

Minutes of the meeting of Kingshurst Parish Council
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Tuesday 10th March 2015
at 7.15 p.m.
In the Pavilions Sporting Club

Cllrs. present: D. Cole Chair
 B. Mulready Vice Chair
 D. Davis
 D. Woolley
 J Milne
 E. Muluka
 A. Follows
 B. Follows
 M. Dawson
 L. Cole
 T. Williams

Clerk J. Aske

GUEST SPEAKER: Cllr. Bob Sleight Leader of Solihull Council

In Attendance : Borough Cllrs; A. Nash and F. Nash and D. Evans
 87 members of the Public attended

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** Cllr. R. Webber – working.
2. Members of the Public proposed that KPC Chair David Cole Chair the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 2. To approve the Minutes of meeting held on 29th April 2014**
Approved and signed.
- 3. Matters arising from previous minutes** – Chair asked if there were any matter arising from the previous meeting. The members of the public had read the previous meetings minutes while waiting for the meeting to commence at 7.15pm There were no matter arising from the previous minutes.
- 4. Chairman’s Report:** Chair read out his report please see attached.
- 5. Guest Speaker Borough Councillor Bob Sleight Leader of Solihull Council**
was introduced by Chair Cole and asked to take the microphone. The Microphone stopped working and required new batteries. Cllr. Milne went out of the room to get batteries. Leader of the Council Bob Sleight began to speak to the members of the public of the recent projects in Arran Way and Chelmonds Cross and spoke of how successful they are. He said in a meeting some months ago with the Chair of the KPC the current Medical Practice and the Parade had been discussed. It had only been possible to refurb the Medical practice. Decision on the Parade would be down to land values. He said options are out there. A new medical centre with a community hub will be considered with outlined plan at the end of May this year. He said Land Values have fallen and there is a shortfall of money. He mentioned finance from grants for projects is an option. He said they are at the point of meeting with Shareholders and Retailers to start as an anchor for the projects in the area. He said the current medical practice is now in safe hands. The Mountfort site will go

through the procedure for planning applications and it is hoped that he will have more information in May or June on any proposals. Then consultations can begin once the costs are sorted out.

Members of the public began to ask questions. It was noted that the Bellway sign advertising homes to be built near the site of the Mountford had been placed in a position that looks like the land from the Mountford site will be used for the homes. It was pointed out that this was not the case and the sign was just there advertising the new homes which will be built on the site where the old discussed flats had been.

Miss Sarah Evans Leader of Action for Babbs Mill spoke to Cllr. Sleigh. She enquired that 'investment for the North' Regens new name has an interest in building 70 New Homes on the Nature Reserve known as Babb's Mill. She said the Nature Reserve has been de-commissioned from its status as Nature Reserve without consultation.

Cllr. Sleigh replied that this was not the case as far as he knows it has not been de-commissioned as a Nature Reserve. He went on to report to her and members of the public that the government commissioned the building of thousands of homes and land sites were to be identified as possible land to built the homes. He mentioned that 950 homes need to be build out of 11 thousand across the borough. The seventy homes can be challenged by developers other areas may be found. They are obliged by law to build 15 thousand homes as the waiting lists have several thousand people are them.

Mrs. Murphy from Cooks Lane said she wanted to know what will happen to the wild life and said the residents in Kingshurst are not listened too and she said we just don't count.

It was noted at this point that no Social Housing is being built.

Cllr. Sleigh said that there is a policy where as 40% of the build is for affordable/ social housing.

Chair Cole said going back to the question of Wild Life, the KPC have sent out numerous letters listing the wildlife presently in Babbs Mill Nature Reserve.

Borough Cllr. Deborah Evans spoke to Cllr. Sleigh she said that she received an email from English Nature stating that the Nature Reserve had been de-commissioned. Why is Kingshurst only green space been considered to be turned into a concrete jungle. We have had our fair share. We say don't do it to us do it with us.

K. Riddler of Chilvers Grove asked if we don't get the funding for a medical centre from the NHS what will happen to the area.

Cllr. Sleigh replied that they will cost it out. The NHS build them.

She asked what will happen to the land.

Cllr. Sleigh said he cannot answer this.

Mr. Stock of Meriden Drive said the fact is that Kingshurst is already densely populated with housing. Its time to stop taking up 'Green Patches'. The Kingshurst school field was used to built houses on. Who are we building all these houses for?

Cllr. Sleigh there has just been a completion of 45 homes per hectare in Blyth Valley. Indicating that it is not just this area.

Mr. Hampton, a resident, spoke to Cllr. Sleigh regarding the several meetings the Chair and Cllrs of the KPC attended at the Council House regarding the proposals to build on Babb's Mill. He said he attended and was only given a small amount of time to speak and relay their concerns to those who make the decisions regarding planning. He said it was nice to see the leader of the Council having a difficult time in this reversed situation. Mr. Hampton went on to say that he remembers Borough Cllr. Courts referring to our Nature Reserve as a 'tatty piece of land'. Well, he went on to say this is Our Nature Reserve and we want the same status as Meriden Park in Chelmsley Wood. We also have butterflies and Kingfishers.

