

**Minutes of the meeting of Kingshurst Parish Council
held on Tuesday 11 November 2008 at 7.15 p.m.
at St. Barnabas Church Hall**

Cllrs. present: B. Mulready Vice-Chairman
 A. Follows
 B. Follows
 T. Williams
 D. Cole
 S. Daly
 L. Brunger

In Attendance : Mr D. Wheeler Accountant
 Mrs. P. Ross Acting Clerk for the Meeting
 Borough Councillor Nash
 1 Member of the public (Mr. Hampton)

Cllr. Mulready, as Vice-Chairman took the chair and commenced the meeting with one Minute's silence to commemorate Remembrance Day. He proceeded and read out two letters of resignation from the Council. The first from Cllr. Mrs. Evans in which she states that her increasing work load as a Borough Councillor prevents her from attending Parish Council meetings and anything less than 100% is not acceptable to her. She will of course continue to support the work of the Parish Council. She thanked all the members for their support over the last couple of years.

The second letter from Cllr. K. Evans, previous Chairman, resigns on grounds of ill health and states that it has been a privilege to serve local people and he will continue to take a keen interest in the work of the Parish Council. He expressed his thanks to fellow members for their help and advice over the past couple of years. Members were sorry to receive the two letters but accepted both resignations. The Vice-Chairman said that the Council now needed to elect a new Chairman and proceeded to Item 1 on the agenda.

1. Election of Chairman

Proposed and seconded: Cllr. B. Mulready

Proposed and seconded: Cllr. D. Cole

The amendment was voted on with 4 cast in favour of Cllr. D. Cole

The original was voted on with 3 cast in favour of Cllr. Mulready

Cllr. Cole was happy to accept the position and it was therefore

RESOLVED: that Cllr. D. Cole take the chair.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

As the vice-chairman is Cllr. Mulready and he was happy to continue, there was no need for an election.

Cllr. Cole took the chair and it was noted that a Declaration of Acceptance would be signed and witnessed as soon as possible after this meeting.

3. Apologies and acceptance for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs. D. Davies, D. Woolley and Borough Cllrs. Mrs. Evans and Hall.

4. Declarations of interest on items on the Agenda

The following personal interests were declared and entered into the book.

Cllr. Brunger (Regeneration & Confidential Legal), Cllr. Mrs. Follows (Regeneration and Confidential Legal), Cllr. Mulready (Allotments and Events), A. Follows (Regeneration and Confidential Legal), Cllr. Mrs. Daly (Events), Mrs. T. Williams (Allotments/Events/Grant Aid), Cllr. Cole (Regeneration)

5. Alison Lush SMBC to address the Council on Environmental Champions and Junior Park Rangers

The Chairman welcomed Alison. A display had been set up to show what work was being carried out and Alison explained that this was a scheme to encourage local residents to become involved in the environment and come up with their own ideas to improve the locality. She introduced Tracy Churchard, a Park Ranger who explained how children could become involved. She had applied for and been successful in obtaining a grant for the scheme. SMBC was trying to reach children who normally would not be interested in group activities. She said children from 8 to 17 years of age were accepted. The activities involved planting of bulbs and trees, litter picking and clearing up of graffiti. Uniforms and equipment was provided and the children also visited other sites. Adult volunteers were also encouraged and if anyone was interested they should contact her. CRB checks were carried out. It was also suggested that an approach be made to local Scouts, guides and schools.

Cllr. Mrs. Williams offered four young silver birch that had self-set and Tracy said she would be very happy to receive any young saplings.

It was also suggested that an article on this scheme could appear in the next Council Newsletter. In answer to a question about the availability of doggy bags, Cllr. Follows said you could pick these up at the local library free of charge.

The presentation lead on to the question of a Youth Council. Cllr. Nash confirmed that Fordbrige Town Council had a Youth Council. He explained that local schools were approached and the schools helped candidates to be elected onto the Youth Council. Two Parish Councillors would need to attend their meetings which presumably would be held at the schools during school hours and under the umbrella of the Parish Council. Alison Lush said KPC still had the £1000 grant from SMBC to help set up a Youth Council. Cllr. Brunger said this had been discussed at the last Council meeting. The Chairman brought this item to a close, thanked both Alison and Tracy for their excellent presentation. Several posters and information sheets were available on the table. They thanked the Council for the opportunity of visiting and left the meeting.

6. Minutes of meeting held on 14 October 2008

The Clerk clarified the position regarding "opening" and "closing" the meeting for public participation as the correct way of recording in the minutes.

Minute 10.1 at the bottom of the page correct "Kingsbury" to "Kingshurst".

In last sentence on that page take out all words after "soon".

At the top of the fifth page where it states "school" put in "Kingshurst CTC".

Minute 14.1 add in words "a decision on" before "a new runway".

14.4. Add in the word "more" between "was" and "a" in the penultimate sentence of that minute.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be accepted and signed as a true record.

