



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 16th March 2015

Present:

Cllr Terry Baker (Chairman)
Cllr Patrik Garten
Cllr Peter Page

Cllr Tina Clark
Cllr Mike Lovell
Cllr Janet Tandy

Cllr Mike Darling
Cllr Mike O'Neill (8)

Cllr Jenny Whittle – KCC Councillor
PCSO Ryan Waring – Kent Police
PCSO Tom Maybank – Kent Police

Gail Gosden – Parish Clerk

There was one member of the public in attendance

Cllr Baker opened the meeting at 7.35pm

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr T Hoy

Min No

Action

264

Councillors Declarations (Regarding Agenda Items)

- 264.1 Lobbying
- 264.2 Personal Interest
- 264.3 Prejudicial Interest (Councillor to leave meeting table whilst such item is under discussion)

Cllr Mike O'Neill declared a personal interest in item 276 - Appointment of Assistant Clerk

Councillors agreed to move up two items on the agenda for the convenience of visiting speakers.

265

5 Policing

5.1 Crime figures and Police report –

15th February 2015 - 15th March 2015 - 1 crime reported - 16/02/2015 – Burglary Dwelling – Cayser Drive

2 Non-crime incidents were reported -04/03/2015 & 10/02/2015 – Nuisance Youths – Village Hall

There does not appear to be any crime trends in the surrounding area to be aware of, it all seem pretty quiet at the moment.

PCSO Waring apologised for not being able to make the Coffee Shop, he will endeavour to try and change his shift if there is sufficient cover to attend the next event on 4th April

PCSO's Waring and Maybank have been spending more time on patrol in Kingwood the past week or two following reports of nuisance youths and managed to speak to several youths in the village that were recognised from another area. They also noted a few suspicious looking vehicles whilst on patrol in Kingswood but they all checked out okay. No further incidents have been reported but they have continued paying passing

attention to this area on their travels.

PCSO Waring requested that the Parish Council advise parishioners to utilise the 101 telephone number for any concerns, this is not considered to be a waste of time but help the local officers distinguish patterns in local issues.

PCSO Waring advised that PCSO Tom Maybank would be taking over the Broomfield & Kingswood area as soon as he had completed his training and induction.

A smart phone Ap. Is to be introduced in April or May for reporting suspicious occurrences. He will forward further information when it is available

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

Councillors welcomed Cllr Whittle back to the parish following her maternity leave.

Cllr Whittle reported that despite many reports regarding a bypass or spur road no decisions had been forthcoming and currently there was no funding available to support the project. However she believed that with all the housing development on this side of Maidstone there is a real need for answers to the problem of HGV's and the increase flow of traffic on local roads.

Cllr Whittle will know about allocated spaces into primary education on 16th April.

KCC has made £1/2 billion savings in the past six years, but austerity will need to continue.

Cllr Whittle confirmed that she is happy to receive an application for support funding of the permissive footpath to the sports field.

Cllr Baker reported on the meeting held with KCC Highways last week and questioned their response to the problems of passing places on the single track roads not being maintained. Cllr Whittle agreed to contact Highways.

Cllr Baker reported that he had requested information on the cost of repairs to Broomfield Road in the last year and was told that £3985.60 + £225 was spent on drainage.

Councillor Whittle has confirmed her attendance at the APM on 16th May.

267 Approval of Minutes

267.1 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held 16th February 2015

267.2 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 16th February 2015

Cllr Garten requested an amendment to item 249.11 to include "MBC ward of Harrietsham & Lenham", the amendment was agreed and signed by the Chairman

267.3 Minutes of the Sports Field Meeting held 26th February 2015

267.4 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held 10th March 2015

The above minutes were all agreed as a true record and signed by Cllr Baker

268 Actions & Outcomes

Actions outstanding

Item 180.5 – Agenda item for next JPG meeting – no meeting scheduled at the moment.

Item 237.3 – Write to senior police officers re lack of action after promised initiatives – PCSO's attended PC Meeting

Item SF254.1 – Obtain solution for weighting goal nets – ongoing

Item SF254.3 – Obtain valuation of Portacabin –

Outcomes see A & O's report – retained on file

269 Finances

270.1 Responsible Finance Officer's report was read to Councillors and retained on file – the following items were agreed:-

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- (i) Payments were agreed and ratified
(ii) A £50 donation was agreed in memory of Bob Bowker
270.2 Bank reconciliation –February 2015 – was agreed and signed by Cllr Baker
270.3 Employee Pension Scheme – Cllr Hoy – has established that the Clerks job is eligible for auto enrolment for a workplace pension. However, according to the HMRC web page, the parish council should not start the process until the staging date, which in our case is 1st Jan 2017.

270 **Proposed Leeds Bypass**

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Eco Build Partnership UK, following an item at the last PC Meeting regarding the Leeds/Langley link road and Kingswood spur. Enclosed were a brochure and a map showing the companies' proposal for the route enabling the incorporation of Broomfield Park (a proposal for a development of a Rural Service Centre, affordable homes, sheltered housing, care home and private housing – approx. 800 new homes)

There has been interest from neighbouring parishes in having a combined meeting to discuss the bypass. Councillors requested the Clerk to book the Village Hall for 7.30pm, Monday 27th April and invite all surrounding affected parishes to attend.

Clerk

271 **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Baker reported that the meeting with MBC on Friday 13th March went well and apart from a couple of minor alterations to some wording on the proposal they are happy to start their part of the consultation process, with a view to a referendum being held in September 2015.

272 **Village Speed Restrictions**

Cllr Page reported that enquiries with various organisations including KCC confirmed that it was unlikely that approval would be given to change the village speed limits to 20mph unless there was a proof of need via statistics on road traffic accidents.

