £15,676.79 (of which £3,713.11 is ring fenced for capital projects).
- ii) Payments Received. £70 donation from resident to pay for trees planted in open space in Leofric Close. £633 from Jubilee Committee towards the War Memorial fence (ring fenced funds).
- iii) To authorise payments.
 1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £690.75

All were in favour of paying the above invoice/s.

iv) Tree survey and maintenance tender for 2024 to 2026 inc. The clerk said he has had no further tenders returned so suggested that the survey element is separated from the works element. This was agreed. He will send out details of the survey work to local surveyors.

Action: Clerk.

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

County and Dist. Cllr. Cox reported. SCC will increase its precept by 2.99% and the social care element by 2%. The county finances are healthy. There will be more finances made available for Highways. He went on to explain the situation with the development of the old Debenhams store, multi storey car park and the land opposite the railway station in Lichfield.

A question was asked concerning the removal of a hedge outside Bromley Hayes old garden centre as it would seem that too much has been removed. He will forward the query to Cllr. Marshall.

A question was asked over the feasibility study to improve road safety in the village. This is on-going but then funds need to be found. A petition to improve the road lighting is circulating – this was backed by Cllr. Cox. He asked for it to be available before the next full County Council meeting in March.

The chair thanked the Councillor for his report.

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

Cllr. Cole reported that he had recently attended a CEMEX communication engagement meeting. Following on from the Government's decision to axe Phase 2a and re-schedule work on Phase 1, concern was expressed that the CEMEX quarry and cement making facility would be underutilised and they would be submitting further planning request to sell their product to other customers in addition to the 10% for which they already have permission. At a meeting with HS2 Phase 1, there appears to be no agreed engineering design for how the high speed line will join the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre. Also, no work is likely to take place on Wood End Lane until 2025. County Cllr. Cox intimated that Staffordshire County were keen to see this happen. County Cllr. Cox gave his views on the plans being put forward by the Mayors for West Midlands and Greater Manchester to finance Phase 2 using private funding. It is understood that 3 options were being considered. Finally, letters had been sent out to landowners affected by Phase 2a about revisions to 'safeguarding' proposals following the decision on Phase 2a. Cllr. Browne said that the 'Stop HS2 Group had held their first meeting since COVID and were planning to meet every 6 months.

7. **To receive reports on current highway issues. Road safety and traffic speeds.**
Cllr. Cole said that the 30 and 40mph stickers had been delivered and asked that if any were left over to let him have them. There then followed a discussion about Speed Indicator Devices (SID's). The clerk had distributed previously a hand written statement of some devices from Message Maker Signs. Cost of a basic unit circa £3,500. More complex units that record vehicle numbers are double this figure. It was suggested that units could be moved between locations though one councillor was not in favour of this option. Cllr. Cox said that the location of the devices must be agreed by SCC Highways and local neighbours. It was decided to obtain costings for the various options. Clerk to send the details he has obtained to all and Cllr. Till will seek prices from Elan City.
Actions: Cllr. Till and Clerk.
8. **To receive reports on current footpath issues.**
None at the moment.
9. **To hear an update on progress on the identified key projects for 2023/4.**
(i) Neighbourhood Plan. To consider LDCs request 'Call for sites'.
Cllr. Cole said a site meeting in the village is scheduled with the consultant on Monday 12th Feb. This will be followed by a Zoom meeting on 16th. After this it may be possible to make a reply to LDC.

(ii) War Memorial fence replacement. Cllr. Burkinshaw said that he and the clerk had discussed the process which would involve submitting a planning application. As an interim measure it was suggested that some benches and planters are purchased and positioned such that they prevent vehicles from driving across the memorial area. These can then be used in the final design once it is confirmed. In the meantime the clerk was asked to contact G Scapes to see if they would be prepared to undertake a design and to also find suitable metal benches. Some funding is already in place.
Action: Clerk.

(iii) Community Engagement and Communications. (CEC) Cllr. Burkinshaw reported. A meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday. The project is going well. There is to be the annual litter pick on 24th and 25th February. Volunteers sought. Cllr. Cox will organise the collection of the bags. Contact Allan Howard for more information.

(iv) Maintenance policy for parish owned areas. Cllr. Burkinshaw said that the sub group will look into this. Mention was made of the damp that is ingressive on the village hall side wall (main hall). He has looked into the issue and it appears that the guttering is working correctly. It would seem the problem is the driving rain hitting the wall in the winter months. There is no cavity so eventually the moisture is seeping through to the plaster inside. He thought the solution would be to remove the plaster along the inside wall and create a cavity using battens and plasterboard. He will speak to Cllr. Crawley over options.
Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw and sub group members.
10. **To consider the village hall accounts and agreements.**
The clerk said he had written to Julie Bamber but so far had no reply. Cllr. Burkinshaw needs to arrange a meeting with her about ways to control the heating in the hall and will mention the AGM and unfinished documents to her at that time.
Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw.

11. To make an application to register local buildings / land as Assets of Community Value.

After discussion it was thought that the local public house should be registered and possibly the cricket ground. This was proposed by Cllr. Till and seconded by Cllr. Browne. All in favour. Cllr. Burkinshaw will speak to the pub landlord first. Clerk to contact the Cricket Club.

Actions: Cllr. Burkinshaw and clerk.

The clerk has the necessary forms from LDC but there are questions that require more information such as ownership and occupier details.

12. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.

Cllr. Burkinshaw remarked that the plans for Lupin Farm were approved last year. (Drawings had appeared on some internet property websites)

Cllr. Browne said that he was still talking to the bus company about the pick up point for the school children but that they had said he now needs to liaise with SCC which he is doing.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed (Chair) Date: 14th March 2024.