7. Approach to Bickenhill PC re Handyman

Mrs. Ross had spoken to the Clerk to Bickenhill PC. At present, one full-time and one part-time handyman was employed, each paid an hourly rate of £7.00. The Clerk to Bickenhill was unable to recommend anyone for Kingshurst. Cllr. Mulready said he would speak about this further under Agenda item 10.3 (Allotments). RESOLVED: that this item needed no further action.

8. Public Participation

The meeting was opened for this item on the agenda.

Mr. Hampton said he was slightly disappointed that Cllr. Mrs. Evans had not attended this meeting as a Borough Councillor. The Chairman explained that she was not well at the moment but he hoped that she would hopefully be able to attend the next PC meeting. Mr. Hampton said Cllr. Mrs. Evans had been one of the driving forces for pushing forward Jubilee Gardens. There is a substantial amount of duckweed and bindweed in the garden area and if this was a Community Garden it had to be managed. Several allotment holders felt that the Community Garden side was a waste of time. He would like to see this open fully or left to die naturally. His preference was to see it levelled, grassed over and cut once per week. Cllr. Mrs. Williams said she was an allotment holder and confirmed that there was still a driving force and a lot of work went into looking after their own allotments and private gardens. She said the Council has some volunteers from Sustain who have recently done a very good job. She suggested Mr. Hampton make another visit. Next year will be make or break. Cllr. Mulready said he would give his report under Agenda Item 10.3. Cllr. Mrs. Follows referred to the presentation on Junior Park Rangers and may be the Council could approach them to get involved. Mr. Hampton said he felt that a lot of money had been unwisely spent by the Council and Cllr. Mrs. Daly said that was before the time of the present council and that a number of present member had worked really hard both on the Allotments and Events committees.

Mr. Hampton referred to the Notice board outside the offices. He was unable to read the notices. Cllr. A. Follows said he had erected the board but there had been a problem with green cellophane behind the perspex. This had been removed and more cellophane found on the inside. He hoped the notices were now more legible.

Mr. Hampton referred to the previous Minutes and noted that a new Clerk had been introduced. He asked why she was not present and was informed that Mrs. Small had withdrawn her acceptance of the post. He noted that Cllr. Evans had resigned but before doing so had read out a legal statement referring to the previous Clerk. Mr. Hampton was still of the opinion that the Clerk had given the Parish Council five years of very good service and seen the council through very troubled times. He said how much she had enjoyed the Fun Day in 207 and how much she was looking forward to the next one. This Council has lost a very willing person. Cllr. Brunger said the Clerk had now left and the Council had to move on.

Cllr. Nash referred to the presentation from Alison and Tracy. He was passionate about regeneration in this area and felt that if we get young Park Rangers to look after things we must encourage them. It gives the children a better idea of how other people live. Alison and Tracy work very hard and even ran garden competitions. He then mentioned problems with motorbikes causing a nuisance to the community and people were frightened to report incidents. He mentioned Youth Councils and their use to the Parish Council. Members from the Parish Council can address them and advise them on how the Council works. Cllr. Nash felt that individual councillors should go out and meet local people, be mindful that we are spending resident's money and can

be challenged. Cllr. A. Follows asked what age was covered by Youth Councils and was informed that at Fordbridge there were two. 7-11 years and 11-16 yrs. It was important to keep in touch with local schools. Cllr. Nash said there were 8 children in each group, with meetings held at the school. Cllr. Nash talked about combining schools and the building of a new school. Many parents would wish their children to attend a brand new school and places should be offered to those children living in the catchment area. Cllr. Follows said the new Kingshurst Primary had been built to cater for 450 children. At present 390 attended so an expansion plan had been built in.

The meeting reverted to closed session.

9. Reports from Borough Councillors

Cllr. Mrs. Evans reported that Councillor Robert Hall's mother had recently died and he had requested some privacy during this sad time.

The Boat House on Babbs Mill will be demolished before Christmas.

No reports had been received by her from the police re anti-social behaviour in the area.

She and Cllr. Hall will be holding a surgery on the second Saturday in December at Seeds of Hope.

Cllr. A. Follows confirmed that the demolition would take place once the electricity had been disconnected.

Cllr. Nash had already reported during Public Participation.

10. To receive and approve reports from KPC Committees

10.1 Finance Committee

The list of cheques presented for November had been approved for payment and the Accountant would be making a transfer from the deposit account to the current account. Rent had been received for The Pavilions and the VAT claim had been paid. Five applications for Grant Aid had been agreed with two amounts of £250, one of £90, one of £400 and one of £50. All were in agreement that these be presented to the December Council meeting.

The 2008/09 National Interim Salary award for Local Council Clerks had been received. This would need to be borne in mind when selecting a new Clerk. The Finance Committee put forward a recommendation that Mrs. Ross, Acting Clerk be paid at the new rate of £11.780p with immediate effect.

A request from Cllr. A. Follows had been made to purchase a memory stick. Cllr. Mrs. Daly was going to try and obtain one free of charge. If she was unsuccessful Cllr. Follows was authorised to purchase via the internet using his personal credit card as the Council was not allowed one.

