

KINGS WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Kings Walden Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Breachwood Green on Tuesday 19th January 2016 at 7.45 pm

Present: Cllrs: Amanda King (Chair), Martin Rosser, Liz Thurlby and Amanda Thompson
In attendance: County and District Cllr D Barnard, the clerk: Tom Brindley

8.1 Apologies for Absence

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Jon Chamberlin (illness), Ross Macleod, (work commitments) and David Bennett.

8.2 Chairman's remarks

8.2.1 The chairman reminded members that declarations of interest should be made immediately prior to the item under discussion.

8.3 Public participation

8.3.1 Cllr Barnard addressed the council. Cllr Barnard gave apologies from Cllr Faye Frost who had hoped to attend but had sent apologies.

8.3.2 The county budget would be set on 23rd February and was likely to result in a 3.5 % increase in the county precept. The police commissioner had reduced the police share of the precept by 0.5%. The district council had increased its precept by 1.9%.

8.3.3 Crown estates had held an exhibition showing how it plans to build 550 house and was expected to submit a planning application by the end of March 2016.

8.3.4 The district council had instructed AECOM to carry out a traffic survey on the impact of this development on the roads around Luton.

8.3.5 Cllr Barnard reminded councillors that there was a Southern Rural Area Committee meeting in March and that there was still some money available in the grants budget.

8.3.6 Cllr Barnard advised that his county locality budget was being cut by 50% to £5,000 for the financial year commencing April 2016.

8.3.7 Cllr Barnard was asked if traffic and highways were not a county responsibility and he explained that the county was bound by national policies which restricted its ability to object to development on highways grounds.

8.3.8 Cllr Barnard was asked about additional sites which had appeared on a North Herts District Council, website including a large plot in Kings Walden parish. Cllr Barnard was unaware of the site but agreed to investigate with Nigel Smith, the strategic planning officer who had taken over from Richard Kelly.

8.4 Minutes of meeting 19th January 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the chairman.

8.5 Matters Arising:

8.5.1 (7.9.2) Annual Parish meeting. The clerk confirmed that the village hall was available for the Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd May. Cllr Thurlby was organising exhibitors and speakers.

8.5.2 Cllr Thurlby proposed, and it was accepted, that the theme of the meeting would be "A Celebration of the Parish, Past and Present".

8.5.3 Members agreed that small local traders would be invited to attend and advertise their services.

8.5.4 Members RESOLVED to allocate a budget of £50 for refreshments, hall hire and display boards.

8.5.5 Cllr Thurlby asked if anyone knew of a source of display boards.

8.5.6 The Breachwood Green Society had agreed to continue litter picking in Breachwood Green and would welcome some of the environment grant received from the district council. The society explained that it would not be able to expand the service to Kings Walden or Ley Green.

- 8.5.7 Cllr Amanda King declared an interest as she was a member of the Breachwood Green Society and did not participate in the debate or vote.
- 8.5.8 Members RESOLVED to pass on £400, from the environment enhancement reserve, to the Breachwood Green Society for litter picking in Breachwood Green.
- 8.5.9 Members resolved to allocate £200 towards litter picking in Ley Green, should a suitable contractor be found.
- 8.5.10 Members RESOLVED to assign £250 of the grant from NHDC to part fund the work that W Billington Gardening Services provides in Breachwood Green and Ley Green play areas.
- 8.5.11 (7.7.6) The clerk had circulated details of the MUGA and tennis court capital projects showing the sources of income and to show what money the council contributed. The calculations were also posted to the website.

8.6 Casual Vacancy

The clerk had spoken with an interested party who would not be available until the April Meeting. Members resolved to defer any co-option until the March or April meeting.

8.7 Housing Needs Survey

It had not been possible to distribute the report in time for this meeting. It was agreed to defer consideration of the report to the March meeting.

8.8 Finance

- 8.8.1 **Financial report.** The clerk presented the report to 31st January 2016, which was **NOTED**.
- 8.8.2 **Payments** totalling £8,809.40 were **AUTHORISED** (see list annexed to these minutes) including S137 expenditure as set out below.
- 8.8.3 Resolved that the council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure which in the opinion of the council is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:
 - a. £36 for subscription to the CPRE
 - b. £400 to the Breachwood Green Society for environment enhancement in Breachwood Green

8.9 Planning

- 8.9.1 Application 6/00122/1LB and 6/00122/1HH at Kingswell End Cottage, Kingswell End Road, Kings Walden. Members had no wish to object.
- 8.9.2 The clerk had checked the district council planning portal but the site was down so decisions were unknown.

8.10 Sports Management Committee

The clerk had advised Dave Barnes that the MUGA fee remained free of VAT. No bookings had been received since the spring.

