



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 20th April 2015

Present:

Cllr Tina Clark
Cllr Tom Hoy
Cllr Janet Tandy

Cllr Mike Darling
Cllr Mike Lovell

Cllr Patrik Garten
Cllr Mike O'Neill (Vice- Chairman)
(7)

KCC Warden – Dawn Riach-Brown

Gail Gosden – Parish Clerk

There were two members of the public in attendance

KCC Warden

Dawn Riach-Brown extended her thanks to councillors for their support during the recent enquiry into cuts with the Warden department, no jobs had been lost but changes had been made which meant the area she covered has significantly increased to include Tonbridge & Malling.

The issue of dog fouling is becoming a major problem and the wardens were going into schools with the Dogs Trust to raise awareness. Councillors advised that although the pavement stencils were a good idea it would appear that it has made no difference to inconsiderate owners as the fouling on footpaths has not improved.

Dawn offered support and assistance to Cllr Clark who is endeavouring to create an emergency plan for the parish.

*Parish Charter

Cllr John Perry, Staplehurst and Borough Councillor and MBC Cabinet Member attended the meeting to supply information regarding the proposed and updated Parish Charter, which is a proposal on working relationships between the Borough and Parishes.

Cllr Perry spoke about the need to improve the relationship between the borough and parish councils that the relationship should be collaborative and anticipates that the new charter will be a vehicle towards greater co-operation. Cllr Perry agreed that there were many concerns that had been raised by Parish Councils that needed urgently addressing such as double taxation since the removal of the Concurrent Functions Grant and aimed to have improved funding through the Parish Service scheme which should include administration costs. There was also a need to address the costs of devolved powers to Parish Council.

Currently the Parish Charter did not incorporate KCC, but this would be reviewed at a later date.

Councillors offered their support for the proposed charter and thanked Cllr Perry for giving his time to enable them to discuss this.

Cllr O'Neill opened the meeting at 8.05pm

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr T Baker – family commitments
Cllr P Page – work commitments

Min No

Action

Signed _____

293 Councillors Declarations (Regarding Agenda Items)

- 293.1 Lobbying
- 293.2 Personal Interest
- 293.3 Prejudicial Interest (Councillor to leave meeting table whilst such item is under discussion)

There were no declarations

294 Approval of Minutes

- 294.1 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held 16th March 2015
- 294.2 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 16th March 2015
- 294.3 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held 7th April 2015

The above minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by Cllr O'Neill

295 Actions & Outcomes

Item SF254.1 – Solution for goal net weighting still not resolved.

Cllr Lovell &
Clerk

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

No report received.

297 Policing

- 297.1 Crime figures and Police report – No report received

298 Finances

- 298.1 Responsible Finance Officer's report was read to councillors the following was agreed:-
 - i) Payments were agreed
 - ii) To ascertain the cost of a Leeds and Kingswood Scout sign for the sports field
 - iii) To write to the executors of Mark Reynolds estate to determine a full and final payment of unpaid work carried out on behalf of the parish council
- 298.2 Bank reconciliation – March 2015 – was agreed and signed by Cllr O'Neill
- 298.3 The Notice of External Audit will be published and displayed from 24th April 2015.

Clerk
Clerk

299 Assistant to the Parish Clerk

Assistant did not attend the meeting and no apologies were received.

300 Proposed Leeds Bypass

The meeting of local parish councillors has been arranged for Monday 27th April at 7.30pm at Kingswood Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood for an informal discussion regarding the bypass proposals for Leeds and Langley, the following parishes are sending representatives, East Sutton, Sutton Valence, Langley, Leeds & Otham, Cllrs Paul Carter, Jenny Whittle & Gary Cooke, with Tim Read, KCC's Head of Transportation have been invited and will also be attending.

301 Code of Conduct – Proposal to remove 3 month rule

It is recommended by MBC that the Code of Conduct three month rule is revoked. The rule requires that any complaint regarding Borough or Parish Councillors is received within 3 months of an incident; there is no discretion to change this currently.

Signed _____

Following discussion the majority of Councillors concluded that the rule should not be revoked but additional clauses added which allowed for discretion dependent on circumstances is included.

Clerk

302 Parish Charter

*Item by Cllr Perry prior to the meeting refers.

Clerk was asked to confirm Councilors support for the Charter to Cllr Perry, with their thanks

Clerk

303 Neighbourhood Plan

Currently there was nothing new to report.

304 Village Speed Restrictions

Cllr Page had forwarded his apologies for absence, it was agreed to carry over this item to the next PC Meeting

Clerk

305 Sports Field

305.1 – To determine the sale of the Portacabin

Cllr Baker has received an offer of £500 for the purchase of the Portacabin, Councillors agreed unanimously to sell the cabin, but request that the person purchasing it deals with disconnecting the electricity as part of the arrangement if possible.

