

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Chair Cllr. Penny Twaites;
Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Brian Clarke; Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Jane Ingram;
Cllr. Dick Clack; Cllr. Susie Hickman Cllr. Beverley McCourt and Cllr. David Priestley.

Clerk: Teresa Hudson

Members of the Public: One member of the public was present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from KCC Cllr. Andrew Bowles.

2. Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

No interests were declared.

3. Declaration of any intention to record or film the PC meeting by any member of the Council or member of the public

No declaration of intent was made.

The duration of the meeting was two and a half hours.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 29th August 2018 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. D. Clack, seconded by Cllr. D. Priestley
They were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

5. PCSO Report

PCSO Lorraine Holmes is currently confined to the office and will be on maternity leave shortly. Any issues can still be reported and will be followed up by her colleagues.

Cllrs informed the meeting that a parishioner who is a banned driver has been seen several times driving different vehicles. These instances have been reported on 101; however, no information is available on whether this has been followed up. The clerk is to ask KCC Cllr. Bowles to investigate with the Community Safety Unit whether action will be taken.

6. Ten Minutes representation by the public

The parishioner present was concerned about the effects of the floods in the village, which occurred in May 2018. Since then, councillors have worked hard to find solutions to the individual issues suffered by residents.

A meeting was held recently with Councillors and representatives from KHS at three sites in the village that have big drainage problems. KHS/KCC have confirmed agreement to some works to be carried out to alleviate these issues and these should roll out over the next few months.

The parishioner present thanked the PC for all their help in finding a possible solution to the problems.

**Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 7.30pm**

KHS stated that funds only allowed for drains to be cleaned when they were reported rather than a systematic rota for cleaning. It is preferable to report all necessary drains for cleaning at once so that they can all be done at the same time.

Possible solutions to the blocked weir at the pond centred on installing a grill to stop leaves etc. from blocking the opening. Cllrs are to consider an experimental structure to test ideas.

7. Authorisation of Accounts

Payments

01/09/18	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
03/09/18	Mutts Butts	Dog Bags	157.25
04/09/18	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	132.00
05/09/18	T. Hudson	Honorarium	350.00
20/09/18	SSE	Pond Electricity	60.36
22/09/18	J. Jewiss	Rec Grd Work	1250.00
29/09/18	Royal British Legion Poppy Wreath		20.00
01/10/18	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
08/10/18	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	132.00
01/11/18	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/11/18	Cllr. Hickman	Plants for Memorial	56.62
01/11/18	Cllr. Clarke	Shrubs for Jubilee Garden	30.47
05/11/18	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	66.00
05/11/18	Ask A Gardener	Turf at Memorial	535.20

Receipts

02/08/18	Leslie Hill	Burial	777.00
28/08/18	MIB	Insurance Excess	125.00
07/09/18	KCC	Grass Maintenance	205.85
24/09/18	Bredgar Cricket Club	Donation	43.75
28/09/18	SBC	Precept	4942.00
05/11/18	David Parry	Burial Plot Purchase	190.00
07/11/18	Blenwood	Replacement Shrubs	18.48

Councillors had no queries on the above accounts.

8. Finance & Policies

Financial Review

Two additions to the expected expenditure are solicitor's fees for the cricket club lease at £1000 and cemetery railings repairs at £850.

The PC duly approved the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. J. Ingram, seconded by Cllr. D. Clack.

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 7.30pm

Precept Review

Councillors agreed to increase the precept by the inflation rate of 2.4%, a rise of £237 bringing the annual precept to £10121.00

Statement of Internal Control

One amendment has been made to the SIC; the external auditors no longer send a report to the clerk if an Exemption Certificate has been submitted. Councillors unanimously approved the amendment.

GDPR Policy

Cllr. Clarke has circulated various policies by email for approval by councillors to conform to the standards required. The latest policy, Retention of Documents has been circulated and is approved by councillors. Policies will be reviewed annually. Cllr. is to register with the Information Commissioners Office as a data processor.

9. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. J. Ingram

The Post Office continues to thrive. The Farmshop has opened a new clothing department in the building at the bottom of the car park and stocks Joules and Deerhunter clothing, along with gardening products.

There will be a Christmas Fair at the Farmshop on Saturday 8th December. There will be many craft stalls and Father Christmas will visit in the afternoon.

The Christmas tree will arrive on 5th December and will be erected on 6th December.

The village hall has a new committee and enjoys more flexibility and is going from strength to strength.

