

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Meeting held on

Thursday 9th March 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. A. Howard; (chairman); C. Cole; S. Browne; J. Bowman; J. Burkinshaw.
County and Dist. Cllr. R. Cox. Dist Cllr. T. Marshall.

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

Public Session: Six members of the public were present.

Forum. No members of the public wished to speak at this point.

1. **Apologies and approval of absence.**
Cllrs. Mrs. G. Pitchford. (work commitments); N. Crawley (holiday).
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. J. Bowman on item 8(i)

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 February 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.**
 - i) Email from resident re A38 roadworks. The clerk read out the email in full. After discussion the clerk was asked to reply to the resident to explain the current position and to outline discussions that the parish council has had with the various highways bodies over the last years. He was asked to explain how the council has tried to mitigate the impact that traffic has on the parish. **Action: Clerk** (ii) Email from Zurich re unadopted road. The clerk read out the email. This to be discussed under item 8 (iii) Email from LDC re planning at War Memorial and invalid application. The clerk said that an application for consent had been made to LDC and this was turned down as further information and drawings are required. Item 10 below. (iv) Email from Carnell Group re A38 work. This was covered by Cllr. Cox in item 5 below. (v) Email from Glen Wright re church clock. The clerk read out the email. (vi) Email from resident re street light by War Memorial. This had now been fixed. (vii) Email from SCC - reply to FOI request regarding service road by War Memorial. This will be discussed under item 8 below. (viii) Email from Staffs Police – latest report showed 2 incidents both involving possible theft from cars. Clerk to enquire of incident on Manor Park. **Action: Clerk.** (ix) Email – quote for fencing around War Memorial. The clerk read out the figures. Item 10 below. (x) Email from Yvonne Sheldon regarding the Medical Transport Scheme.

The clerk read out the email. He was asked to write back thanking her for the work she does and for her suggestions and to ask she approaches the council if any problems arise in future. **Action: Clerk.**

b) **Finance.**

- i) Financial Statement. Current a/c £4,070.30 a/c £9,815.30. The clerk stated that once all cheques have cleared there should be £3,237.60 left in the current account in April
- ii) Payments Received. None.
- iii) To authorise payments.
 1. Clerks net salary, income tax, expenses and postage costs - £619.96
 2. Eric Roy – website maintenance and hosting - £140.00

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

(iv) Open Parish Meeting On 13th April 2023. The clerk said the meeting would commence at 7pm and end at 7.40 with reports and speakers being restricted to a set time limit.

(v) To select the successful grass maintenance contractor for 2023 to 2025 inclusive. A list of tenders had been distributed previously. Concern was expressed that the prices had increased considerably. After discussion, in an effort to obtain more competitive prices, it was proposed by Cllr. Howard and seconded by Cllr. Burkinshaw that the council goes out to tender again. Clerk to re invite those on the original list and set a return date within a week. **Action: Clerk.**

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

Cllr. Marshall reported. LDC is not increasing council tax for the coming year. £5m is to be used to repurpose the old Debenhams building. There will also be a new Leisure Centre built off Eastern Avenue. Proms in the Park will continue this year. £65k has been raised for the Community Fund. Frog Lane offices are also being repurposed. He will be on the radio tomorrow speaking about the latest HS2 news and the project being put on hold for 2 years.

Cllr. R. Cox reported. Finances are in a good state with careful management. A further £13m over 2 years has been allocated to highway drainage works. A further £275k for surface treatments. It is no longer council policy to paint white edge of carriageway lines. The outcome of the inquest on the recent fatality on A513 is awaited to see if lining is then an option. The chairman then raised the question of the flooding on the A513 near Eastfield's. This has been reported. Cllr. Cox asked the clerk for the report number. **Action: Clerk.**

The chairman thanked the two Councillors for their reports.

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

Cllr. Cole reported that the announcement regarding the project being put on hold for 2 years was unhelpful as it left those affected in a continued state of uncertainty. He thought that the scheme should either go ahead at full speed or be scrapped. It means that we must all still assume it will go ahead and plan / mitigate accordingly. There are still local issues to consider such as the widening of Wood End Lane, borrow pits, the proposed new roundabout at A515/ A513 junction and the tunnel under the A38 etc. all of which will effect the parish.

Cllrs. Cole, Cox and Marshall left the meeting at 9pm.

7. To hear an update on the proposed installation of EVC points / sound deadening material at the village hall.

Cllr. Burkinshaw said that no further progress has been made on the charging points. The sound deadening material will be fixed in the main hall soon. It was agreed a maximum budget of £300 – all in favour.

8. To receive reports on current highway and footpath issues (I) update on the maintenance of the unadopted road outside No1 Lichfield Road.

The clerk has read out an email from the councils insurers which outlined the situation should the council make temporary repairs. It implied that cover would be in place for any third party claim. The clerk also read out a reply from SCC following a freedom of information request. They insist that the road is not adopted. The chairman produced documents that showed that the road was maintained by SCC in the early 1940's. With this evidence the clerk was asked to contact SCC again and present these findings to them. **Action: Clerk**

9. To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan working group.

Nothing further to report. Remove from agenda until May. **Action: Clerk**

10. To receive a report on the meeting called to look at funding to replace the fencing around the War Memorial.

Cllr. Howard said a second quote has been received. After discussion it was decided to wait until after the elections in May to make further decisions. A working group has not been set up yet. The old entrance gate to the memorial area was donated by a local resident and she is keen to have it retained in some way. It was suggested that it is placed near the wildlife area at the rear of the village hall.

11. To hear a further report from the 'Long Hard Winter' working group.

Cllr. Bowman reported. Fourteen had attended the last gathering. Thanks should go to Alison Howard for all her hard work. There was also a meeting on 1st March which saw 30 attend to listen to talks from Jan Higgins and CAB. Useful information was disseminated. There are three more sessions to go. Still looking into a 'cooking on a budget' initiative at either the village hall or perhaps the cricket club later in the year. This to be aimed at younger residents.

12. To discuss options to celebrate to Kings Coronation.

This is on 6th May. The chairman said he thought that the TV coverage could be projected in the hall without any licensing issues but that he is away and someone else would need to do this. Tea and coffee will be made available to those attending. Cllr. Browne said that members of the old Jubilee Committee could be invited.

13. To consider maintenance issues at the Village Hall.

It was decided to allocate a budget of £1,000 to maintenance for 2023/4. Clerk to add to accounting system. **Action: Clerk.**

14. To consider Councillor reports – for information only.

Cllr. Howard said that he is updating the 'community spirit' element of the application and will pass to the clerk to make the entry. **Actions: Cllr. Howard and clerk.**

Cllr. Browne said he now has a price off Mr. Bancroft to repair / replace the small fence to the left of the village hall and will pass to the clerk. **Action: Cllr. Browne.**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date: 13th April 2023.