



# Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at  
Broomfield and Kingswood Village Hall, Kingswood ME17 3PX on Monday 16 September 2024

**Present at meeting:** Cllr Tina Clark (Chairman), Cllr Gareth Davies (Vice Chairman), Cllr Simon Pearce, Cllr Chris Pink, Cllr Malcolm Clarke and Cllr Daren Moss.

Hayley Roberts - Parish Clerk/RFO

There were three members of the public present.

There were no declarations of intent to record the meeting by Councillors or members of the public.

Cllr Clark opened the meeting at 7:30pm

Min No	Item	Action
192.	<b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> No apologies received.	
193. 193.1 193.2 193.3	<b>Councillors Declarations of interest in items on the agenda</b> Lobbying – None Personal Interest – None Prejudicial Interest (Councillor to leave meeting table whilst such item is under discussion) - None	
194.	<b>Welcome by the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Tina Clark</b>	
195. 195.1  195.2	<b>Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies</b> Maidstone Borough Council – Ward Councillor – Gill Fort – apologies received  Kent County Council – County Councillor – Maidstone Rural East – Shellina Prendergast – apologies received and update provided; August has been a very quiet month at County Hall for Members with no committee meetings etc so I don't have a huge deal to report on this occasion as far as the county council goes. The one key area that is being looked into at pace is the impact of the new border controls at Dover – the EU has now announced the autumn start date for this – and we know that if not properly managed the situation for us here will be far worse than anything experienced through Operations Brock and Stack. This article will give you some idea of the concerns and the work that is taking place with government: <a href="https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/kent-council-leaders-urge-government-to-act-urgently-to-plan-for-impact-of-new-border-checks">https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/kent-council-leaders-urge-government-to-act-urgently-to-plan-for-impact-of-new-border-checks</a>  On more local issues, I was the leading elected Member in setting up a A20 working group meeting. I held a second meeting following the analysis of the speed surveys that followed the first meeting. It was an opportunity for parishes to discuss the proposed mitigations put forward by officers. I have long held the view that the various issues experienced by residents/businesses of the various parishes along the A20 coming east out of Maidstone needed to be looked at more strategically rather than the piecemeal approach we have seen in the past and was very pleased to have instigated this working group with relevant parish council, KCC Officers and Kent Police all playing an important role in finding solutions that will address issues of safety and speeding along this route. As you know, Officers presented some proposed solutions at various points along the route – some of which will require additional work and funding sources to be identified – but I hope you will agree it was a positive meeting and clearly has some momentum. Finally, you have been copied into all correspondence to UKPN regarding the regular outages – I am still awaiting a final response but presume that will come following the promised review of the network.	
196.	<b>To approve the minutes of the meeting of Broomfield &amp; Kingswood Parish Council</b> <b>Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b> The above minutes were approved as a true copy and duly signed by Cllr Clark.  <div style="text-align: right;">Signed _____</div>	