10.2 Events Committee

Remembrance Day

Cllr. Mrs. Williams said there had been a good turn out. The Service was beautiful, the food presented was excellent and many people had enjoyed looking at the medals she had on show which had belonged to her father. More people had turned up than expected and everyone seemed to have enjoyed the occasion. The Chairman thanked all those who had turned up.

Christmas Event

Cllr. Mrs. Williams had purchased three snow mats for the grotto and had telephoned Greggs re the mince pies.

The next meeting of the Committee was set for 3 December at 3.00 pm in the offices.

10.3 Allotments

Cllr. Mulready had taken over as Chair. He had met with Claire Cunniffe, WWT and felt that there was every chance of receiving a grant for Jubilee Gardens. The money would come into the Council and be allocated accordingly.

He had also met with Claire Jackson at the NEC about the portakabin and hoped to get the present one taken down. Re. the railway sleepers he was hoping that someone was going to take them all. Children from three of the local schools had visited.

Item 11 on the agenda had been dealt with under Finance.

12. Reports from members representing the Council on outside bodies

12.1 Airport Consultative Committee

Nothing to report.

12.2 Colebridge Trust

An Extraordinary General Meeting had been called for Thursday 13 November 2008 at 3.00 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church Hall to take a resolution to reflect the radical change of scope of the Trust's work, which now mostly extends across the entire Borough of Solihull.

12.3 CARA

Nothing to report.

12.4 WALC/SAC

Cllr. Follows said the next meeting had been set for 15 December. Owing to the resignation of Cllr. K. Evans, KPC needed another representative. Cllr. Mrs. Follows expressed an interest and it was proposed, seconded and agreed that she take the place of Cllr. K. Evans.

12.5 Cllr. Mrs. Follows had nothing to report on trees.

13. Quotations for Trophies

This item had been requested at the last meeting to go on the Agenda when it appeared that only one quote had been received. Cllr. Follows said he had, with Cllr. K. Evans visited another firm but the quality of their plaques were inferior to those already ordered. The price reflected the quality.

14. Correspondence

A full list of correspondence and e-mails is attached to these minutes (members having already received it). Other items read out were as follows:-

1. email from Cllr. Mrs. Daly. Request that rota for the office needed sorting out. Members could do this following the meeting.
2. e-mail from Cllr. Mrs. Evans. Sincere thanks and congratulations on a very success Remembrance Service; its simplicity made the occasion more poignant.
3. e-mail from Gavin Stephens re: Fusions. Report from the Pavilions Inspection. Copy to be given to Cllrs. Mulready, Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Williams.

Letters:

1. SMBC, Emma Sibbing, Community Services on Solihull Playbuilder Project. Solihull awarded a grant of around £1.1 million. IF KPC would like further information or put forward a project to let her know. Noted.
2. Communities and Local Government. Information on Communities in control. Noted.
3. Communities and Local Government. Sustainable Communities Act 2007. First invitation to local authorities to submit proposals. Noted.
4. SMBC. Finance Business Support Division. Poster to display re. single person discount review.
5. WALC Newsletter. Circulated to all Councillors.
6. The Clerk publication. Available on table.

7. NALC. Freedom of Information Act 2000. Mrs. Ross referred to the last meeting when it had been agreed to have this on the agenda tonight. Having consulted the document which deals with model publication schemes,8. SMBC it was now agreed that members receive copies of how the Council should adopt this. It must take place before 31 December 2008 and would be on the December meeting agenda.

8. SMBC. Consultation on proposals to combine Bennet's Well and Hatchford Primary Schools and

Alcott Hall and Coleshill Heath Primary School. Cllr. Cole requested a copy.

9. Newspace. Smart & Cook Group Limited has purchased the business of Newspace Insurance Services Ltd. With effect from 31 October 2008.

15. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9 December 2008 at Kingshurst Primary School

Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

..... Signed

..... Dated

WALC had advised Kingshurst Parish Council that confidential items should be referred to under Section 1 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 only applied to principal authorities.

16.1 Approve Minutes of Confidential Meeting held on 14 October 2008

Minute 17.2 alter £1449 to £1488.11. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true record and signed.

“approved Court Law Advisor” in future will be referred to as “Litigant’s friend”.

16.2 Update on Appointment of Clerk.

Mrs. Small had withdrawn her acceptance of post. An advert has appeared in The Clerk and Job Centre. Two applicants had applied. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously voted to advertise in the Solihull Times and extend the closing date. Cllrs. D. Cole, Mrs. Daly, A. Follows, Mrs. Follows, B. Mulready and Mrs. Williams offered to sit on the Interview Panel. It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of Finance be present at interviews with a combination of any of the other three member who may be available on the day.

16.3 Update on Court Case.

This is ongoing. Documents have been lodged re the application for appeal. A Judge will consider whether or not to accept the application. If it is accepted all the papers lodged will be submitted to KPC and KPC will have 21 days to reply. Three representatives had been agreed by KPC to handle the Court Hearing and Cllr. Evans was no longer serving. It was agreed that either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman should attend.

16.4 To approve meeting held on 11 November 2003. Resolved: that the meeting held on 11 November 2003 was held unlawfully.

Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

..... Signed Dated

