



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 17 March 2025

Present at meeting: Cllr Tina Clark (Chairman), Cllr Gareth Davies (Vice Chairman), Cllr Malcolm Clarke, Cllr Linda Blainey, Cllr Robert Mercer, Cllr Daren Moss and Cllr Chris Pink.

Hayley Roberts - Parish Clerk/RFO

There was six 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
304.	To receive and approve apologies for absence Cllr Simon Pearce has resigned from the Parish Council.	
305.	Councillors Declarations of interest in items on the agenda Lobbying – Item 6.1 - None Personal Interest – None Prejudicial Interest (Councillor to leave meeting table whilst such item is under discussion) - None	
306.	Welcome by the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Tina Clark	
307.	Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies 307.1 Maidstone Borough Council – Ward Councillor – Cllr Gill Fort – apologies received due to a town hall meeting. 307.2 Kent County Council – County Councillor – Cllr Shellina Prendergast – report received prior to meeting Following my update last month on Devolution – just one day after Kent was told it would not get a fast track devolution deal, the Government told the county's council leaders that they must press ahead with their proposals for local government reorganisation – that is, make plans to merge to create single authorities and make structures simpler and more efficient. Council leaders across Kent and Medway – now have until 21 st March to come up with an interim proposal as to how Kent and Medway could be divided into unitary authorities, with full proposals expected by 28 th November. Understandably, there will be some challenges as to how you would keep local government "local" in this new kind of structure, and that is something that all of at Kent County Council, Medway Council and the 12 district/borough councils will now have to carefully consider as we work on our initial plans and structures. Personally, I would very much hope that this would mean a strengthened position for our parish councils, many of whom do some incredible work on behalf of their local communities. And please be assured that nobody at Kent County Council will sign up to any proposal that does not result in the right financial and service outcomes for Kent residents. I will, of course, keep you updated on progress but in the meantime, please note that Kent County Council, in the absence of a mayoral election in 2026, is preparing for the county council election on 1 st May 2025. Budget – following a budget setting meeting on 9 th February, KCC councillors voted to increase council tax by 4.99% - 2% of which is ringfenced for social care – in order to balance the budget in the face of a £150m growth in spending need. This means that the County Council share of the bill for a Band D household will go up by £1.54 per week. This was not an easy decision for any of us but government funding and emerging policies – particularly in adult social care - is leaving many local authorities with no other choice when it comes to supporting some of our most vulnerable residents than to raise council tax for working people who are already struggling to pay the bills. <div style="text-align: right;">Signed _____</div>	

	<p>I've been chairing the A20 working group for the last year to address the many issues with safety on the A20 and to take a holistic view on how these can be addressed rather than the piecemeal efforts by individual parishes over the last few years. There have been a number of successful outcomes for those parishes along the route have just had confirmation that new road markings and signage are to be installed along the M20 J8 roundabout – I know this is not in Broomfield and Kingswood but we all suffer from the congestion that we see there and this will hopefully be an improvement for those entering the Weald of Kent from the motorway and for residents wanting to access that junction without the current delay.</p> <p>The Clerk and I had a very positive meeting with representatives from UKPN regarding the power outages that residents have been suffering for some time. It was good to see that UKPN have already taken action to minimise these – as confirmed by Hayley – and they have pledged to keep us updated on further actions that they are taking.</p> <p>That's it for the moment but please do let me know if anything arises that I can help with.</p>	
307.3	<p>Kent Police – PC James Phillips and two colleagues</p> <p>I am aware of the issues regarding nuisance motorbikes in Kingswood. I chased one of them on foot around the woodland path behind the playing field on Sunday just gone so understand firsthand the problem they cause. I have got CCTV images showing one of the people using the bikes and they will be receiving a visit from me. This is a county wide issue which causes problems in both rural and urban areas so it isn't just yourselves in Kingswood that are effected by this.</p> <p>In total for the Kingswood area there have only been 9 calls since the 1st of January 2025 until today. 4 of these 9 calls were over the weekend of the 7th and 8th of March so there is a significant increase which can justify me utilising more of my colleagues in trying to tackle this issue. We can deal with these bikes in various ways, seizure is an option however it is very important that you report any incidents of nuisance motorbikes either online or using 101 or 999 as appropriate. This will enable a clear picture to be built up of how big the issue is in Kingswood so that resources can be allocated to the area.</p> <p>I cover a large area (Kingswood, Bearsted, Downswood, Otham, Leeds, Langley and Senacre) and therefore cannot always be present but I do follow up calls and I am trying to complete as many foot patrols as possible. Please do chat to me if you see me or alternatively I can be contacted on 101 or Hayley the Parish Clerk is happy to forward emails onto me.</p>	
	Three members of the public left the meeting at 7.51pm	
308.	To approve the minutes of the meeting of Broomfield & Kingswood Parish Council Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 17th February 2025 The above minutes were approved as a true copy and duly signed by Cllr Clark.	
309.	Planning Applications	
309.1	Application No: 24/502454/FULL Notification of Appeal Lodged with the Planning Inspectorate Proposal: Erection of a self-build two bedroom detached chalet bungalow with associated off street parking Address: Land Adjoining Little Chippings Lenham Road Kingswood After due consideration Cllrs had no objections to this application.	
309.2	Application No: 25/500263/FULL Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory, front porch and bathroom. Erection of a single storey rear and side extension with loft conversion including 2no. front dormers, 1no. rear dormer, 4no. roof lights, erection of a replacement front porch and improvements to existing access driveway. Address: The Chimneys Gravelly Bottom Road Kingswood Kent ME17 3NX Amended plans added - 26.02.25 Cllrs read the appeal and had no further comments to make, Objection still stands.	
310.	Ratification of Planning consultation applications decided by email using Delegation Powers re Planning (Minute No 19/101.1) Delegation;	
310.1	Application No: 25/500501/FULL Proposal: Demolition of existing rear garden room with erection of a rear extension with lantern rooflight Address: Springfield Chartway Street Sutton Valence Kent ME17 3HZ Application decided by email and no objections received.	
	<div>Signed _____</div>	