Cllr. Sleigh asked the public to be clear on the process for the public enquiry. Natural England will be part of the process. £110k a year is contributed to the Reserve. But we have got to find homes for 11.5 families that cannot find homes here in this area.

Mr. Hampton asked only Kingshurst? He referred to the LDF plan of 2012 and said the Council has double standards.

Cllr. Sleigh 70% greenbelt is our problem. I cannot make you any promises.

Mr. Parker of Cooks Lane, mentioned original paperwork from the 1970's stating the Nature Reserve should be left to the wildlife after the homes off Cooks lane were built should be upheld. He said selection of sites segregates us. What percentage does SMBC get from the build. Boundaries will have to go into green belt. He mentioned the small homes as boxes built in this part of the Borough. Is it the same criteria of housing in Shirley?

Cllr. Bob Sleigh said the plans to develop areas is on the website. He said it could be 15 years in the future and may or may not be developed.

A resident from Meriden Drive asked Cllr. Sleigh why brown fields are not built on anymore. His answer was that there is no brown fields anymore.

Mr. Robert Hall said the Council won't be content until all the green fields are built on. He went on to say that builders want green sites to the detriment of nature, children's wellbeing and schools needs.

Parish Cllr. B. Follows aired her concerns that if they start building on Babb's Mill it won't stop until it's completely gone.

Cllr. Sleigh replied that the Local Development Frame plan is a 15 year document from now until 2015. No other sites have being earmarked. No School places are short and everyone is registered with a NHS doctor.

Parish Cllr. B. Follows asked again was it likely that we could lose the whole of Babb's Mill. Cllr. Sleigh said no. He promised to talk with the Parish Council and keep us informed.

Another resident mentioned the new developments and how expensive they are. People cannot afford to buy them he said.

Mrs. S Daly of Wheeley More road asked Cllr. Sleigh if they take parking into consideration as many households need more than one parking place. She said that the new designs will turn into slums very quickly and that Kingshurst always gets the short straw.

A Karen Ash mentioned she had seven grandchildren. When she was young they all had fields to play in. She asked where could her grand children play. The estate has died years ago. Yet we pay our rates and taxes. We work hard she said.

Cllr. Sleigh mentioned he understands he lives in Marston Green.

Mr. Gregg asked regarding the Surgery in Kingshurst. Cllr. Sleigh said he may know in May what is happening regarding a new medical centre.

Cllr. Sleigh spoke to a member of the public from Action for Babb's Mill regarding greenbelt and said it was not greenbelt.

David Hinsley of Moxhull Road asked Cllr. Sleigh to come back and see us. Cllr. Sleigh replied yes.

Many residents mentioned the Parade and how it looked like a slum. Empty shops were a concern.

Land in Catherine-de-Barns was referred to as land that should be made available for homes not a cemetery.

Social housing was also a general subject.

Mr. Laurie Brunger spoke, he said he would like to make a complaint to the Parish Council for the poor PA system and said he could not hear anything.

Mrs. Jean Johnson asked a question regarding the schools being rammed and extra classrooms having to be built the children have no green fields to play on. She said we only have one medical centre.

Cllr. Sleigh explained the finances regarding school places. He mentioned anti social behaviour and the costs involved with these troubled families.

Cooks Lane was discussed referring it to one of the busiest road and the 7.5 tonne restriction weight limit that is disregarded. Cllr. Sleigh said the weight limit of the Trucks is a police Problem. The slowing down of the vehicles on the road has been done with table tops etc.

The school parents parking on the road over cycle paths was mentioned.

Generally the residents felt un-supported by SMBC regarding the homes on Cooks Lane. With further housing and football pitches the road will be even worse for congestion.

Cook Lane resident asked Cllr. Sleigh if he had considered the loss of Babb's Mill as it's the living green heart in a grey area. It's a well used amenity area by everyone as well as a diverse ecology area.

Cllr. Sleigh replied he knows what the resident is saying and again said it is a Local Development Plan and could be ten years away he just doesn't know.

Karen Ridler resident asked when can we jump in to stop any planning.

Cllr. Sleigh replied all planning applications come with consultations and assessments. A planning committee with planning officers. A process of 8 to 10 weeks. The residents and Parish Council can oppose the process.

Parish Cllr. A. Follows asked Cllr. Sleigh to correct him he is wrong but doesn't SMBC own Babb's Mill? Would you still notify the Parish Council.

Cllr. Sleigh replied yes.

Parish Cllr. A. Follows continued and mentioned the regen and the proposals from some years ago for a Village Centre. He went on to say that regen promised so much but did not have any money for the projects in Kingshurst. He added that shops have been vacant for more than two years and the revenue lost. Smiths Wood was mentioned here and how it looks very good now it has been regenerated.

Cllr. A. Follows asked about the money from recent acquisitions.

Cllr. Bob Sleigh said North Solihull Partnership is to develop the area and SMBC will put money, grants and capital funding into it. He said he would come back to discuss this.

Chair Cole thanked Cllr. Sleigh and everyone that attended.

6. Any other Parish Matters: nothing was mentioned so Chair Cole closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed at 9.15 pm

Signed..... Date.....

