



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,
at 7.30, 16th June 2014

Present:

Cllr Keith Bennett
Cllr Mike O'Neil

Cllr Tina Clark
Cllr Peter Page

Cllr Mike Lovell
Cllr Janet Tandy

(6)

There was one member of the public present.

Cllr O'Neil opened the meeting at 7.30

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr T Baker – Family Commitments
Cllr M Darling – Family Commitments
Cllr J Whittle – KCC - Family Commitments
Cllr P Parvin – MBC – Family Commitments

Min No

Action

25 Councillors Declarations (Regarding Agenda Items)

Cllr K Bennett – personal & prejudicial item 36.
Cllr M Lovell – personal – item 36. Cllr Lovell also declared that having done some voluntary work in the village he has received a bottle of brandy which he is donating to the Village Hall Fair raffle.

26 Minutes of PC Meeting held 28th April 2014

Councillors resolved to accept the minutes as a true record, signed by Cllr O'Neil

27 Minutes of Planning meeting held 28th April 2014

Councillors resolved to accept the minutes as a true record, signed by Cllr O'Neil

28 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 17th May

Councillors resolved to accept the minutes as a true record, signed by Cllr O'Neil

29 Minutes of PC Meeting held 17th May 2014

Councillors resolved to accept the minutes as a true record, signed by Cllr O'Neil

30 Minutes of Planning Meeting held 21st May 2014

Councillors resolved to accept the minutes as a true record, signed by Cllr O'Neil

31 Actions & Outcomes – Clerk

Actions still outstanding
303 – Cllr Parvin – MBC's out of hour's service & verge maintenance around the parish.

Signed _____

310 – Garden safari update from Cllr Clark – due to a clash of dates with other local events the safari is cancelled for this year.

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

Apologies received.

Information has been received about members' grants for 2014/15, confirming that each member now has only a total of £25,000 to allocate either as a community grant or for local highway projects or a combination of both.

33 Maidstone Borough Council - Leeds Ward Councillor, Peter Parvin

Apologies received.

The Conservatives with the help of a couple of Independent Councillors and abstention by the UKIP members are still running the Council with Annabelle Blackmore being the new leader of the Council. The Cabinet basically remains the same with one new person. Nothing has yet been done of major policy change but the number of houses proposed in the Local Plan is being again looked at.

Councillors would like to extend their congratulations to Cllr Parvin on his 80th birthday & 60th wedding anniversary

Clerk

34 Policing

34.1 Crime figures and Police report - PCSO Kirby

Kingswood - 30/05/14-04/06/14- Burglary - Lenham Road

Sutton Valence - Criminal damage 3, Burglary other than dwelling 1, Theft 2

Ulcombe - Criminal damage 1

Langley - Attempt burglary 1

Leeds - Burglary other than dwelling 2, Burglary 1

34.2 Information outlining locations for Police Contact Points has been received; there are none for this parish or ward

34.3 The area PCSO allocations have been reported; PCSO Richard Kirby will remain our PCSO and revert to his original area of Leeds, B&K, Sutton Valence & Langley.

34.4 PCSO Kirby advised the issue of posters with photos is being discussed within the CSU.

35 Finances – Clerk

35.1 Responsible Finance Officer's report, the following items were agreed:-

i) Payments were ratified and agreed

35.2 Bank reconciliation – April & May 2014 were approved and signed by Cllr O'Neil

Councillors agreed to move the Handyman item up the agenda as the two applicants were in attendance for interview. Cllrs Bennett and Lovell left the room and the meeting was closed at 8pm.

36 Handyman

The position of handyman has been advertised in the village news and there were two applicants, who have both been asked to carry out work on a trial basis.

Both applicants were interviewed by Councillors. Following discussion it was agreed that one applicant had more experience and a broader skill set.

Councillors' decision in light of the interview was to offer the contract to Mark Reynolds.

Clerk to notify the successful candidate

Clerk

Cllrs Bennett and Lovell rejoined the meeting at 8.35pm

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There was a brief recess for refreshments

Cllr O'Neil re-opened the meeting at 8.50pm

37

Neighbourhood Plan

MBC have responded to the draft Neighbourhood Plan with several points that will need to be addressed by the Steering Group, a meeting will be arranged at the conclusion of the public consultation when all comments will be considered.

Councillors have been made aware of a petition against the Neighbourhood Plan is at the post office.