310.2	<p>Application No: 25/500496/FULL</p> <p>Proposal: Temporary permission to allow for the siting of 1no. static mobile home within the rear of the site as use as living accommodation until alterations and extensions to existing bungalow are completed and the dwelling occupied (Part Retrospective).</p> <p>Address: The Chimneys Gravelly Bottom Road Kingswood Kent ME17 3NX</p> <p>Application decided by email and no objections received. Notes made to advise this should be temporary only whilst the work is completed.</p>	
311.	<p>Planning Outcomes (for report only)</p> <p>Application Ref: 25/500081/TPOA</p> <p>Address: East Lodge Lenham Road Kingswood Kent ME17 1LZ</p> <p>Proposal: TPO Application to complete works to one sweet chestnut tree (T1) to reduce height to 10m, spread to 4m, lift canopy to 4m clear of ground and where possible keep branches clear of overhanging the private driveway and power cables.</p> <p>Application Permitted 20/02/2025</p>	
312.	<p>Actions & Outcomes (for report only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency pothole repair completed at Sports Field. The upgrade to the existing CCTV is being installed at the Sports Field and should be complete week of 17th March. 	
313.	<p>Finances and Payment of Accounts</p> <p>313.1 Bank reconciliation February 2025 This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and agreed by all at the meeting and signed by Cllr Mercer and RFO.</p> <p>313.2 Responsible Finance Officer's report February 2025 This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and agreed by all at the meeting and signed by Cllr Mercer and Cllr Pink.</p> <p>313.3 To approve the schedule of payments for March 2025 This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and agreed by all at the meeting and signed by Cllr Clarke and Cllr Davies.</p> <p>313.4 To ratify payments already made in February 2025 This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and agreed by all at the meeting and signed by Cllr Mercer and Cllr Pink.</p> <p>313.5 Reconciliation of invoices against cheques and ledger for February 2025 Cllrs reconciled the invoices against the ledger Cllr Pink and Cllr Blainey initialled the invoices and ledgers accordingly.</p> <p>313.6 To consider the performance against the 2024/25 budget Circulated prior to meeting. Clerk reviewed budget for the year 2024/25 so far.</p> <p>313.7 To review and complete the insurance pre renewal questionnaire Cllrs reviewed and completed the questionnaire accordingly. Clerk to send to insurer.</p>	Clerk
314.	<p>Sports Field</p> <p>314.1 Review of the month's Sports Field Inspection Sheets There are two damaged wooden bollards on the car park bund, Cllr Davies to inspect and report back to Clerk. A step on the pirate ship has some wear and tear. No repair required currently. The pirate ship is being replaced later this year.</p> <p>314.2 To resolve to accept quotation for grass maintenance in the Sports Field and Village for 2025/26 Cllrs reviewed three quotations received. Cllrs resolved to proceed with quotation from Paul Waring due to his knowledge of the work required and the competitiveness of the quotation. Clerk to contact and inform contractors of decision.</p> <p>314.3 To review options with regards to moles at the Sports Field Cllr Moss looked at the mole issue at the Sports Field and advised there appears to be two main areas. Cllr Moss met with a pest control company to discuss options however this is something that our grounds maintenance contractor already tends to. Cllrs resolved no further work required due to it already being monitored.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signed _____</p>	<p>Cllr Davies</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p>315. 315.1</p> <p>315.2</p>	<p>Policing Crime Figures On Wednesday 12th of February between 15:05 and 15:30 in Ashford Road. Somebody stole roof tiles, cameras and damaged a window on an outbuilding, at a residential property. Crime Report No. 46/28594/25 - Posted 21/02/2025</p> <p>Between 20:00 on Thursday 27th of February and 08:00 on Sunday 2nd of March in Gravelly Bottom Road. Somebody stole three windows from a sales caravan outside a residential property Crime Report No. 46/35923/25 - Posted 05/03/2025</p>	
<p>316.</p>	<p>To receive an update on the Joint Village Hall Project Cllr Clark advised that estimates for cost are being looked into. The Parish Council will look into grants available for the project. The next meeting will be held at the end of April therefore Cllr Clark and Cllr Clarke will report back at the May meeting.</p>	
<p>317.</p>	<p>To discuss and resolve dates for the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting Cllrs resolved that the Annual Parish Council meeting is to be held at 7pm on the 19th of May and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held afterwards at approximately 8pm.</p>	
<p>318.</p>	<p>To review and consider the Parish Council Action Plan for 2025 Cllrs reviewed. Clerk to amend accordingly and bring to next meeting for adoption.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>319.</p>	<p>To agree dates for the 2025 village litter picks Cllrs discussed and resolved to agree the following dates for litter picks. Meeting at the Sports Field at 10am. Pickers, bags etc provided. Refreshments provided once litter pick complete. Sunday 6th April at 10am Sunday 27th April at 10am Sunday 25th May at 10am Sunday 29th June at 10am Sunday 27th July at 10am Sunday 7th September at 10am</p>	
<p>320.</p>	<p>To review correspondence received in relation to Maidstone's Big Day Out and resolve how to proceed Cllrs reviewed information and resolved that they are unable to participate however the Parish Council will support the event by promoting it. Clerk to action.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>321.</p>	<p>To receive feedback from meeting with UK Power Network and Cllr Shellina Prendergast Meeting held with UKPN in relation to the frequent short power cuts that the Parish experiences. Summary of meeting below...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short power cuts are mainly due to overhead lines coming into contact with something like a tree branch. • UKPN are notified that there is a fault on an overhead line between A and B, they are not given an exact location. • Auto reclose – the service can have up to three short (on/off) power cuts in a row, if there are more than three then the power turns off for safety reasons. • There is 2km of overhead line in our area. The other cable is underground. • A line patrol was carried out whereby UKPN walked the entire length of the line to identify areas of concern which could be causing the short power cuts. • 11 points were identified whereby trees were close enough to the line to cause issues. • 7 of these points have already had trees cut back. • 2 of these points require a full shut down of the line to enable tree work to be carried out. This will be done within the next three months and residents affected will be notified. • The other 2 points have unsuitable ground conditions for the access vehicles and UKPN are now negotiating with the land owner about when access can be gained. • Once the 11 points have been actioned a drone from the Eastbourne Specialist Team will be sent along the line to pick up any other defects on the line that cannot be seen from the ground. <p>UKPN to provide an update once all work has been completed on the line.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signed _____</p>	