273 **Sports Field**

Cllr Lovell advised that two companies were doing a site visit to the Sports Field next week to advise on additional equipment

274 **Emergency Planning**

Cllr Clark supplied Councillors with an information pack which showed the aims and objectives of creating a Community Emergency Plan. Following discussion Councillors agreed that a questionnaire should be created and handed out to parishioners at the APM on 16th May, 2015 to ascertain the needs of the community.

275 **Clerks Work Station Risk Assessment**

Cllr Darling had supplied a kneeling stool for the Clerk to trial, the Clerk advised councillors that she had found it very comfortable and now used it in preference to an ordinary office chair. Councillors asked the clerk to obtain costs of a kneeling chair with a view to purchase.

276 **Assistant Clerk**

Due to the sensitive nature of this item the meeting was closed to members of the public whilst discussions took place.

The Meeting was closed at 9.35pm and was re-opened at 9.50pm

The Chairman announced that the position of Assistant to the Parish Clerk would be offered to Ms Stephanie Rossiter.
The Clerk was asked to inform the candidates accordingly.

Clerk

277 **Village Enhancement**

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Cllr O'Neill reported that planters and soil have now been delivered, the logistics of getting them into place filled with soil and water would have been a real problem, however, many thanks to the Edmeds who have come to the rescue and have arranged to move the planters into place with a forklift.

Gina Tweddell has agreed to help with the planters and grass cutting around the village in the immediate future.

Cllr O'Neill, Clerk and Gina Tweddell will attend at Rumwood's Nursery on Thursday to start ordering the planting.

278 Annual Parish Meeting

The APM has been booked for Saturday 16th May, at 2pm.

The Clerk has sent out invitations to Clubs and Societies but has not had much response as yet.

279 Permissive Footpath to Sports Field

The Clerk reported that the owner of the property adjacent to the proposed footpath has written to the Clerk requesting that consideration is given to the footpath having a 2metre margin away from the new fence line. It was understood the woodland owner would only consider the footpath on the basis of minimal take up of his land, also that KCC required there to be a clear view of the footpath that would only occur in the agreed location. Councillors determined that the increase cost to do this was not an option. Clerk to notify the owner. Cllr Baker is still working on obtaining quotes for the clearance work.

Clerk

280 Village Handyman

The Clerk reported to councillors the news of the sudden death of our village handyman. Councillors wished to extend their condolences to the families.

The PC has outstanding payments due, but has never received invoices for work carried out.

281 Reports

281.1 KALC Committee meeting – 18/02/15 – Cllr O'Neill commented that Neighbourhood Plans and the emerging Local Plan are still being hotly disputed by KALC on behalf of the parishes.

All reports previously circulated and retained on file.

282 Any Other Information

282.1 The Pensioners Outing has been booked for the 30th June to the Brick Lane Theatre. A £15 contribution will be required from applicants but the coach, theatre and afternoon tea are all included. Cllr Clark has agreed to attend on behalf of Councillors.

282.2 Letter has been received acknowledging receipt of donation in memory of Peter Parvin.

282.3 Councillors recently completed a questionnaire on Members Allowance- there is now going to be a workshop on Thursday 19/03 for approximately 1 hour from 1pm which is free for any member to attend.

282.4 Correspondence between Cllr O'Neil and members of the Rural Transport Committee indicate that KCC and Arriva are no longer prepared to continue with this group on the basis that there are no other such groups anywhere else in Kent. The group is continuing to oppose the proposal.

282.5 Road closures for this parish include – Broomfield Road 27-31/03/2015 & Chartway Street 01-10/04/2015.

282.6 The Clerk has contacted the various clubs and societies asking if they would be interested in participating in the APM this year, so far she has only received negative replies apart from the Sutton Valence Gardeners Association.

282.7 A letter has been received from DTG & Dad Ltd requesting that their company be included in "all future tenders for maintenance, ground clearance, laying of footpaths and the like".

282.8 The Clerk has received confirmation that the Pink Ribbon Walk from Leeds Castle will once again take place on the 20th June. It will not affect this parish as the walkers will use the footpaths around the parish and not come through the villages, other than crossing Broomfield Road to access two parts of a ProW.

282.9 The next Police and Parishes Forum meeting will be held on Thursday May 21st at Lenham.

282.10 The funeral of Bob Bowker (previously councillor and chairman at Broomfield & Kingswood Parish

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Council) will take place at St Margaret's Church, Broomfield on Friday 20th at 11.30am. Cllr Hoy and the Clerk will be attending on behalf of the Parish Council.

282.11 John Edwards, Street Scene Officer, Environmental Services Section, MBC, will visit Kingswood on Wednesday 18th March for a site visit regarding the placement of a litter bin in Charlesford Avenue.

282.12 All nomination papers for the Parish Council election on 7th May have to be submitted by the Clerk to MBC by 4pm before 9th April. However the Clerk has to make an appointment to submit the papers. The election packs have not yet been received.

282.13 The KCC Warden and MBC Environmental health will be in Kingswood this week to mark the pavements and place stickers warning of prosecution for anyone found allowing their dogs to foul and not clearing up after them.

282.14 Cllr Baker announced that whilst he intends to stand as a parish councillor at the upcoming elections, it is his intention, after more than three years to stand down as Chairman.

283

Items for next Meeting's Agenda

No items at this time

284

Parish Council Meetings

The next full Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th April 2015 at The Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood at 7:30pm.

There was no further business; Councillor Baker closed the meeting at 10.35pm

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DRAFT