



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 21st July 2014

Present:

Cllr Terry Baker
Cllr Mike Darling
Cllr Janet Tandy

Cllr Tina Clark
Cllr Mike Lovell

*Cllr Patrik Garten
Cllr Mike O'Neill

(7)

There were 3 members of the public present. Complaints were noted from the public regarding planning and enforcement issues.

Cllr Baker opened the meeting at 7.45pm

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr P Page
Cllr J Whittle - KCC
PCSO Richard Kirby

Min No

Action

47

Co-option of Councillor

Mr Patrik Garten has expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and requests that his attendance at the APM and the last PC meeting on 16th June be taken into account, along with tonight's meeting when considering his application. He has forwarded his CV previously which the Clerk circulated. Councillors asked some questions which were answered satisfactorily. Cllr Tandy proposed that Patrik Garten is co-opted to the parish council, seconded by Cllr Darling and agreed by all.

Cllr Garten signed the declaration of acceptance of office which was countersigned by the Chairman

The Chairman then welcomed Cllr Garten to the Parish Council

48

Councillors Declarations (Regarding Agenda Items)

48.1 Lobbying

48.2 Personal Interest

48.3 Prejudicial Interest (Councillor to leave meeting table whilst such item is under discussion)

None declared

49

Minutes of PC Meeting held 16th June 2014

Councillor O'Neill has requested that the time of closing the meeting is included at the end of the minutes. This was agreed by all and initialed by the Chairman.

The minutes (including the minutes from the closed meeting) were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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Minutes of Planning Meeting held 16th June 2014

Signed _____

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

51 **Actions & Outcomes – Clerk**

Item:- 303 – Enquiries at MBC re out of hours service - Cllr Parvin

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

Apologies received. Cllr Whittle reported that KCC Councillors voted last week in favour of retaining the current number of county councillors (84) as part of our submission to the Boundary Commission review of County Divisions. This reflects the significant increase in population expected as a result of housing growth across the county. KCC also supported the work looking at a potential CPO of Manston Airport, although no commitment has been made at this stage as the view of consultants employed by Thanet District Council is awaited as to the future financial viability of the airport.

53 **Maidstone Borough Council - Leeds Ward Councillor, Peter Parvin**

Cllr Parvin reported that the new Conservative Leader of Maidstone Borough Council has taken up her new position. The new UKIP members at MBC have announced that they do not intend to ally themselves with any other political group within MBC.

Cllr Parvin agreed to make further enquiries about the lack of out of hour's services at MBC, particularly in the planning department.

Cllr Parvin confirmed his intention to step down at the next election in May and reported there are already three candidates intending to contest the Leeds Ward.

54 **Policing**

54.1 Crime figures and Police report - PCSO Kirby advised that there was no crime reported anywhere.

54.2 At the KALC event on 9 July, the Chief Constable explained Kent Police's new local policing model that with the creation of 2 new units:

- Local District Policing Teams
- Community Policing Teams

Kent Police agreed to provide contact details of the Chief Inspectors for each of the 13 districts. It is advised that e-mail is the best method of contacting them as they are frequently out of the office around their Districts or in meetings. However you can call '101' and ask to be put through to them if you wish to. The Maidstone contact is – Chief Inspector Simon Wilson – simon.wilson@kent.pnn.police.uk

55 **Finances**

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

55.2 Bank reconciliation – May & June 2014, were agreed and signed by the Chairman

55.3 Village Hall Fete – the Clerk advised that the Village Hall did not require a donation but will be pleased to receive the £34 made from the Guess the Sweets in the Jar competition

56 **Neighbourhood Plan**

56.1 Cllr Baker outlined the current position of the NP in that the public consultation had now concluded and there was only one concern raised but no objections. The next meeting to discuss the outcome of the public consultation and the submission of the plan to MBC is on the 23rd July.

56.2 The Clerk has received from MP Hugh Robertson a copy of the reply received from Alison Broom, Chief Executive at MBC regarding the concerns expressed by this PC regarding the process of the NP

57 **Planning Issues**

57.1 Residents continue to report to the Clerk the concerns over MBC's handling of complaints lodged about breach of building regulations and out of hour's service. Cllr Parvin had agreed to make further enquiries (see item 53)

Signed _____

57.2 The Clerk has received further updates regarding the changes to the planning system at MBC and the difficulties that have been experienced. It is hoped that all teething problems have now been resolved, and normal services will be resumed.

57.3 A re-submission of MA/13/1536, Erection of 2 detached 6 bedroom houses and ancillary building has been received at MBC, but it would appear that we are not invited to be consultees on this occasion. Councillors requested the Clerk to contact the planning officer concerned and request the opportunity to make comments on this application.

Clerk

58

Sports Field

58.1 The Annual Safety Inspection has been received and there are several areas that require attention, I have received from Playdale a quote for the remedial work that has been highlighted to the Playdale area for £1,690.76 + VAT of which £480 + VAT is installation costs. Councillors discussed the work required and requested the Clerk to ask for a re-quote for replacement posts, ropes and sanding work. There were several low risk areas of concern at the Levercrest play area. Councillors discussed and requested the Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for the removal of the equipment, rubber tiles and fencing.

Clerk

Clerk

58.2 The price of the bin agreed for purchase at the last meeting has increased by £120; Councillors agreed to an alternative supplier.

