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**Bredgar Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held**  
**At Bredgar School**  
**On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Chair Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites;  
Vice Chair Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke; Vice Chair Cllr. Ms. J. Collins;  
Cllr. Mr. D. Clack; and Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley.

**Clerk:** Mrs. T. Hudson

**In Attendance:** KCC SBC Cllr. Andrew Bowles.

**Members of the public:** Four members of the public were present.

The Chair welcomed Cllr. Bowles to the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. A. Dwyer, Cllr. S. Hickman and PCSO Lorraine Holmes.

**2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial Interests**

An interest was declared by the clerk in respect of the Post Office.  
An interest was declared by Cllr. Collins in respect of the Farmshop/Tearoom.

**3. Declaration of any intent 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 hours.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. D. Priestley, seconded by Cllr. D. Clack.  
They were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

**Matters Arising**

The advertising van on the motorway bridge at Primrose Lane has been removed following involvement from PCSO Josh Marshall.

**5. PCSO Report**

Cllr. Dwyer met with PCSO Lorraine Holmes, who is keen to become involved in the community. Cllr. Dwyer will introduce her to the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator after the holiday period.

**6. Ten Minutes Representation by the Public:**

**Excessive Speed through the village**

A parishioner is keen to see action on the excessive speed of vehicles through the village. Cars have killed several ducks and the parishioner does not want a child to be knocked down.

The Chair explained the background of work already carried out by the PC on this issue; we have Speedwatch, which is well supported by 8 trained volunteers; and meetings have been held with KCC Highways and police representatives. The police

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carried out their own Speedwatch earlier in the year but unfortunately this was when the Hollingbourne road was closed. They promised to return, so Cllr. Clarke will follow this up.

Cllr. Bowles offered to put pressure on the Chief Constable and Chief Officer for Swale Police to prioritise Bredgar's issues at an upcoming meeting he will be attending. The PC is grateful for this offer.

Action is reliant on records so Speedwatch data is vital and will be used to assist in combating the problem.

Earlier this year, the PC met with Matthew Balfour, KCC, who promised to look at solutions to the problem. The PC would like to see a 20mph limit through the village and would like to be proactive but there are still legalities that need to be addressed.

**Bredgar Farmshop**

A parishioner expressed support for the Farmshop and said the new owner is doing amazing things, he asked what else could be done to continue to invigorate the venture? The PC fully supports the Farmshop and Cllr. Collins is to consult with the owner.

**7. Authorisation of Accounts**

The PC approved the accounts as set out in the meeting's agenda. Proposed by Cllr. Collins; seconded by Cllr. Clack.

**Payments:**

06/04/17	KALC	Subscriptions	£290.54
10/04/17	KALC	Training	£36.00
26/04/17	CPRE	Subscriptions	£36.00
02/05/17	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
03/05/17	AON	Insurance	£582.47
03/05/17	J. Gardner	Village maintenance	£132.00
06/05/17	EDF	Pond electricity	£55.44
16/05/17	Cllr. Hickman	Plants	£67.99
16/05/17	Bredgar School	Donation	£160.00
25/05/17	Cllr. Clarke	Website Domain	£15.58
25/05/17	Cllr. Clack	Chain/padlock/rec grd gate	£61.50
06/06/17	J. Gardner	Village maintenance	£198.00
01/06/17	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
09/06/17	J. Harron	Thirsk Payroll	£16.25
09/06/17	T. Hudson	Honorarium/Training	£355.00
01/07/17	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
02/07/17	EDF	Pond electricity	£57.20
02/07/17	SBC	Brown bin	£35.00
08/07/17	J. Gardner	Village maintenance	£132.00
19/07/17	EDF	Pond electricity	£27.28
26/07/17	ROSPA	Rec Grd Inspection	£84.00

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<b>01/04/17</b>	<b>J. Parker</b>	<b>Burial plot purchase</b>	<b>£125.00</b>
<b>17/05/17</b>	<b>E. Harris</b>	<b>Burial plot purchase</b>	<b>£250.00</b>
<b>17/05/17</b>	<b>BIDS</b>	<b>Donation for bollards at PO</b>	<b>£342.00</b>
<b>06/06/17</b>	<b>Bredgar Cricket C.</b>	<b>Donation for lock on rec grd gate</b>	<b>£30.75</b>
<b>26/06/17</b>	<b>Bredgar Cricket C.</b>	<b>Donation (Rent)</b>	<b>£43.75</b>
<b>06/07/17</b>	<b>KCC</b>	<b>Grass Cutting Purchase Order</b>	<b>£194.43</b>

**8. Finance****Annual Audit Update**

The Annual Audit has been completed and returned. There are no problems. A copy can be viewed on the parish website.