Cllr Baker & Clerk

305.2 – To determine the extension of the play area

The Clerk has obtained the costs for additional fencing for the play area extension to match existing x 24m =£2133.01 + powder coating - £318.74 = Total £2,441.75 + Vat. Installation costs = £1,520.00

305.3 – To determine the purchase of additional play equipment

Quotes have been received from Sovereign & Playdale

Due to time constraints it was agreed to arrange a Sports Field Committee meeting at the earliest opportunity

Clerk

305.4 – Other information

The notice has fallen off the height bar at the entrance to the Sports Field; the Clerk has asked Tom Tweddell if he will replace it.

306 Emergency Planning

Cllr Clark reported that she is currently organizing a display of information for the APM to obtain feedback from parishioners. Cllr Clark will also be attending a Village Hall Committee Meeting to discuss the use of the village hall for the purposes of emergency planning.

307 APM

The response from Clubs and societies is poor; to date we have Sutton Valence Gardeners, NHW, Kingswood Church, Art Class, Twinning Group, Dog Training Club, Cynaphobia Group, Choir and Walkie – Talkies. Kent Karate and Three Suttons helpline wishes to have tables but will have no-one present. The latest information on the Neighbourhood Plan will be on display.

308 Parish Council Meeting for May

Councillors unanimously agreed that there should be a brief PC meeting following the APM on 16th May, to deal with any urgent business, therefore not requiring a PC Meeting on the Monday 18th May.

Signed _____

309

Permissive Footpath to Sports Field

309.1 To consider quotes for work received for clearance and laying footpath

Three quotes have been received.

309.2 – Other information

The neighbouring landowner requested the PC consider moving over the footpath to protect their fence line, the Clerk approached Mr Morgan and he is prepared to allow the footpath to move 0.6m from the fence line and make the footpath 1.6m wide rather than the original proposal of 2m.

However the landowner was grateful for the offer but had advised Councillors that this would not resolve the problems previously experienced and would be contacting Mr Morgan directly to discuss this.

Councillors expressed concern that any change in the position of the path from what had already been agreed would incur increased costs, but would wait until Ms Parker had spoken to Mr Morgan before finally making a decision.

310

Reports

310.1 Annual Parish Conference – Saturday 21st March – Cllr O’Neill

310.2 Village Hall Committee meeting – Monday 30th March - Cllr O’Neill

310.3 East of Maidstone Rural Transport Group – Monday 13th April – Cllr O’Neill

Reports circulated to Councilors prior to the meeting; retained on file

311

Any Other Information

311.1 Annual Clerks Conference – Wednesday 17th June.

311.2 Assistant Clerk will be doing website training on Wednesday 29th April

311.3 Heart of Kent Hospice is requesting a donation towards the cost of a Hospice mini-bus that will help patients with medical appointments. The hospice has helped 20 Broomfield & Kingswood residents in the last 3 years.

311.4 A complaint has been registered with the Parish Council regarding the condition of a property in Cayser Drive and despite reporting this to MBC planning department no action has been taken to date.

311.5 The Inquiry regarding the appeal by Gallagher Property Ltd., for the Waterside Park Development at Junction 8 near the M20 is being held at Sessions House, Maidstone on 6-8 May, 12-14 May & 18 – 21 May. JPG are requesting as many people to attend as possible

311.6 The Clerk has clarified via the Electoral Commission that despite MBC not advertising a ‘Notice of Election’ in this parish as is normally required, this will not affect the legality of any election.

311.7 MBC has now confirmed there are only seven candidates standing for election to the Parish Council, therefore the candidates stand unopposed and are therefore duly elected.

311.8 Although no formal notification has been received the Clerk has ascertained that the candidates for the Leeds, Broomfield & Kingswood Ward are:- Georgia Dallas – Liberal Democrat, Gillian Fort – Conservative, Darrel McGuirk - Labour and Daniel Williams – UKIP.

311.9 Kent Highways have provided a Roadside Drainage Maintenance Schedule for 2015/16 (circulated to councillors) in which most drains are dealt with on a Targeted Cleaning arrangement which means – “‘Targeted Cleansing’ basically means that KCC will clean drainage in these roads reactively in response to enquiries and reports of flooding or visibly blocked drains. These will then be inspected and cleansing arranged as appropriate. It will be prioritised at sites where there is a risk to road safety or homes.” The more major routes in the parish will be done annually.

Clerk

Clerk
Clerk

312

Items for next Meeting’s Agenda

313

i) Village Speed Restrictions – Cllr Page

Signed _____

Parish Council Meetings

The next full Meeting of the Parish Council will be held The Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday 16th May 2015 at The Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood at 2.00pm.

There was no further business; Cllr O'Neill closed the meeting at 10.30pm

Signed _____

DRAFT