<p><b>197.</b></p> <p>197.1</p> <p>197.2</p>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>Application Ref: 24/503582/FULL</p> <p>Proposal: 'Section 73 - Application for removal of condition 13 (minimum BREEAM rating of at least 'very good') pursuant to 23/505647/FULL for - Section 73 – Application for minor material amendment to approved plans condition 15 (to allow increase in size of building) pursuant to 22/505903/FULL (Renewal of planning permission 20/500416/FULL for demolition of existing fire damaged building and erection of replacement commercial/industrial building for Classes E (g-i, ii and iii), B2 and B8 uses).'</p> <p>Address: The Homestead Gravelly Bottom Road Kingswood Kent ME17 3NU</p> <p><b>Cllrs resolved that further information was required. Clerk to contact planning case officer.</b></p> <p>Application Ref: 24/503444/FULL</p> <p>Proposal: Replacement of 8(no) seasonal glamping tents, with 8(no) timber pod units. Widening of existing entrance gates, construction of new access road and parking.</p> <p>Address: Land Adjacent To Knights Cottage Leeds Castle Broomfield Kent ME17 1PL</p> <p><b>After due consideration a majority of 4:2 Cllrs resolved that they had no objections to this application.</b></p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>198.</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Outcomes (for report only)</b></p> <p>Application Ref: 24/502642/FULL</p> <p>Address: Loxley House Gravelly Bottom Road Kingswood Kent ME17 3NT</p> <p>Proposal: Section 73 - Application for minor material amendment to approved plans condition 2 (to enable a minor change to the position of the approved dwelling) pursuant to 21/500168/FULL for - Demolition of the existing dwelling Loxley House and the erection of replacement dwelling with amenity space, landscaping and access.</p> <p>MBC Decision: Application Permitted 29.08.24</p>	
<p><b>199.</b></p> <p>199.1</p> <p>199.2</p>	<p><b>Actions &amp; Outcomes (for report only)</b></p> <p>Cllrs reviewed and discussed actions and outcomes...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clerk has contacted companies regarding the groundworks for the upgraded CCTV project. Await further information from Cllr Pink so that a meeting date can be arranged.</li> <li>- Storage container – Clerk is gathering quotations and a decision is to be made on the quotations at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>200.</b></p> <p>200.1</p> <p>200.2</p> <p>200.3</p> <p>200.4</p> <p>200.5</p> <p>200.6</p>	<p><b>Finances and Payment of Accounts</b></p> <p>Bank reconciliation August 2024</p> <p>This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and agreed by all at the meeting and signed by Cllr Pink and RFO.</p> <p>Responsible Finance Officer's report August 2024</p> <p>This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and agreed by all at the meeting and signed by Cllr Pink and Cllr Pearce.</p> <p>To approve the schedule of payments for September 2024</p> <p>This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and agreed by all at the meeting. Signed by Cllr Davies and Cllr Clarke.</p> <p>To ratify payments already made in August 2024</p> <p>This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and agreed by all at the meeting and signed by Cllr Pink and Cllr Pearce.</p> <p>Reconciliation of invoices against cheques and ledger for August 2024</p> <p>Cllrs reconciled the invoices against the ledger and Cllr Pearce initialled the invoices and ledger accordingly.</p> <p>To consider performance against the 2024/25 budget</p> <p>Circulated prior to meeting. Clerk reviewed budget for the year 2024/25 so far.</p>	
<p><b>201.</b></p> <p>201.1</p> <p>201.2</p>	<p><b>Sports Field</b></p> <p>Review of the month's Sports Field Inspection Sheets</p> <p>Cllrs reviewed the inspection sheets and noted that the wooden bollards are damaged. Cllrs resolved that as the car park is changing due to the CCTV installation that a repair would not be required at the moment. Cllrs ask that this is monitored weekly.</p> <p>To discuss whether to proceed with play area rolling repeat inspection service</p> <p>Cllrs discussed and resolved to proceed with the play area rolling repeat inspection service at a cost of £170.40. Clerk to action.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Signed</b> _____</p>	

