



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 on Monday 16th January 2017

Present:

CLlr Mike Darling (Chair) Cllr Annette Friend Cllr Tom Hoy
CLlr Paul Milton Cllr Peter Page (5)

CLlr Shellina Prendergast – Ulcombe PC & Maidstone Borough Councillor

Gail Gosden – Parish Clerk

There were no members of the public in attendance

Apologies for Absence:

CLlr Tina Clark – Illness
CLlr Gareth Davies – Medical Reasons
CLlr Mike Lovell – Family commitments
CLlr Janet Tandy – Family Commitments
CLlr Jenny Whittle- Work Commitments

There were no declarations of intent to record the meeting; Cllr Darling opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

Min No

Action

191

Councillors Declarations (Regarding Agenda Items)

- 191.1 Lobbying
 - 191.2 Personal Interest
 - 191.3 Prejudicial Interest (Councillor to leave meeting table whilst such item is under discussion)
- There were no declarations*

192

Approval of Minutes

- 192.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee held 21st November 2016
- 192.2 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 21st November 2016
- 192.3 Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held 4th January 2017

The above minutes were unanimously agreed and signed by Cllr Darling.

193

Actions & Outcomes

Actions complete apart from items 118 & 178. They will be discussed at item 203 below.

Councillors unanimously agreed to move the Kent Highway Services item to the next agenda item to enable Cllr Prendergast to speak to councillors regarding Chegworth Road

194

Kent Highway Services

194.1 *Chegworth Road* – Following discussion Councillors unanimously agreed that KCC Highways be permitted to install restrictive bollards at the entrance of Chegworth Road to discourage HGV's that illegally use the weight restricted road. The road signage had not been as successful as had been hoped as the road gives the false impression of being a wider road than it is. It is hoped this deterrent will also prevent HGV parking and the problems of rubbish accumulation associated with this in the area.

Signed _____

The Clerk was requested to advise Ulcombe PC Chairman and KCC Highways of this outcome

194.2 *Lenham Road* – speed restriction – KCC Highways are pursuing a request from Ulcombe residents to impose a 30mph restriction along the Lenham Road to Wents Crossroads contrary to Ulcombe PC's recommendation. Therefore Ulcombe PC has commissioned a Traffic Survey Data Report to assess the volume, speed and class of vehicle. The results show that the mean average of vehicles on this stretch of road is less than 30mph anyway.

194.3 Emergency closures of neighbouring roads – at the end of December the Leeds/Langley road was closed twice for emergency repairs creating havoc along the Broomfield Road. The Clerk received complaints that journeys along this road were taking over an hour and has received further requests that a one way system with Chegworth Road is put in place when such emergency road closures occur in the future. Councillors requested the Clerk to write to Susan Laporte, KCC Highways and propose a meeting to discuss the viability of such a plan.

194.4 The Clerk has received complaints that the village roads (on the bus route) have not been gritted during the recent cold weather. Enquiries have revealed that the village roads have been removed from the gritting schedule, however Chartway Street and Lenham Road are still included. The Clerk has spoken with Cllr Whittle about the lack of notification regarding this decision who will make further enquires at KCC.

195 **Kent County Council - County Councillor - Maidstone Rural East - Jenny Whittle**

Apologies received – no report provided

196 **Maidstone Borough Council – Ward Councillor - Gill Fort**

No apologies or report received

Cllr Friend joined the meeting at 7.55pm

197 **Policing**

197.1 Crime figures – 19/12/16 to 16/01/2017

December –

21-22.12.16 - Field nr. Cross Dr, Theft of padlock/chain- horse box broken into;

28.12.16 - Gravelly Bottom Rd, Unauthorised taking of vehicle – suspect arrested, on-going investigation;

20.12.16 - Gravelly Bottom Rd, Metal container broken into - scrap metal stolen

January

01-08.01.17 - Cayser Dr, Criminal damage to vehicle,

04.01.17 - Field nr. Cross Dr, Attempted Burglary- nothing taken

During this period there were 14 calls to the police including the above crimes

Also there were :-

1 RTC – Gravelly Bottom Rd

2 accounts of nuisance youth activity – increase of visible patrols and security advice given to IP

Please all beware of computer/internet fraud – Calls from person pretending to be from BT demand access to internet, then demanding money. If succumbed to this criminal activity please call Action fraud.

197.2 PCSO Maybank has now left the parish to become a 'regular' policeman! The Clerk has met with his replacement John Boyd. He has been given a very large area to cover including Headcorn.

197.3 The Crime Support Unit (CSU) at Maidstone has a new sergeant, Rachel Cumberland, whose responsibility is the rural wards and PCSO's. She advises of the possible reduction in availability of PCSO's due to a number of PCSO resignations recently.

198 **Finances**

198.1 *Responsible Finance Officer's report* was reviewed by councillors, payments were agreed and ratified and the report is retained on file.

198.2 *Bank reconciliation* – November 2016 was unanimously agreed and signed by Cllr Darling.

198.3 *Budget 2017/18 review and approval*. Councillors unanimously agreed to remove the Twinning Group from the budget outline from April 2017. The budget was unanimously agreed.

198.4 *Precept 2017/18 application*

KALC (Maidstone Branch) has written to MBC questioning the proposal to reduce the PSS Grant in light of the anticipated rise in income from increased housing stock.

