



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 November 2015

Present:

Cllr Terry Baker (Chairman)
Cllr Tom Hoy
Cllr Peter Page

Cllr Tina Clark
Cllr Mike O'Neill
Cllr Janet Tandy

Cllr Annette Friend
Cllr Mike Lovell

(8)

Gail Gosden – Parish Clerk
PCSO Thomas Maybank

There was one member of the public in attendance

Cllr Baker opened the meeting at 7.40pm

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Mike Darling – Work commitments
Cllr Jenny Whittle – Work commitments

Min No

Action

175

Councillors Declarations (Regarding Agenda Items)

- 140.1 Lobbying
- 140.2 Personal Interest
- 140.3 Prejudicial Interest (Councillor to leave meeting table whilst such item is under discussion)

There were no declarations

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Approval of Minutes

- 176.1 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held 19th October 2015
- 176.2 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 19th October 2015
- 176.3 Minutes of the Staff Committee Meeting held 4th November 2015
- 176.4 Minutes of the Sports Field Committee Meeting held 4th November 2015
- 176.5 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 4th November 2015

Councillors agreed unanimously that the minutes were a true record of their meetings and they were signed by Cllr Baker

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Councillors agreed to move the Police item to the next point on the agenda

Policing

Crime figures and Police report – PCSO Tom Maybank

Signed _____

19th October to 16th November 2015

4 Crimes reported: 6/11/2015- 2 x Burglaries- Cayser Drive; 3/11/2015- Theft of vehicle- Gravelly Bottom Road; 20/10/2015- Theft from vehicle- Cayser Drive; 1 case of Anti-Social Behaviour reported - 11/11/2015- Nuisance- Cayser Drive

Leeds - 1x Criminal Damage (Under £5000), No ASB nor is there anything else of note.

Langley - No crime of note, 1x Nuisance

Ulcombe - No crime, No ASB nor is there anything else of note.

PCSO Maybank reported that there is a general rise in burglaries at the moment across the county. That he is aware of the ongoing problems being caused at the sports field with youths smoking and drinking and has been ensuring a police presence in the area whenever possible. He advised that there had been no issues reported during the Halloween and firework period.

Recently Operation Innovate had taken place in the parish and many youths were stopped and searched, alcohol was taken from youths under 18 and drugs were found.

Councillors advised that it is their intention to request from CSU the loan of a CCTV camera, with a view to purchase, PCSO Maybank confirmed he would support the application and speak with the officer in charge. Cllr Baker asked if 'No Cold Caller' stickers were available that could be inserted into the next edition of the Parish News. PCSO Maybank said he would enquire.

Cllr Friend advised that she had received some very positive feedback about the effectiveness of a police presence in the parish recently. Councillors agreed and thanked PCSO Maybank for all the work he is putting into our parish.

PCSO
Maybank

178 Actions & Outcomes

Two items outstanding:- 144: Letter re uncapped well; Attend KALC AGM – not due until 21/11

179 Kent County Council - County Councillor - Maidstone Rural East - Jenny Whittle

Apologies received; the following report was forwarded.

The big issue for KCC at present is the ongoing financial challenge. KCC are currently consulting on the 2016/17 budget at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/have-your-say/budget-consultation>. It would be great if BKPC gave their view.

Emma Hickling has kindly agreed to be interviewed by Cllr Whittle and other councillors as part of the KCC Select Committee on social mobility in grammar schools. This will take place sometime in the New Year.

Councillors requested the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Cllr Whittle to discuss the potential oversubscription of pupils anticipated at Kingswood Primary School for September 2016.

180 Maidstone Borough Council – Ward Councillor - Gill Fort

No apologies received and no report.

181 Finances

7.1 Responsible Finance Officer's report was read to councillors, payments were ratified and agreed, report retained on file.

7.2 Bank reconciliation – October 2015 was checked, agreed and signed by Cllr Hoy.

7.3 Precept Requirement 2016/17 – application form not yet received from MBC. The Precept was discussed at a recent F & GP meeting the final decision will be taken in January.

7.4 The updated insurance schedules have been received which include the changes of equipment at the Sports Field.

7.5 The Parish Council is required to enroll their eligible employees in a qualifying pension scheme by April 2017 at the latest. KALC are working towards enabling an encompassing scheme to be available to Parish Councils.