8.11 Highways (including footpaths and street naming)

- 8.11.1 **Parish Path Benches:** In the absence of Cllr Chamberlin, this item was held over.
- 8.11.2 **Erection of notice board** at Breachwood Green. In error, the notice board had been delivered to the clerk and the invoice to Cllr Chamberlin. The clerk and Cllr Chamberlin were arranging erection.
- 8.11.3 **Meeting with Ringway area manager.** The clerk and Cllrs King, Thurlby had met with Derek Jerrard, Ringway area manager and Trevor Ward, Area highways engineer to discuss a parish highway plan initiative.
- 8.11.4 Ringway had asked the council to compile a Highways parish Plan, a list of low priority (Cat 2) highways faults, such as road signs damaged or dirty or obscured by branches, carriage way

damage which did not meet the pot hole definition (greater than 100mm) depth . These would be addressed whenever the team was working in the area on Cat 5 faults.

8.11.5 Members were asked to send the clerk details of any such highways issues.

8.11.6 The clerk was asked to add Highways fault reporting to a future agenda.

8.11.7 Councillor Thurlby had heard that the Police Commissioner had a budget for traffic calming, funded from speeding fines. It was reported that Mrs B Squires was concerned at speeding vehicles near her home in Heath Road.

8.12 Village Hall

8.12.1 Cllr King would attend a meeting on 3rd March and report to the next meeting.

8.12.2 Cllr King agreed to assist the clerk in clearing the filing cabinet but could not do so until the 4th March.

8.13 Youth Club and Youth Hut

8.13.1 Toilet access:

- a. The building works had been completed. The clerk had been unable to obtain spare keys for the new lock as blanks were not yet available for this new model. The locksmith had asked the clerk to bring the entire lock in and he could then make spare keys. Meanwhile the door is secured by the lockable panic latch.
- b. The clerk was awaiting receipt of the electrical certificate and fire door certificate which were required before the district council building control would issue a certificate of completion. Payment would be withheld until the completion certificate was obtained.
- c. Members agreed that the clerk could pass a key to Joe Croft so the Tigers club could use the toilets, subject to a simple letter of agreement on access and cleanliness.
- d. Quotations for decoration were still being pursued.
- e. The youth club requires some serviceable wall mounted kitchen units to which locks can be fitted to hold tuck. Members were asked to look out for suitable second-hand units.
- f. The club had now re-opened.

8.13.2 Cllr Chamberlin and his wife had assisted the youth workers clean the youth hut and to dispose of redundant equipment.

8.13.3 The clerk reported that the till was listed as being owned by Ross Woolner and he felt that the till should be owned by the council.

8.13.4 Cash of £128.70 and stock of £150.00 for the youth club was reported and this amount would be written onto the council balance sheet.

8.13.5 After disposal the youth club contents have been valued as assets worth £4,215 with an insurance (replacement) value of £7,770.

8.14 Correspondence

8.14.1 A letter asking for any information on the exact location of a searchlight at Diamond End had been received from Mr John Archer, who is compiling a register of searchlights. The clerk had posted the appeal to the website.

8.15 Other matters

8.15.1 Staff Pensions. The clerk reported that the council was required to register for workplace pension by 1st March and that he had signed the council to a government sponsored scheme. However, none of the council's employees met the criteria for a compulsory workplace pension. Staff could register voluntarily and any payment would be deducted at source via the payroll but the council was not obliged to make any contribution. All staff had been written to advising them of their rights.

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8.16 Date of Next Meetings

Parish Council: Tuesday 15th March 2016 **7.45 pm** Breachwood Green Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.38 p.m.

Signed Chairman _____ Date _____

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PAYMENTS APPROVED

<i>Power</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Chq #</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Net</i>	<i>VAT</i>
4	16/02/2016	Todeka Ltd	Office services	FPO	60.00	50.00	10.00
5	16/02/2016	T Brindley	Clerk Expenses	1670	70.83	64.33	6.50
2	16/02/2016	W Billington	Gardening	FPO	156.47	155.49	0.98
2	16/02/2016	Advanced Building Solutions	Youth hut	FPO	5486.40	4572	914.40
4	16/02/2016	Greenbarnes	Notice Board	FPO	1526.10	1,271.75	254.35
4	16/02/2016	Breachwood Green Village Hall	Hire fee	FPO	200.00	200.00	0.00
7	16/02/2016	The Breachwood Green Society	Litter Pick	FPO	400.00	400.00	0.00
7	16/02/2016	CPRE	Subscription	FPO	36.00	36.00	0.00
1	16/02/2016	M Page	Hedge cutting	1669	600.00	600.00	0.00
					8,535.80	7,349.57	1,186.23

* = Approved

+ = Already paid

Powers:

- 1 Grass cutting: Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10
- 2 Play area/Glebe land: LG (Misc Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
- 3 HAPTC membership: LGA 1972 s.143
- 4 Audit, Insurance, Training: LGA 1972 s.111: (1)
- 5 Salary/expenses: LGA 1972 s.112(2)
- 6 Other, Localism Act 2011
- 7 S137: LGA 1972 s137