Signed _____

Councillors unanimously agreed to keep the precept application for 2017/18 at the same level as previous years at £55,500; the application was duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

198.5 *Donation request for Porchlight* – Councillors ratified the agreement to donate £50 to the Porchlight charity. *Councillors closed the meeting at 8.25pm for refreshments, the meeting re-opened at 8.35pm*

199 **Handyman**

The Clerk has received a letter of resignation from the handyman, he apologises, but he is finding it difficult to fit in parish council work around his own business.

Councillors requested the clerk to start making enquiries and advertising for a replacement.

Clerk

200 **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**

200.1 Review of NP following interim report of MBC Local Plan

Councillors discussed the outcome of the NP and the interim report on the MBC Local Plan and concluded that MBC should be asked to re-consider the original request for the B & K NP to be an exception site to enable the plan to be moved forward.

Clerk

200.2 It was agreed that the Clerk should notify DWF LLP of all relevant issues regarding the NP, which is currently being reviewed.

Clerk

201 **Community Communications**

201.1 Parish News – Cllr Friend reported that she had canvassed many residents recently who had stated they wished the parish news to continue as it was found to be very informative and helpful. The Clerk is going to attempt to publish another edition in March. Councillors agreed to advertise in the next edition for a volunteer to assist with future publications.

201.2 Website – additional training has enabled Clerk to be able to update website on a very basic level, Councillors agreed that they were happy with this and would continue to use the KCC provision.

201.3 Facebook – Councillors agreed unanimously that the Clerk should continue to respond to queries on the K & B Swop and shop site, but felt that a parish council facebook page was not appropriate as it could not be managed.

202 **Sports Field**

202.1 The Clerk has report to Kent Police criminal damage to the grassed area caused by motor bikes, the youths concerned had been identified and the police are dealing.

202.2 The Clerk has received confirmation from the Scout Group for the CCTV installation to go ahead.

202.3 The CCTV is schedule to be installed on 23rd January.

202.4 The dog waste bins have been removed by MBC, however the agreed replacement dual purpose bin have not been installed, the Clerk has contacted MBC about this but has had no response to date.

202.5 The Clerk has received a verbal quote to cut hedge along Lenham Road/sports field of £450, councillors requested a formal written quote before acceptance.

202.6 Cllr Clarks safety report mentions 'grunge' on the climbing wall, the clerk has taken a look at this, it looks as though someone has thrown a pot of something at the wall as there are fragments of glass or plastic stuck with the 'grunge' on the wall, the hope that this would be washed away in recent rain has not been realised.

203 **Archive & Storage Solutions**

Cllr Darling has reviewed alternate electronic storage solutions and recommended Microsoft Office 365, at a cost of £7.90 pcm. It provided regular programme updates, also Windows Office, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher (which could be used for the parish news). Councillors unanimously resolved to accept this proposal and the Clerk was requested to purchase and install this.

Clerk

The Clerk raised a concern about the capability of the PC's desktop computer to cope with the new programme as she has been experiencing problems with it recently. When it was realised how old and its limited capacity, Councillors agreed that a proposal to purchase a new computer should be an agenda item at the next PC Meeting on 20th February.

Clerk

204 **Parish Council Office Provision**

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the Village Hall Chairman on the 28th November but had not received a response yet. The Clerk was requested to follow up with another letter.

Clerk

Clerk

Signed _____

Councillors also requested the Clerk to make enquiries about the 'Right to Buy' provision that could apply to premises when and if they became available in the village.

205 Voluntary Community Support Warden Scheme

To consider financial support for the implementation of a Voluntary Community Support Warden for the parish of Broomfield & Kingswood.

Councillors decided this scheme should be advertised in the Parish News to see if anyone would be interested in volunteering. It could then be considered for funding in 2018.

Clerk

206 Reports

206.1 Report of KCC Highways meeting held on 01 December 2016 – Clerk

The report is retained on file.

207 Any Other Information

207.1 Cllr Friend has received a letter from Kingswood Pre-School, requesting financial support for a two year old child at Kingswood Pre-school with undiagnosed learning difficulties. The Clerk was requested to respond

207.2 Consultation by Transport Strategy Team, KCC requesting completion of online questionnaire re Freight Action Plan

207.3 Fire Hydrant Initiative – Information/Update meetings at Fire Headquarter.

207.4 Clerk is attending KALC Media Conference on 19 January

207.5 Cllr Friend reported an increase in dog fouling around the village again. The Clerk would contact the KCC Warden and MBC Environmental Health, but advised that anyone can request MBC to come and clear up dog mess and should do whenever necessary.

Clerk

Clerk

207.6 Cllr Milton wanted the condition of Broomfield Road at the j/w the A20 reported to KCC Highways as there were an increasing number of potholes and the verges were collapsing. The Clerk advised that any member of the public or council could report road damage via the KCC website; she would however speak with Highways about the concerns of the eroding verges which were used as passing places at the very narrow point of the road.

Clerk

208 Items for next Meeting's Agenda

Purchase of new PC for the Clerk

209 Parish Council Meetings

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th February 2017 at The Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood from 7.30pm.

There was no further business: Cllr Darling closed the meeting at 10.15pm

Signed _____