Signed _____

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| 182 | <p>Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Baker reported that the MBC public consultation was in progress and would finish on 18th December. We are awaiting the outcome of the consultation.</p> | |
| 183 | <p>Sports Field</p> <p>Following the recent Sports Field committee meeting it was agreed to request funding to the value of £30,000 for improvements to the sports field from the 2016/17 Precept, this included maintenance and additional play equipment.</p> <p>The Clerk has telephoned and written to Sovereign Play Systems Ltd about the safety chains to the basket swing that were not connected at installation, concern was also expressed on the two sets of musical instruments that have already had to have repairs made to them. To date no reply has been received. Councillors requested that the Clerk write again to Head Office and the Directors of the company by recorded delivery expressing disappointment in the lack of after sales service for issues of real concern that are considered to be potential health and safety issues.</p> | Clerk |
| 184 | <p>Permissive Footpath to Sports Field</p> <p>The Permissive Footpath Licence has been drafted and today Mr Morgan has agreed the final draft. The Clerk has forwarded three copies of the agreement to be signed and returned. Once the PRoW officer has signed and dated the agreement, hopefully by the end of the month, we are free to commence work. Stuart Wilson has confirmed his availability to start work in December. MBC has recommended that the Parish Council seek advice from the Kent Woodland Trust before commencing work on the footpath. Councillors requested the Clerk to contact the KWT as recommended.</p> | Clerk |
| 185 | <p>Pedestrian Crossing</p> <p>Cllr Friend had informed councillors of the concerns of parents with young children attending the pre-school at the village hall and the difficulties and potential dangers in crossing Gravelly Bottom Road safely, due to the cars parked by parents from the primary school. She has made enquiries at KCC regarding the possibility of a pedestrian crossing but has been informed that as there have been no serious accidents or fatalities KCC will not even consider the implementation of a crossing. Following discussion it was agreed that the parish council will seek a meeting with Jenny Whittle, KCC, to see if there are any alternative options.</p> | Clerk |
| 186 | <p>Kingswood Pre-School</p> <p>Cllr Friend had brought to Councillor's attention that the pre-school was struggling financially, in part due to only being able to operate four mornings a week. Following discussions with the Village Hall committee and the 'Drop In' it has been agreed that the pre-school could from January use the hall for five mornings a week, term time. However the pre-school committee would need to demonstrate that the pre-school is viable by providing a business plan. It was agreed to ask the pre-school to meet with representatives of the parish council and village hall committee to establish the best way forward. Cllr Hoy would discuss with the pre-school treasurer a business plan and the Clerk would arrange a meeting for all concerned as soon as possible.</p> | Cllr Hoy & Clerk |
| 187 | <p>Tall Trees Leased Area</p> <p>The tenants have been advised of the recent valuation figure and have responded that they think the valuation is "excessive and unrealistic". Mr Coles, who carried out the valuation on behalf of the parish council is prepared to act as negotiator and has offered to write to the tenants outlining the details behind the valuation. Councillors agreed that this would be the most appropriate course of action and requested the Clerk to confirm this with Mr Coles.</p> | Clerk |
| 188 | <p>Queen's Birthday Celebrations</p> <p>The Primary school is having a celebration for this event but had planned for it to be in house, however if there are volunteers to help extend this to the community the Head teacher Darren Waters is more than happy to discuss this. Following discussion councillors concluded that there did not appear to be sufficient interest from the community to proceed with this project.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signed _____</p> | |

189

CCTV Costs & Installation

Max Harris - Wireless CCTV Ltd, has arranged to meet the Clerk on Thursday 26th November at 10am. Cllr Baker suggested that this meeting is premature at this time and recommended postponing it, until such time as the PC has trialed the CSU CCTV system, to enable a better understanding of what is required.

PSR Lighting is able to install the CCTV column within 2-3 weeks. The Clerk has arranged for the pole to be installed.

Clerk

190

Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that KALC have arranged another opportunity to purchase defibrillators in January 2016. There are four different defibrillator systems available for purchase; the Clerk recommended that as Cllr Clark was attending the KALC AGM on 21/11 where there would be more information on individual systems available that councillors seek her recommendation thereafter. This was agreed by all.

Cllr Clark

191

Parish Council Meeting December 21st 2015

Councillors discussed and concluded unanimously to cancel the PC meeting scheduled for the 21st December.

192

Reports

192.1 Meeting with Kingswood Pre-School – 9/11/2015 – Clerk

Reports are previously circulated to councillors and retained on file.

193

Any Other Information

193.1 Letter of thanks from the Scout Group for the scout sign, now erected at the Sports Field.

193.2 By popular request the Pensioners outing on Tuesday 5th July, 2016 is returning to the Brick Lane Theatre. There are currently only 37 tickets available so a 40 seater coach has been booked.

193.3 The Clerk was informed at the recent Finance Conference of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. The overall view was that the implementation of this code will cost, in hours, due to the extra bureaucracy this will involve for the Clerk

193.4 Information has been received regarding 'Stronger Local Democracy' – the opportunity for local councils to take on services currently provided by large authorities a move to devolution of services. The Clerk recommends this is an agenda item for the next meeting.*

194

Items for next Meeting's Agenda

1. Village Hall committee request for donation towards refurbishment of lighting.
2. Devolution of local services to Parish Councils*

195

Parish Council Meetings

The next full Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 18TH January 2016 at The Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood at 7.30pm.

There was no further business, Cllr Baker closed the meeting at 10.00pm

Signed _____