



BROOMFIELD AND KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood.
Monday 15th April 2013.

Present:

Cllr Terry Baker (Chairman)	Cllr Paul Beaney	Cllr Christina Clark
Cllr Peter Corfield	Cllr Mike Evans	Cllr Peter Forster
Cllr Peter Page	Cllr Justin West	(8)

Mrs G Gosden – Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

There were 6 members of the public present. It was reported that there had been several incidents in recent weeks of sewage overflow in Broomfield Road/Gravelly Bottom Road /Duck Pond Lane. Southern Water has attended and cleared the problem but residents felt that the cause of the problem was not being addressed. A resident expressed concern at the increase in rubbish being dumped around the parish.

Cllr Baker opened the meeting at 8.00pm

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr M O’Niell – Family commitments
Cllr J Whittle – Work commitments
Cllr P Parvin – Family commitments
PCSO Kirby – Annual leave

Min No		Action
310	Co-option of Councillor Councillor Corfield has informed the Chairman that he will be resigning from the Parish Council as he and his wife will be moving away. He intends to continue until closer to the moving date. Cllr Baker requested the Clerk contact the list of people who had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor to inform them of the impending vacancy for a co-opted Councillor.	Clerk
311	Councillors Declarations (Regarding Agenda Items) Cllr Beaney declared a personal interest in Minute No. 320	
312	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 18th March 2013 Councillors resolved that these minutes be accepted as a true record, signed by Cllr Baker.	
313	Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting held 18th March 2013 Councillors resolved that these minutes be accepted as a true record, signed by Cllr Baker.	
314	Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting held 26th February 2013 Councillors resolved that these minutes be accepted as a true record, signed by Cllr Baker.	
315	Actions & Outcomes	Signed _____

Outstanding – Cllr Forster – Meeting with Police Commissioner – apologies received due to work commitments he had been unable to attend.

Review Affordable Local Needs Housing - Cllr Page had found the report interesting as a new Councillor but felt there was nothing of note for more established Councillors.

316 Kent County Council - County Councillor, Jenny Whittle, Maidstone Rural East

Apologies received. Due to purdah in the lead up to elections; there was nothing to report.

317 Maidstone Borough Council - Leeds Ward Councillor, Peter Parvin

Apologies received. Report – the search for sites within the borough for development continue at MBC but no decisions have been made yet. KCC elections are 'hotting up'. There have been problems at Stockbury with allocation of housing due to changes in procedure by MBC.

318 Policing

318.1 Crime figures and Police report - PCSO Kirby

Apologies received. Kingswood - 27/03/13, Burglary- The Waldens, 04-18/03/13, Burglary other than dwelling - Peter Pease Close; Langley - Criminal damage 1; Leeds - Arson 1; Ulcombe - Theft 1; Sutton Valence - Criminal damage 1, Take a motor vehicle without owner's consent 1, Making of without payment 1.

318.2 Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Evans

- (i) Cllr Evans reported that there were fewer crime reports now than in the previous ten weeks when there had been a significant rise in crime reported in Kingswood and the surrounding areas.
- (ii) Councillors resolved to pay the main NHW co-ordinator, Mike Evans, out of pocket expenses for running the parish NHW.

319 Finances

319.1 Responsible Finance Officer's report was read to Councilors and retained on file. Payments were agreed.

319.2 Bank reconciliation for March and the End of Financial Year 2013 was agreed and signed by Cllr Baker

319.3 Concurrent Functions Year End Certificate 2012/13- was agreed and signed by the Chairman

319.4 Staff costs –£1,234.09 for March 2013, including PAYE & NI contributions.

320 High Fencing and Sightline Issues around the Parish

Cllr Beaney having declared a personal interest made a statement then withdrew from the discussion.

Complaints have been received about a fence that has been erected at a property in Kingswood Village centre which is causing issues due to the fact that where vehicles are parked on the kerbside cars have to approach the junction in the middle of the road, the new fencing affects the sightline around the junction. The Clerk has spoken with MBC enforcement who advised that there are several issues with a fence being erected close to a boundary, the land in question will need planning permission for a change of use and fence erection. The Planning Officer confirmed that MBC would make enquiries.

Cllr Baker informed the meeting that he had this evening received a letter from the residents concerned where they informed of their intention to apply for retrospective planning permission. No further action is required by the Parish Council at this time

Signed _____

321 Super-Fast Broadband

Cllr Corfield reported that despite further enquiries into the potential of a mast being erected on the Downs, the 'line of sight' to Broomfield & Kingswood was impeded by trees and therefore could not be a solution to enabling faster broadband. Despite the joint programme with KCC & BT for faster broadband across the county this Parish will not receive any assistance. Cllr Corfield felt that the Parish is no further forward with this project than it was two years ago.

