



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 17th February 2014

Present:

Cllr Terry Baker (Chairman)
Cllr Mike Darling
Cllr Peter Page

Cllr Keith Bennett*
Cllr Mike Lovell
Cllr Janet Tandy

Cllr Tina Clarke
Cllr Mike O'Neill
(8)

Mrs G Gosden – Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Peter Forster – Committee member

There was one member of the public present.

Cllr Baker opened the meeting at 19.33pm

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Jenny Whittle – KCC - Other Commitments
Cllr Peter Parvin – MBC – Other Commitments

Min No

Action

241

Co-option of Parish Councillor

Notification has been received from the Registration Officer at MBC that a letter with 10 signatures has not been received requesting an election following the resignation of Paul Beaney, therefore the Parish Council can fill the vacancy by co-option.

*Keith Bennett has indicated his interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and fulfils the required criteria to enable him to be co-opted. Cllr Baker proposed that Keith Bennett is co-opted, seconded by Cllr Lovell and agreed unanimously. Cllr Bennett then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed and signed by the Chairman who then welcomed Cllr Bennett to the Parish Council.

242

Councillors Declarations (Regarding Agenda Items)

Cllr Bennett – Declared a personal interest in item 255 – Handyman Job Specification

243

Minutes of PC Meeting held 20th January 2014

Councillors resolved to accept these minutes as a true record, signed by Cllr Baker

244

Minutes of Planning Meeting held 20th January 2014

Councillors resolved to accept these minutes as a true record, signed by Cllr Baker

245

Actions & Outcomes

Two items are outstanding from last month:-

220.3 Contact MBC re grant application for play equipment

224 Compile welcome letter for new residents

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246

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

Apologies received. Cllr Whittle thanked the PC for the invitation to the APM on Saturday 17th May and will be attending.

Cllr Whittle reported that she is chasing the installation of the HGV signs at Broomfield Road. She has also received a complaint of potholes on Broomfield Road and is assisting with this resident's claim.

Last Thursday KCC agreed its £860m budget, which involved having to make £91m savings and a 1.99% council tax rise (that will generate £10m). It was agreed to preserve socially necessary bus routes (those which require significant subsidy but are considered vital, including the bus service that goes through Ulcombe and Kingswood to Maidstone).

The Freedom Pass is also being scaled back – it was and remains the most generous scheme of its kind in the country outside London – so that 11-16 year olds residing in Kent and attending Kent schools will receive a bus pass from 6.00am-7.00pm, Monday-Friday, all year round except August, at a cost of £200 (£100 for children on Free School Meals and free for young carers and children in care). The pass was previously £100 and operated 24/7 all year round, but the £14m subsidy it cost is no longer affordable. We believe most parents' concerns will be met with school travel being covered by the new arrangements.

Councillors expressed concern that the changes to the bus timetable would now involve students travelling for almost 1 ½ hours each way to school and requested the Clerk to write to Cllr Whittle and Hugh Robertson MP of these concerns

Clerk

247

Maidstone Borough Council - Leeds Ward Councillor, Peter Parvin

Apologies received. Cllrs Parvin has responded to a letter sent by the Clerk asking for his support of this Parish Council if and when there is a vote at MBC Planning on the proposed development at J8; Cllr Parvin felt that he could not say one way or the other at present as he didn't want to be seen as having predetermined the matter before it comes to any vote. However neither sites have been accepted as suitable to be included in the Maidstone Development Plan. In fact there are no sites which have been accepted that will adversely affect this parish. It therefore seems that the application looks likely to be refused.. The Maidstone plan will be going out for consultation from 21st March. Leeds Parish is going to pay a considerable sum to get a Special Constable for the Parish in the hope that it would deal with H.G.V's. Cllr Parvin has also heard that the B2163 may now not be reopened until July.

248

Policing

Crime figures and Police report - PCSO Kirby
Kingswood - 10/02/14- Burglary - Cayser Drive, 08-10/02/14 - Theft From Motor Vehicle - Gravelly Bottom Road, 28-29/01/14 - Criminal Damage - Lenham Road,
20-21/01/14 - Theft from Motor Vehicle - Thorneycroft Close, 20-21/01/14 - Theft from Motor Vehicle - Charlesford Avenue.

