

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held on
Thursday 14th March 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; C. Davies; N. Crawley.
County and Dist. Cllr. R. Cox (arrived at 8.15pm); Dist Cllr. T. Marshall.

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

Public Session: Four members of the public were present.

Public Forum:

No one wished to comment at this stage.

1. Apologies and approval of absence.

Dist. Cllr. N. Hawkins.

The chairman informed the meeting that Cllr. Ashley Farrington had resigned his position on the council. The clerk said he has informed LDC. The chairman then went onto say that he too would be standing down after the April meeting. All present expressed their thanks to both councillors.

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 8th February 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 Eric Roy regarding website costs. It was agreed that his invoice should be paid pending the possible creation of a new website.

2. Email from SCC Footpaths Officer regarding new gateway to Show Field. Clerk to meet with Cllr. Burkinshaw to determine exactly what is required.

Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw and clerk.

Cllr. Davies will speak to the landowner regarding re siting of a farm access gate.

Action: Cllr. Davies.

3. Two emails from resident concerning speeding and flooding. After discussion it was decided that the resident is invited to attend a future meeting. Clerk to contact.

Action: Clerk.

Cllr. Browne said he has sent to all a flooding report and that he hoped this could be used in the creation of the neighbourhood plan. Councillors thanked him for this. He added that the nominated flood officer for the parish had now moved away and

was no longer contactable. A new officer will need to be allocated (at a future meeting).

4. Email from Alrewas PC regarding joining a group to discuss future local developments. Cllr. Crawley accepted the nomination to join this group. Clerk to inform Alrewas PC. **Action: Clerk.**

5. Letter from The Cabinet Office regarding H.M. The King's Portrait Scheme. It was agreed that council should seek to obtain a portrait. Clerk to arrange.

Action: Clerk.

6. Letter – John Taylor School – invitation to presentation evening. Cllrs. Browne and Crawley will attend and a donation of £25 was agreed. Clerk to inform school.

Action: Clerk.

7. Email from local PCSO regarding local reported crimes. A question was asked as to why some incidents that occurred last weekend were not included in the report. After discussion it was felt that an invitation to the local police commander should be issued to ask him / her to attend a future meeting. Clerk to arrange.

Action: Clerk.

Cllr. Cox said that the hit and run incident is now being handled by Staffs Police not the local force and is on-going.

b) Finance.

i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £12,727.08. Reserve a/c £15,676.79 (of which £3,713.11 is currently ring fenced for capital projects).

ii) Payments Received. £8,742.00 grant from Groundworks towards neighbourhood plan production.

iii) To authorise payments.

1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £667.43

2. Eric Roy – website hosting and maintenance - £150.00

3. Ian Colclough – HM Land Registry search - £6.00

4. CPRE subscription - £36.00

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

iv) Tree survey for 2024. The clerk said he has contacted some arborists but only had one quote and that was over £1,000. Cllr. Davies will chase a contact he has and inform the clerk.

Action: Cllr. Davies.

v) To review councils financial regulations. The clerk said this needed to be done annually and before the end of year audit. The document had been circulated previously. No comments were made. Cllr. Crawley proposed and Cllr. Cole seconded that the document was adopted as it stood. All were in favour.

vi) Clerks pay and expenses. The clerk had circulated previously a document detailing his claim. He left the room while the item was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr. Cole and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the claim is met. All were in favour.

vii) Annual open parish meeting. The clerk explained that this meeting is held annually and gives local residents and organisation the opportunity to attend and tell the parish about its activities or to discuss any issues. This years meeting will be at 7pm on 11th April before the full council meeting. Time is restricted to just a few minutes per speaker. Cllr. Davies suggested that at the meeting an open invitation is given for those attending and the village groups to come to a further meeting to meet with the Community Engagement Team. All were in favour of this. Clerk will issue invitations to the Open Meeting which is on the 11th April.

Action: Clerk.

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

Dist. Cllr. Marshall reported. LDC has kept the precept increase low, SCC has increased by 4.9% as has the parish. The council has issued its 'call for sites' asking landowners who wish to develop their land to register it with them. He then spoke about vehicle crime and that nationally the figures were falling. Through police efforts gangs of thieves have been arrested. He suggested that residents increase their own security through door bell cameras and by placing keys in protective Faraday cases. The pedestrianisation of the city centre is on-going. A car park spaces information system is now in place and has been well received.