Clerk

58.3 Cllr Lovell has expressed concern over the increased volume of rubbish he has to deal with at the Sports Field. Councillors requested the Clerk to make enquiries about additional waste bins to be supplied to Cllr Lovell and/or waste removal service.

Clerk

59

Handyman

Mark Reynolds has carried out many of the minor repairs requested at the Sports Field. It was resolved that the Clerk should deal with the minor details of maintenance around the parish without the need to wait for the monthly PC meeting. The Clerk intends to have a log of work that has been required and subsequently carried out which can be reported on each month. Any major (non-emergency) work that is required will as always be reported to councillors.

Clerk

Councillors requested the Clerk to contact the three referees supplied by Mark Reynolds.

Clerk

60

Highways

60.1 Clerk had a meeting with the Highways steward on 16/07 re siting of planters around the parish, it was agreed that as long as the sight line was not interrupted the planters could be placed in the positions discussed. The request for dropped kerbs around the parish would be forwarded to the appropriate department by the steward. The Steward pointed out some hedges around Kingswood that were still causing some concern.

60.2 The Clerk will be meeting with Orbit on 22nd July to discuss the memorial site in Peter Pease Close

61

Pensioners Outing 2014

The Pensioners outing to the Bluebell Railway was fraught with difficulties this year due to the coach breaking down short of its destination. The vast majority of people were able to catch local public transport to East Grinstead where they were able to meet the train at the half way point and still enjoy their cream teas. Whilst the Clerk has received one letter of thanks, the point was once again made that it was felt that a member of the PC should be in attendance.

It was agreed to return deposits to those who had to cancel, due health reasons, their participation in the outing.

Clerk

62

Website

62.1 The Clerk has been advised that there are changes being made to the Parish Council website by KCC. A two hour refresher session is being offered free of charge. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should attend.

Clerk

62.2 Permission is sought by IT Services, KCC to use our website page as an exemplar for other parish sites. Councillors agreed they were happy for this to happen. Clerk to notify consent.

Clerk

Signed _____

62.2 Councillors discussed whether the website should include a facebook page, but decided that as there would be no control of items included on the site it would be inappropriate.

63 Councillor Training

The Clerk has an opportunity to arrange Councillor training at Kingswood for an evening at the Village Hall, on a date to suit ourselves. Other Clerks locally have expressed an interest in their councillors participating but this can only happen if there is a minimum of 7 councillors from this parish prepared to attend. Councillors agreed to host this event and proposed a date of the 20th October. The Clerk was requested to make the arrangements.

Clerk

64 Public Rights of Way

Despite all the personal statements completed by local people who have used a path from the Lenham Road towards Ulcombe, the ProW officer finds that there is not enough evidence to require the path to be included on the Definitive Map. The PC (the applicant) is able to appeal this ruling. Cllr Garten will review the decision and make recommendations as to whether the PC should appeal

Cllr Garten

65 Parish Speed Restrictions

Due to the resignation of the Councillor who was making enquiries about this issue, Cllr Garten will investigate whether the item can be pursued any further.

Cllr Garten

66 Reports

- 66.1 Planning Training 8th July – Clerk
- 66.2 Rural Transport Meeting – Cllr Lovell
- 66.3 Meeting with KCC Highways – Clerk

Reports retained on file.

67 Complaint received from a member of the Public

Councillors resolved that this item should be heard in a closed meeting and agreed to move this item to the end of the agenda

68 Items for next Meeting's Agenda

- 68.1 Defibrillator availability in the parish
- 68.2 Review of Standing Orders
- 68.3 Parish Milestone

69 Any Other Information

69.1 Letter received from the Milestone Society asking if the PC would like to become involved in restoring a milestone that is in our parish.

Clerk

69.2 The Broomfield & Kingswood section of the Updated copy of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way for the County of Kent – dated 31st May 2014 has been received by the Clerk. Copies are not permitted but additional copies can be purchased.

69.3 The Clerk has had a phone call from farmer Guy Eckersley, following complaints to the PC of damaging crop spraying that had been carried out on Leeds Castle farmland, but had affected people and gardens that backed onto the farmland. The farmer will be writing to the PC in due course.

69.4 The second stage of the Planning Training is taking place on Wednesday 30th July at the Town Hall. The Clerk attended the first session and would like to complete the course. There is an additional space for a councillor

Cllr Garten
& Clerk

69.5 KCC are trialing a switch off of street lighting to reduce costs, from 24/06 the lights on the A20 at Hollingbourne were switched off and from 27/06 the lights on the A20 at Harrietsham were switched off.

69.6 WELL BLESSING - The roadside well at Broomfield was in its annual finery on July 20th for Saint Margaret's Patronal Festival. Songs, both at the well and in church were led with gusto by Rev. Nigel Fry and

Signed _____

the children, many of whom had brought their own flower baskets, made by themselves and their friends that morning. Our great thanks go to Peter Roberts for the guitar accompaniment and especially to Derek Hadlow for his vision of the outbreak of WW1 and to the Poultons for helping with the flowers and with a lovely field of "poppies in Picardy".

70

Parish Council Meetings

The next full Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th August 2014 at The Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood at 7:30pm.

The meeting was closed at 10.15pm to discuss item 67.

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

Signed _____

DRAFT