Sutton Valence - Theft 2, Theft from Motor Vehicle 2, Burglary 1, Attempt Burglary 1

Ulcombe -Theft 1, Criminal Damage 1

Langley - Criminal Damage 2

PCSO Kirby reported that Insp Rachel McNeil is replacing Inspector Maxine Martin with immediate effect. Councillors asked if they could expect help with traffic control at Broomfield Road when Chegworth Road is closed for 3 days from the 24th February. PCSO Kirby would make enquiries on our behalf.

PCSO Kirby

Mike Evans, NHW Co-ordinator reported that vehicles across Sevenoaks and Swanley had tamper proof screws fitted to their number plates as part of a crime prevention initiative by local PCSOs, the screws help securely attach registration plates to vehicles to make it as difficult as possible for thieves to target the plates. Councillors asked PCSO Kirby if he could arrange such an event to happen during the APM on 17th May to include pedal bike marking. PCSO Kirby agreed to make enquiries and will be able to attend the APM

PCSO Kirby

249

Finances

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- 249.1 Responsible Finance Officer's report was read to Councillors and payments were agreed
- 249.2 Bank reconciliation for January 2014 was agreed and signed by Cllr Baker
- 249.3 Parish Service Scheme agreements for 2013/14 and 2014/15 were agreed and signed by Cllr Baker.

250 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Baker reported that discussions were still ongoing with MBC regarding Affordable Housing as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. Andy Jarret from Designscape has written to MBC in this regard and a reply is awaited.

251 Weather Issues

The Clerk has received several phone calls and emails asking the Parish Council to contact the power suppliers to complain about the volume of power cuts experienced in recent weeks. Councillors agreed unanimously that whilst agreeing there had been a lot of blackouts the circumstances were exceptional and Councillors felt that in the circumstances everything that could be done had been done.

252 Review of Polling Districts

The Clerk advised that Councillors are given the opportunity to review polling facilities for the parish. At this time MBC had no plans to change from the existing arrangements of using the Village Hall. Councillors agreed that no other arrangements were required at this time.

253 Sports Field

- 253.1 Councillors have requested a meeting with the Sports Field Users – Scouts & Maidstone Mavericks, the Clerk has arranged a meeting for Thursday 6th March.
 - 253.2 Table Tennis equipment- The Clerk had obtained a response from Swale Council saying they were very happy with the tables they had installed. The Clerk was requested to chase up a response from the youth club who were going to speak with young people to see if they would use such equipment.
 - 253.3 Maintenance 2014/15 – The Clerk advised that she had received a quote from Paul Waring for work at the Sports Field for the next year, the increases were minimal. Councillors expressed their satisfaction with the work carried out and agreed unanimously to renew Paul Waring's contract. It has also been suggested by the contractor that the edge of the field needed to be treated for the bramble overgrowth, Councillors agreed that this did need to be done but requested the Clerk obtain an estimate for the work.
- Peter Forster asked the Clerk to see if there is a TPO on woodland on Lenham Road adjacent to the Stumps, due to the damage to trees and the grass verge of the sports field by building works.
- Cllr Lovell reported that the new bin was being well used and recommended that an additional one was installed as per the initial proposal. Councillors agreed unanimously to install another bin and purchase a lid for the existing bin if possible.

Cllrs Baker,
Lovell & O'Neill

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

254 Joint Parishes Group

The JPG propose to have another meeting of parishes once the draft Development Plan is published for public consultation on 21st March.

255 Handyman job specification

Cllr Baker had circulated a proposed job specification to all councillors for their approval. Councillors agreed that the post will be advertised in the next edition of the village news. The Clerk informed councillors she has already received two applications.

256 Twinning Group

Cllr Clark reported that the twinning group had agreed to do a Garden Safari, on Sunday 20th July 2014, as a fund raising event for the Primary School with the permission of the Head Teacher. This would include a scarecrow competition, children's tabletop garden competition and parishioners opening their gardens. Afternoon tea will take place at the school. Cllr Clark proposed the parish council support this initiative by helping with the supply of stationary for advertising etc., Councillors agreed unanimously to support this activity.