County and Dist. Cllr. Cox reported. The blocked road gulleys in the village centre are being investigated. The flooding on the A513 Alrewas Road near the 40 limit is also being looked into with the possibility of constructing a French drain. The county has limited resources to deal with all the flooding issues. Mention was made that schoolchildren are having to walk in the road to by pass the flood by Forge House. He is aware of this. He has been assured that the improvements to Wood End Lane will go ahead. He was thanked by the councillors for the work he does in very trying circumstances. Regarding the fatality, the investigation is still on-going. The victims spouse is being kept informed of progress. He continues to work hard to perhaps have the street lighting improved.

The chair thanked the Councillors for their reports.

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

Cllr. Cole said that there was not much happening at present. A recent email from Liz Davies has been circulated.

7. To receive reports on current highway issues. SIDs and other speed indicator devices.

Cllr. Till reported. He has spoken to several manufacturers and written a report that has been circulated to the councillors. He summarised costs, options and statistics. It was agreed that he and Cllr. Davies will meet with a representative from SCC highways to discuss possible locations for the devices. They must be free-standing and not fixed to existing street furniture. Neighbours need to be consulted. A petition from residents was now to hand and he will copy this prior to handing over to Cllr. Cox who will present it at an SCC full council meeting on 16th May. He thanked Yvonne Sheldon for her hard work in instigating the petition. Cllr. Cole asked if a tender will be required. The clerk replied in the affirmative. Cllr. Till will draft a document. After debate it was proposed by Cllr. Till and seconded by Cllr. Crawley that £6,000 is allocated to kick start the project, this money being ring fenced within the accounts. 4 in favour of the proposal and 2 abstentions. Proposal carried.

Actions: Cllr. Till and Clerk.

8. To receive reports on current footpath issues. Stile / gate on Show Field.

This was discussed under correspondence above.

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

(i) Neighbourhood Plan. To consider LDC's request 'Call for sites'. This was considered under item 4 above.

Cllr. Cole said a that a decision was required from full council as to whether an application to move the village boundary to take in the Cricket Ground should be made. After discussion it was felt that this would only open the door to developers who may then wish to look at other areas. It was proposed by Cllr. Cole and seconded by Cllr. Till that the reference to the cricket club is removed from the drafted neighbourhood plan and that the village boundary, as it stands, is left unaltered. All were in favour.

Agreement was reached in providing more information for the 'Local Green Space' template to be included in the Plan. The clerk was then asked to send Cllr. Browne's flood report to the consultant.

Action: Clerk.

(ii) War Memorial fence replacement. Cllr. Burkinshaw said that a meeting with G Scapes is due to take place on 27th March at 4pm at the War Memorial.

(iii) Community Engagement and Communications. (CEC) Cllr. Davies reported. The working group is looking at a 'branding' for the village. The website replacement project needs to start. A meeting with the village organisations will be held in April (no date yet). Cllr. Cole asked how the Best Kept Village entry was progressing. The clerk said he had the forms partly completed but needs more information. Cllr. Burkinshaw said he would help and return the forms to the clerk in a few days. It was decided that an entry will be made this year. Clerk to complete the entry.

Action: Cllr. Burkinshaw and clerk

(iv) Maintenance policy for parish owned areas including the play area. This was held over until the next meeting.

10. To consider the village hall accounts and agreements.

Cllr. Burkinshaw said that the AGM is on 11th April at 6pm (it appears to clash with the next parish council meeting). He is looking at grants to help with insulating the building and installing new thermostats. Questions were then asked about who is responsible for the internal maintenance for the hall as there appears to be no response from the committee. It was decided to wait until the AGM before progressing further.

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

The clerk said that the application form was partly completed and that he had obtained the necessary information from the Land Registry. There are sections of the form that he feels he cannot complete. A questions was asked as to who made the original application that has now expired. The clerk said he thought it was ex Cllr. Lee. Clerk to contact to see if he has the original documents.

Action: Clerk.

12. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.

Cllr. Browne then asked Cllr. Cox if he knew any more about the school bus and safety issues. Nothing more is known.

The meeting closed at 10.12pm.

Signed (Chair) Date: 11th April 2024.