201.3	To consider and approve quotation for the supply of the required parts for the Fun Buggy equipment Cllrs considered quotation and resolved to proceed with quotation of £101.95 plus VAT to repair the Fun Buggy as per annual inspection report.	
201.4	To consider quotations for Dish Roundabout repair and resolve how to proceed Cllrs considered quotations and resolved to proceed with the quotation for supply and installation of items as per annual inspection report at a cost of £1,361.60 plus VAT.	
<b>202.</b>	<b>Policing</b> Crime Figures Nothing to report.	
<b>203.</b>	<b>To receive an update on the Village Fete</b> Village Fete is organised and ready for Saturday. All welcome 2pm – 7pm.	
<b>204.</b>	<b>To receive an update on the Joint Village Hall Project</b> Update received from Cllr Clark. Await meeting with Village Hall Committee and Parish Council representatives regarding provisional plans.	
<b>205.</b>	<b>Feedback from the A20 working group meeting</b> The Clerk attended the A20 working group meeting. Eight surveys were commissioned along the length of the A20 from Bearsted to Lenham. Following the survey and crash data analysis an assessment of areas where highway works were needed, or considered suitable to help address speeding concerns (along with other highway concerns). In relation to the area of the A20 in our Parish we are looking at the possibility of installing a traffic island to ensure residents crossing the road can do so in a safer way. We are aware that a number of residents use the bus service located on the A20. Clerk to speak to Leeds Castle in relation to the footpath and liase with KCC.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>206.</b>	<b>To consider grant application from the Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS)</b> Cllrs considered the grant application and resolved to donate £500 to the Air Ambulance. Clerk to action.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>207.</b>	<b>To resolve when/if to hold the October Parish Council meeting</b> Cllrs resolved not to hold an October meeting and meet again in November.	
<b>208.</b>	<b>To consider proposed deposit documents for Amendment 7 a Prohibition of Traffic Movements Order on Various Roads, Kingswood in the Borough of Maidstone</b> Cllrs considered proposal and had no objections to it. The proposal is to start the restriction at the junction of Cayser Drive/Gravelly Bottom Road but also move the start of it from the junction of Chartway Street to the junction of Gravelly Bottom Road. The reason for this is as it stands, if a HGV is travelling along Gravelly Bottom Road and gets to the crossroads, it doesn't matter what direction they go, as each road from there is unsuitable for HGVs. If we were to move the restriction up to the crossroads itself, it would mean drivers can go left at the junction legally towards Chartway Street and away from Broomfield. The proposal would also include the whole of the residential area too, maybe stopping a few stray HGVs from driving round those roads. It would have an except for access plate on it (as it currently does), so as not to stop any residents or businesses from getting deliveries.	
<b>209.</b>	<b>To discuss and resolve next steps with regards to speed awareness posters designed by local children</b> Clerk met with Speedwatch representative and the children's designs were whittled down to six. Clerk to obtain quotations for boards and banners.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>210.</b>	<b>Discussion with volunteers in relation to next steps with regards to an emergency plan for the Parish</b> Cllrs decided to defer this item for a separate meeting due to low numbers of attendees. Clerk to arrange.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>211.</b>	<b>Residents' concerns</b>	
211.1	Parking on pavements – Cllrs would like to remind residents to park sensibly. It has been noted that there has been a lot of parking on pavements recently, pushchairs and mobility scooters require access to pavements at all times.	
211.2	ASB at the Sports Field at night – Cllrs are aware that there appears to be a lot of activity late into the evenings and will be monitoring this. If you see or hear anything suspicious please contact the police.	
	<b>Signed _____</b>	

211.3	<p>Broomfield Road water leak – the leak was originally reported to KCC by the Clerk in April. Since then KCC and SEW have visited the site. The water appears to be a natural spring which due to a blocked drain is now running along the road. SEW recently attended to repair a separate leak and although KCC was contacted about the closure by our Clerk the blocked drain work could not be carried out during this closure.</p> <p>The Clerk was advised today that the blocked drain repair is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> of December! Cllrs resolved that this is not acceptable, not only is that over two months away but with the weather changing shortly the road will become a potential ice rink! Not to mention the Leeds Castle events taking place in November and December will make the road more widely used. The Clerk is contacting Cllr Shellina Prendergast and KCC in relation to this and will update Cllrs and residents accordingly.</p>	
211.4	Road closures – there have been a lot of road closures in the area of late. Cllrs noted that a lot of these have been emergency road closures. Cllrs will monitor this and raise with the necessary parties.	
<b>212.</b>	<b>Any other information</b>	
212.1	The next Pop Up Café is on the 31 <sup>st</sup> of October 2024.	
212.2	<p>Residents Survey 2024 - <a href="https://letstalkmaidstone.uk/engagementhq.com/resident-budget-survey-2024">https://letstalkmaidstone.uk/engagementhq.com/resident-budget-survey-2024</a></p> <p>Understanding what residents need is key to the way in which MBC deliver their services and plan for the future.</p> <p>It has been two years since the last Resident Survey, and MBC know that for some the effect of the rising cost-of-living continues to impact their quality of life. It is important to MBC that residents are at the heart of all the decisions they take, and it is essential that MBC engage with all those they represent to understand the key issues and challenges that are being faced.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for you to tell MBC about your experiences as a resident of Maidstone. From housing to health and well-being, waste and recycling to leisure, your viewpoint is extremely valuable and will help inform the new Strategic Plan Priorities and the decisions that MBC make as a Council.</p>	
<b>190.</b>	<p><b>Items for next agenda</b></p> <p>To receive an update on the Joint Village Hall Project</p>	
<b>191.</b>	<p><b>Parish Council Meetings</b></p> <p><b>The next meetings of the Parish Council are scheduled for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The meetings will take place at Broomfield and Kingswood Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood ME17 3PX from 7.30pm.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Clark closed the meeting at 9.18pm</b></p> <p><b>Signed _____</b></p>	