**Financial Review July 2017**

The financial review shows that the PC will have approximate reserves of £16459.51 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. The funds enable several planned projects/repairs to be completed this year.

Cllr. Collins informed the meeting that Friends of Bredgar Church is raising funds to purchase a glass partition within the Church. It is possible the PC may contribute.

**9. Reports from Councillors****Cllr. Andy Dwyer**

Cllr. Dwyer reported to the Chair prior to the meeting that the fly tipping in Wrens Rd has been cleared, however some detritus remains which Cllrs Dwyer and Clarke will remove. A log has been placed across the opening to prevent more fly tipping.

Cllr. Dwyer met with PCSO Lorraine Holmes who is keen to become involved in the community. Her details can be found on the notice board at the Post Office and she is available for anyone to report incidents or concerns.

**Cllr. Brian Clarke****Highways Issues**

1) Purple Leafed Plum at the Silver Street, Wrens Road and Gore Road junction. The KCC tree warden agreed to have the tree stump removed and this has been completed. KCC Cllr Andrew Bowles has agreed to fund a replacement tree and the KCC Members Grants forms have been submitted for approval.

2) Bexon Lane – hidden 30MPH sign has been reported Kent Highways and they have raised an enquiry for their Soft Landscape team to arrange to have the hedge (15 metres and 6 metres high) cut back around the 30mph sign (enquiry number 42400834).

3) Hidden Primrose Lane duck sign has been reported and moved away from the wall by Kent Highways.

4) Following concerns raised by the residents in Bush House Kent Highways have requested that the KCC Tree Warden inspect this tree (enquiry number 42400833).

5) The condition of the Swanton Street 30MPH sign (near The Sun Inn) has been reported to Kent Highways and we are waiting for their response.

**Emergency Planning**

A draft copy of the Bredgar Emergency Plan, Appendices and proposed Parish News article has been circulated to Councillors for review.

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**Meetings Attended**

Review of the Landscape Character Assessment of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on 10<sup>th</sup> July. This review is performed every five years and feeds into the next AONB Management Plan. A draft of the updated plan is expected to be circulated in September / October. The AONB Management Plan is owned by the borough councils who use it when making planning decisions. KALC SAC 12<sup>th</sup> June. The main presenter for the meeting was PCC Matthew Scott and the topic policing of Gypsies and Travellers was raised as an area of concern. Mr. Scott has issued a response document following the meeting and BPC should receive a copy soon.

KALC F&GP Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Planning meeting for KALC SAC.

**Cllr. Dick Clack**

Nothing to report besides agenda items.

**Cllr. David Priestley**

The decking appears to be slippery at times. The PC will address the issue.

Fishing lines have been discarded around the pond; this could be a hazard.

**Cllr. Jane Collins**

The notices on the dog waste bag receptacles have made an impact: fewer bags are being taken. However, the sun has faded the notices so new ones will be put up.

The Farmshop continues to thrive. Matt Cockell has taken over full ownership of the Farmshop and Tearoom, while remaining firm friends with the two previous partners. He has given up his city job to fully focus on making the business a success. There is continuity with permanent staff and a new menu in the Tearoom, which has proved very popular.

**Cllr. Penny Twaites**

Bredgar School closed its doors as an individual primary school at the end of term 6 in July and will reopen in September as a member of a Church of England Multi Academy Trust along with The Oaks, Minterne and Borden Primary schools. Bredgar School is very much the leader of the group of schools in the Trust. School life will continue as usual; staff and pupils will see very little change, but the academisation locks in continuation of collaboration between the schools and will be financially beneficial. Cllr. Bowles offered the Chair any assistance required, as he has been a Finance Governor himself. The offer was gratefully received.