322.	<p>To receive feedback from meeting in relation to the number 59 bus service</p> <p>Meeting held with NuVenture and other Parishes that the number 59 bus service serves. Summary of meeting below...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has always been a bus service serving our parishes. • In February 2023 forty routes were discontinued due to cost by KCC, the number 59 service being one of those services. • Parish Councils stepped in and funded a once a week bus service with the help of Nu-Venture. • Funding was received from KCCs Community Transport Grant for years one and three and Lottery Funding was secured for year two. The service is fully funded until March 2026. • A route change occurred in January 2025 due to constant road closures disrupting the service on Chartway Street. The service now also makes a stop in Headcorn which may be of interest to residents. • Nu-Venture are very keen to see this service continue into the future. • This is a valued and reliable service with a friendly driver who knows the passengers well. • The service is well used. <p>Parish Councils and Nu-Venture will meet again later this year to discuss funding for the service from March 2026.</p>	
323.	<p>To receive feedback from KALC Chairman Conference</p> <p>Cllr Clark and Cllr Davies attended the conference and overall found it very useful. There were a number of speakers covering different subjects including; Weller and Co Solicitors who deal exclusively with local authorities; risk assessments; cyber security; devolution; Crimestoppers; the Resilience Forum and Aubergine and Co.</p>	
324. 324.1 324.2 324.3 324.4	<p>Residents' concerns</p> <p>324.1 Nuisance motorbikes Previously covered by PC Phillips.</p> <p>324.2 Dog Fouling Continuing to see big issues with this. Clerk has put stickers around the village regarding being prosecuted. Maidstone Borough Council are due to spray pavements again shortly.</p> <p>324.3 ASB at Sports Field Cllrs wish to remind residents that the Sports Field is intended for everyone's enjoyment. Any incidents should be reported to Kent Police. PC Phillips is aware of all incidents and will be regularly attending the Sports Field.</p> <p>324.4 Potholes, road conditions and overgrown hedges around the Parish. This remains a big issue not just in our Parish but around the County. All of the issues above are the responsibility of Kent County Council and can be reported using the following link... https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</p>	
325. 325.1	<p>Any other information</p> <p>325.1 Village Hall AGM – Cllr Clark attended and advised no changes to report.</p>	
302. 302.1	<p>Items for next agenda</p> <p>302.1 To review and adopt the Parish Council Action Plan for 2025</p>	
303.	<p>Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Monday 7th April 2025. The meeting will take place at Broomfield and Kingswood Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood ME17 3PX from 7.30pm.</p> <p>Cllr Clark closed the meeting at 9.04pm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signed _____</p>	