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257	Garden Safari See item 256 above	
258	MBC Planning Changes The Clerk reported that she had completed the questionnaire and written to MBC advising of the difficulties this parish council will have if planning applications are dealt with entirely electronically, due to the lack of amenities available to the parish council to display applications	
259	Annual Parish Meeting 2014 The Clerk reported that invitations have been sent out to all clubs and societies, many of whom have responded already and welcomed the change to a Saturday.	
260	Welcome Pack for new residents The clerk apologized that she had not been able to commence the draft letter of welcome discussed at the previous meeting.	
261	Highways The Clerk advised that responses from councillors regarding the size and location of a road signs in Chegworth Road had been very mixed. Councillors expressed concern regarding the location and visibility of the sign, which was to advise the drivers of HGV's of the unsuitability of Chegworth Road as the proposed sign would be erected where many large vehicles park therefore obscuring the sign and preventing using the layby as a turning point, but agreed unanimously that something should be done and complied with Ulcombe PC's proposal. Clerk to notify Kent Highways of their conclusions.	Clerk
262	Pensioners Outing 2014 The Clerk reported that whilst she had made many enquiries from various coach companies of recommended days out the requirements of the Pensioners were precluding many of the obvious choices or making the trip too expensive. The Clerk would continue to make enquiries.	Clerk
263	Peter Pease Close Cllr Baker and the Clerk reported on a meeting held with a resident of PPC due to the difficulties both Orbit Housing Association and MBC were creating which was preventing the selling a shared ownership property.	
264	Reports Rural Transport Forum – Cllr Mike O'Neill had attended a meeting today (17th February) and reported on the changes to the Kingswood bus services. Councillors expressed concern about the lack of notice that the No.59 would now leave Kingswood at 07.06am and requested the Clerk to contact Arriva to ascertain if schools had been notified of the changes. Arriva now have an app., available to advise passengers of delays and cancellations of services. A new location for the quarterly RTF meetings is required. Cllr O'Neill will forward a full written report.	Clerk
265	Items for next Meeting's Agenda Dog Warden – April 2014	Clerk
266	Any Other Information 266.1 Speedwatch seminar 14 th April 6 – 9.30pm, no one available to attend 266.2 DCLG have announced that they have not determined principles for local precepting authorities for	

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2014 /15, but are putting on notice that they are prepared, if necessary, to apply the referendum thresholds to larger town and parish councils from 2015/16 onwards to provide protection for local taxpayers and extend the principle of direct democracy.

266.3 Mr Luca Leonardi has been granted a Street Trading licence to sell 'wood-fired pizzas' from his mobile pizza van in the car park of the Kingswood Village Shop, for up to 12 trading days, Saturday's only between 4-9pm.

266.4 Mr Rick Street has forwarded his CV and declared his interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

266.5 The Green and Blue Spaces Provision announced by Maidstone Borough Council is also to be questioned by the Joint Parishes Group

266.6 Kent Highways are carrying out carriageway repairs in Chegworth Road from 24th-26th February between the hours of 9.30am – 3.00pm. Gravelly Bottom Road is also scheduled for patching work to be carried out ASAP, the date will be notified when confirmed; the repairs are with a view to resurfacing the entire length of GBR from May 2014. The engineer was advised of the problems of running water in GBR from a gully near Saddlers.

266.7 MBC has made the following decisions regarding their Draft Local Plan Spatial Strategy:-

- (i) Their assessment that there is a need for 19,600 dwelling in the borough between 2011 and 2031.
- (ii) There is identified potential for 17,100 dwellings subject to the housing site allocations results due in February 2014.
- (iii) There is a need for 37 hectares for office, industry and warehousing between 2011 and 2013.

266.8 There is a proposal by NALC for the return of a system to provide a percentage of the Business (Non-Domestic) Rates to Town and Parish Councils to be used for the benefit of economic growth in the locality.

267

Parish Council Meetings

The next full Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 17th March 2014 at The Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood at 7:30pm.

There was no further business, Councillor Baker closed the meeting at 10.45pm

Signed _____