The Chair has attended a reception hosted by the Mayor of Swale, taking advantage of the networking opportunity.

**10. Planning Matters**

**Legal Briefing Report**

Councillors reported an interesting meeting, which told of scarce resources and change of staffing. Peter Hinckesman is leaving and Graham Thomas is taking over his role, in part.

**Local Plan Publication**

The Swale Local Plan has been published. There appears to be no immediate direct impact on Bredgar although the South Sittingbourne site is back with a mention in the plan.

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**Blind Marys Lane Site**

Following the enforcement notice, Swale is finding it a challenge to remove and store the caravan left on site. There is a requirement to keep it in the same condition for a set period of time. A possible site has been identified locally which will be followed up.

**Swanton Street Site**

This has been resolved

**Deans Hill**

The appeal is going through the due process.

Councillors questioned the underlying reason for the resident being on site.

**11. Village Matters**

**Cemetery Railings**

Quotes have been received from three firms ranging from £1200 to £1598 for the replacement of three panels. One firm has carried out work for the PC previously and is recommended, therefore the PC voted unanimously to accept their quote of £1200.

**Pond Railings**

Parts have been ordered to repair the railings and Cllrs. Clarke and Clack will carry out the work.

**Post Office/Farmshop Bollards**

Progress has been made and work will begin when the logistics have been arranged.

**Speedwatch Update**

Speedwatch volunteers continue to operate and achieve good results. The equipment is borrowed from Tunstall Parish Council and the Tunstall clerk has approached Bredgar PC to ask if they would be prepared to contribute to the costs of repair if the equipment should require it? Councillors agreed in principle to help as Tunstall PC is generous in lending the equipment.

**Swanton Street Footpath**

The PC insurance would cover the proposed footpath.

Agreement with the land tenant has been agreed in principle. A site visit by the PC will be carried out.

**Play Area Inspection**

The annual inspection of the play equipment has been completed. The PC noted the remarks of the inspector.

**Pond Tidy**

The PC is encouraged by the enthusiastic involvement of parishioners in the welfare of the ducks on the pond. However, it is important to remember that wildlife are wild by nature and whilst measures can be taken to enhance their environment they don't always do what we want them to do, i.e. nest where they are safe.

A letter has been received from a parishioner offering ideas to improve the welfare of the ducks; the Chair will reply to the letter.

Shrubs at the entrance to the decking are to be removed to improve sightlines for pedestrians and vehicles.

Weeding on the island has encouraged the ducks to take refuge there.

The PC is investigating the proposal to build a duck raft in the pond.

Rod fishing will be prohibited from anywhere around the pond following a unanimous vote by the PC.

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**Tree Maintenance Update**

The Golden Oak in the Jubilee Garden has taken well. Although it is a bit sparse at the top, there are buds forming.

**Village Walk by Councillors**

Councillors carried out a walk around the village to ascertain any tasks that needed attention.

Several items were identified and will be attended to. In addition, the container in the recreation ground has now been emptied and will be removed.

**12. Remembrance Day Service**

Reverend Alan Pinnegar will be consulted on the PC involvement at the Remembrance service in November. The Chair asked Cllr. Clarke to read the names and Cllr. Collins to lay the wreath. Cllr. Twaites will take the reading.

**13. Cricket Club Lease/ Use of Recreation Ground**

Councillors and members of the Cricket Club have discussed the Cricket Club lease at length. The PC unanimously proposed to cut back the trees and shrubbery along the Wrens Rd and Bush House boundaries then hand over to the Cricket Club to maintain on an ongoing basis.

**14. Any Other Business**

**Christmas Tree**

Cllr. Clack offered to organise the annual Christmas tree on the island.

**Bench**

It was reported that a bench in the recreation ground is broken. Cllrs. will arrange a repair or replacement.

**Cllr. Bowles**

Cllr. Bowles thanked the PC for being made welcome and said he will always attend PC meetings if he is able to.

**15. Next Meeting**

The next PC meeting will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm.