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**Bredgar Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Open Meeting held on**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.30pm**  
**At Bredgar Village School**

**Present:** Chairman Cllr. Mr. B. Willis; Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites;  
Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke; Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman; Cllr. Mr. G. Kite; Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen.

**Clerk:** Mrs. T. Hudson.

**In Attendance:** PCSO Sophie Clements.

**Members of the public:** There were five members of the public present.

**Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman, Cllr. Mr. Willis, circulated the Chairman's Report to all attendees.

**Introduction**

Cllr. Mr. Willis recapped the issues from the previous Open Meeting and invited questions and comments on the items discussed or any other issues.

**Speed Limit through the Village**

Residents felt that the speed limit of 40mph at either end of the village seemed to slow traffic down but had little effect through The Street. Drivers coming from Swanton Street largely ignored the Give Way sign at the Church.

Vehicles speeding past the Primary School in Bexon Lane have been noted and reported to the police. Enquiries are ongoing.

A proposal for a 20mph speed limit in Bexon Lane passing the School and in the centre of the village would require funding and a progressive step down of the speed limit on entering the village. It was not thought this proposal would be acceptable by KHS or financially viable at present.

Trees hide a 30mph speed limit sign in Bexon Lane. Cllr. Mr. Kite is to contact the relevant authorities to remedy this.

**Parking in the Village**

Parked cars around properties at Primrose Grove junction close to the Memorial were causing an obstruction. PCSO Sophie Clements agreed to look into the problem again.

**Parish Precept**

Parishioners enquired about the increase in the council tax for householders. The Chairman explained that the shift of 41p per Band D property from the direct Council Tax to the village Precept is due to reduced grant funding from central Government to Swale

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Borough Council and not the Parish Council requesting an increase in the village Precept which remains at £9,000 for 2013/14

**Farmshop Signage**

Residents enquired whether a new sign for the Farmshop was imminent.

Cllr. Mr. Willis explained that historically, the PC has endeavoured to contribute funds to a new sign to encompass the shop, café and Post Office but successive managers of the Shop have not taken up the offer. Residents felt the current signage impacts adversely on sight lines and may cause an obstruction. The offer from the PC for funding remains open if a suitable sign is sourced by the current managers of the Farmshop.

**Superfast Broadband for the Village**

Following an announcement by KCC of a contract for the provision of superfast broadband for rural areas of Kent, Councillors have received information indicating that Bredgar would fall within the criteria for inclusion. There is a caveat that suggests some dispersed properties may not be included. Following a period of analysis, the order of rollout will be decided. It is hoped that councillors can keep Bredgar high in the conscious of KCC in order to benefit as soon as possible. Residents asked if they could do any more to help. Cllr. Mr. Clarke said they had already helped by signing up on line but that businesses could provide evidence of how better links could aid their business. Cllr. Mr. Clarke will also engage the interest of other local parishes. A periodic update will be published in the Parish Magazine.

**Blind Marys Lane Enforcement**

The Chairman has received reassurance from SBC that the process is being made in an endeavour to implement the Enforcement Notice at Blind Marys Lane.

**Lime Kiln Shaw**

Unusual land clearance has taken place at Lime Kiln Shaw. Councillors will monitor the area.

**Motor Restoration, Bexon Lane**

The motor restoration business that closed down last year is likely to reopen. It is hoped that local people will benefit from employment there.

**Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)**

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High levels of crime such as burglary have been reported recently. Patrols have been increased locally but residents are asked to continue to report all crime so that action can be targeted appropriately. The PC is currently recruiting residents for the new NHW initiative. A report is in the PC Minutes of the meeting following this Open Meeting.

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