322 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Baker reported that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was meeting again Tuesday 16th April where Michael Murphy, MBC Planner would answer question including funding. Three quotes have been received from contractors to carry out the construction of the plan and these quotes would also be discussed at Tuesday's meeting.

323 Recreation and Sports Field

323.1 John Hood the contractor for the coppicing of the trees at the sports field has informed the Clerk that he will continue with the work now as the ground condition have improved, he assured the Clerk that he will check for any nesting birds before cutting, but there is unlikely to be any as the trees are not yet in leaf. The TPO consent and felling licence have been checked and there are no stipulations in the conditions about the dates for coppicing.

323.2 The Clerk is trying to arrange a meeting between the PC/NPSG, Scouts and Maidstone Mavericks about the sports field facilities and the PC's request to the Scouts to improve the scout huts condition.

323.3 Cllr Forster expressed concern about the tarmac in the sports field car park which is beginning to crack already and asked the Clerk to check if there was a workmanship guarantee

323.4 Cllr Forster requested that the Clerk write to Mrs Endell to express the gratitude of the Parish Council for her continuing neighbourliness in clearing rubbish in and around the sports field. Councilors agreed unanimously to the proposal.

Clerk

Clerk

324 Village News

Cllr Baker advised that the copy deadline for the next publication is the 13th May. Councilors agreed that another page of small advertisements could be added to the next publication.

There was a discussion about the title of the Village News and it was agreed unanimously to maintain the original title of Kingswood & Broomfield Village News, but that it would show that the News is published by Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

325 Website

Cllr Beaney reported that the number of hits is increasing on the website and there is more evidence that local people are using for general local information. There are still a few minor details to be added, but this will be an on-going process anyway. The Clerk & Cllr Beaney will meet to discuss recommendations for the new banner heading.

Cllr Beaney
& Clerk

326 Noticeboard

Clerk reported that the notice board is now erected and filling up with notices, but will need to purchase some alternate fixings as the ones supplied are not the best ones for the job as they are too big.

Clerk

327 Traffic Calming

The Clerk had previously circulated a report following a meeting with Ben Hilden from KCC Highways. A discussion followed to determine which traffic calming scheme should be addressed and it was resolved to apply to our KCC Member after the elections to request funding with the anticipation that an interactive sign could be erected near the sports field and that 'No HGV' signs could be erected around the village to try and deter large vehicles using the single track roads.

Clerk

Signed _____

328 Heritage Open Day

Cllr Evans had organised the Heritage Open Day last year and advised Councillors that there had been no apparent benefit to the Parish. Councillors agreed unanimously to not participate again this year.

Clerk

329 Reports

329.1 Meeting with KCC Highways re Traffic Calming – Previously circulated and retained on file

330 Items for next Meeting’s Agenda

- (i) Traffic Calming & signage
- (ii) Recycling in the Parish
- (iii) Village signs – At the Village Hall & Broomfield Green
- (iv) Village Hall Fair – 6th July

331 Any Other Information

331.1 MBC has notified their intention to withdraw funding of support for the cleansing of the recycling site at the village hall. The emptying of the recycling bins will still be carried out free of charge, but the landowners will become responsible for ensuring the site is kept clean. Meeting organised for 7th May with Alisa Maguire, MBC.

331.2 The Village Hall Fair will be on the 6th July 2013.

331.3 MBC made a commitment to underwrite the costs of lighting for footway lighting in 2013/14 at the rate paid previously under CF Grant 2012/13. KCC are now offering to take over street lighting in the parishes with certain conditions attached. 1) Lighting contributes to the safety of users. 2) It must be of a standard to comply with roadway lighting designs and meet current KCC specifications, with proof of regular electrical and structural inspections.3) Where the previous conditions do not apply, remove lighting completely.

331.4 DCLG online survey has been completed by Cllr Baker.

331.5 The Clerk has received a letter from Laura Wilkins, Definitive Map Team Leader informing that the investigation into our application for a footpath between Lenham Road and public footpaths KH312 & KH313A is about to commence. The Clerk will be meeting with Mrs Wilkins on 25th April for a visit to the locations as a reminder of the application details

331.6 The PC has received an invitation to attend Harrietsham PC’s APM on Wednesday 24th April. No Councillor was available to attend, apologies to be sent.

331.7 Donation request received from Secretary to Kingswood Pre-School to help fund replacement play mats. Councillors resolved to donate £100; this would need to be ratified at the next PC Meeting.

331.8 The Clerk has reported to the Dog Warden at MBC the fact that there is a more than normal level of complaints of dog fouling on pavements around the village, two people have come forward offering to make statements to the Dog Warden about separate incidents they have witnessed where dog bags have been offered with varying degrees of negative response.

Clerk

There was no further business, Cllr Baker closed the meeting at 10.35pm

Signed _____ Chairman