Cllr. S. Hickman

Heavy rainfall creates a large puddle at the bottom of Deans Hill. This has been reported to KHS several times but as it doesn't fit the criteria, nothing can be done. Cllr. Clarke is to raise the issue with KHS to try to find a solution.

Cllr. Hickman attended the Eleemosyary charity meeting where Christmas gifts are allocated to certain residents as defined by the charity's criteria. Three parishioners will also receive flowers arrangements.

The plants at the War Memorial have been replaced.

Cllr. Twaites thanked everyone involved with the Remembrance Service.

Cllr. D. Priestley

The fish cull has been carried out successfully.

Cllrs are grateful to Heather Spratt for her kind donation of the new duck house. A date will be fixed to launch it.

Cllr. B. McCourt

Cllr. McCourt will attend the Community Emergency plan conference next week.

Cllr. D. Clack

The new cemetery railings are due to be delivered next week. Installation will follow shortly after.

Cllr. B. Clarke

The rose and two shrubs have been replaced in the Jubilee Garden. Cllrs discussed whether to ask Jonathon Gardner to take on the task of grass cutting at the Jubilee Garden and War Memorial. The clerk is to enquire about costs.

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 7.30pm

The patch of grass between the pond and Wal De Clowe will be added to the Blenwood contract.

Cllr. Clarke attended the Landscape Review where sites were put forward for special protection. None of the Bredgar sites were accepted; but Cllr. Clarke supported the retention of status of other local sites. Decisions will be reported at the next meeting on 29th November.

Work continues on the Swanton Street broadband proposal. Funding has been delayed but hopes remain for a positive solution.

Speed

A speed survey is to take place along Bexon Road to potentially reposition the 30mph sign further along the road. Councillors discussed whether to also go ahead with a survey at Swanton Street as it is debateable whether it would successfully result in a reduction of the speed limit. Councillors unanimously agreed to the survey at a proposed cost of £360 for each survey.

A proposal for a 20mph speed limit through the village is unlikely to succeed, therefore councillors are working with other parishes to try to change KCC policy. KALC is to consult with KCC and the Crime Commissioner to look at different ways of enforcement.

Cllr. Clarke felt that he has taken the project as far as possible at the present time. White lines have been repainted at The Street; other sites have been reported to KCC for repainting.

Cllr. Clarke also attended a Swale Area meeting as well as the Kent Highways, Transportation and Waste Parish Seminar on the 2nd November. Kent Highways reported on all aspects of their work including; near completion of the LED lighting project, BREXIT planning, highway maintenance, winter/severe weather planning, rural transport planning, road safety measures and promoting partnership working with parishes. Cllr Clarke asked questions during the seminar about drainage maintenance and 20MPH speed limits.

Cllr. P. Twaites

Cllrs Twaites and Clarke attended a 5Parishes meeting concerning the proposed Garden Village developments. The schemes are published on the website; Cllr. Twaites is to circulate a link to councillors.

Graham Thomas informed Cllr. Twaites that an appeal has been submitted for the Brazil site at Blind Marys Lane. This will go to the Inspector of Planning. Bredgar School continues to thrive.

10. Village Matters Progress Reports:

Flooding Issues

Please see item 6.

Duck House

The new duck house is ready and will be launched soon.

Cull of Fish

Three tanks of fish were successfully removed from the pond.

Recreation Ground works

The area of the recreation ground behind the play equipment has been cleared and seeded.

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 7.30pm

Primrose Grove Path

Nothing new to report.

Litter Bin – Jubilee Garden

A new litterbin has been ordered from SBC. Installation should take place in the New Year.

Swanton Street Footpath

The project is moving forward and a successful outcome seems assured.

11. Grass Cutting

A letter has been received from KCC Landscape Services revising costs significantly upwards. Councillors discussed the costs and agreed to accept them, as other suppliers were also significantly more expensive. However, it is regrettable that costs will also rise for the cricket club grass cutting contribution.

12. Speedwatch Update

The Speedwatch team are taking a break for the winter but will make a renewed effort to recruit more members after Christmas.

It remains an issue for villagers who are concerned about high speeds through the village. The PC encourages anyone who is concerned for the safety of pedestrians to consider joining the team, as it is very worthwhile.

13. Neighbourhood Watch Update

The current coordinator of Speedwatch has given notice; the vacant position will be revisited next year.

14. Cricket Club Update

The new Cricket Club Lease is very close to agreement on both sides.

15. Any Other Business

A parishioner has asked if a gate for the disabled could be created into the recreation ground. Councillors felt this would be too costly but offered to provide a key to the vehicle gate.

The next PC meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm in Bredgar School.