38

Sports Field

38.1 The Clerk advised that the edges of the field had been flailed and recovered up to 2metres of previously lost ground to overgrown brambles and saplings. Cllr Lovell reported that the area is very quickly overgrowing again. The Clerk will contact Steven Waring to ask what should be done.

38.2 Councillors agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the handyman to carry out repairs at the sports field.

38.3 The Clerk will order a new rubbish bin for the sports field

Clerk
Clerk

Clerk

39

Highways

39.1 Programmed date for rural swathe cutting (900mm grass verge cut) for the Maidstone area is scheduled from Wednesday 11 June. Dates are subject to change due to weather and operational reasons, but this can be considered a good indication. Reports have already been received that this has been carried out.

39.2 KCC Has reviewed the need for double yellow lines near the school and said that they do not think there is enough of a problem as there are no reports of serious accidents at this location, but to contact the police if there are still concerns. Councilors requested the Clerk to write to the headteacher, Emma Hickling, and ask if a letter could be sent out to parents to take into consideration other road users when parking near the school.

39.3 There has been a request from a resident for dropped kerbs in Chestnut Drive, Cayser Avenue and Gravelly Bottom Road. The Clerk was requested to make further enquiries with KCC Highways.

39.4 It would appear that the new signs on the A20 re HGV's have not been erected correctly and will have to be changed.

39.5 KCC Highways had responded to the query about the large land drain in Pitt Road that was uncovered and potentially dangerous, that this was not within their remit. Cllr Tandy advised that this drain frequently overflowed and flooded Pitt Road, Councilors requested the Clerk to re-contact KCC Highways

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

40

Pensioners Outing 2014

The Clerk reported that bookings for the outing were disappointing this year with only 44 out of 52 seats booked, despite additional advertising.

Following discussion it was realised that there are no councillors available to attend the trip, this had been unnecessary in previous years.

41

Crop Spraying

Cllr Page reported that the tenant farmer on Leeds Castle land behind and to the east of Broomfield Road had been spraying crops in high wind, contrary to NFU guidance; this has caused damage to garden plants and the health of a neighbouring resident. Councillors agreed that the Clerk write to Victoria Wallace, Leeds Castle requesting that the farmer concerned abide by recognised practices which include not spraying crops during periods of windy weather.

Clerk

Cllr Page left the meeting at 9.35pm

42

Village Speed limits

42.1 Cllr Bennett has written to and received a response from KCC regarding enquiries into 20mph speed restrictions for the village of Kingswood. KCC state that there have been no speed-related incidents in the last

Signed _____

three years therefore there is no evidence of a safety problem which could be addressed by lowering the speed limit.

42.2 The Clerk has received an email from Inspector Gagan-Cook advising that Police “can enforce 20mph limits if Highways make the road markings and signage clear”. Cllr Bennett agreed to make further enquiries.

Cllr Bennett

43

Reports

43.1 Village Hall Meeting – 19/05- Cllr Mike O’Neill

43.2 Police Forum – 28/05 – Cllr Mike Lovell

43.3 Meeting with KCC Highways -21/05 - Clerk

43.4 JPG Meeting -28/05 - Clerk

44

Items for next Meeting’s Agenda

44.1 Facebook as part of PC website

45

Any Other Information

45.1 Mr Patrik Garten has expressed interest in becoming a parish councillor

45.2 Received a questionnaire for student Matthew Garvey on town planning

45.3 A letter of thanks for the donation has been received from Victim Support

45.4 An invitation to attend a Healthwatch seminar on 8th September has been received.

45.5 MBC advise that there continues to be problems with the new planning portal and this is creating delays with processing planning applications at this time.

45.6 A resident has reported foxes are potentially creating a problem around the village –a stop feeding the foxes article to be put in the Village News

45.7 KALC Councillors Conference – 19th July at Lenham.

45.8 Complaints have been received about an acrid burning smell in the village during the week of 09/06 believed to be coming from the Charlesford Avenue area. The Clerk is making enquiries of the Environmental Services department.

45.9 Kingswood Pre-School is holding their AGM on the 27/06 at 7.30 at Kingswood Primary School.

45.10 Chief Constable and Police Commissioner event – 9th July at West Malling.

Clerk

Cllr Lovell

Cllr Baker
Cllr Clark

Clerk

Cllrs Lovell
& O’Neil

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Parish Council Meetings

The next full Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 21st July 2014 at The Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood at 7:30pm.

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