

**Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar Village School
Wednesday 20th November 2013 at 7.30pm.**

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. d. Priestley and Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen.

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson.

In Attendance: Mrs. Dawn Kingsford, village landscape gardener.

Members of the public: There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Monique Bonney and PCSO Sophie Clements.

2. Declaration of members' personal and prejudicial interests.

There were no declarations to report.
The duration of the meeting was three hours.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st August 2013 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen; seconded by Cllr. Mr. G. Kite. They are now available on the Parish website. They were signed by the Chairman at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Willboro Hill

The Chairman attended a meeting at SBC where discussions took place concluding with a decision to take action and order the removal of the sheds erected at the site.

NHW Signs

NHW coordinator Mr. John Haddaway will erect new NHW signs at entry roads to the village.

4. Ten minutes representation by the public.

Dawn Kingsford gave councillors an update on the landscaping maintenance carried out in the village.

Mrs. Kingsford started in April 2013 with a rolling replanting programme to restock the landscaped areas with appropriate shrubs to maintain the borders. The new shrubs have all taken well. Councillors agreed to the replanting proposals and costs of shrubs circa £250. The decision was taken not to

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replant the small area opposite the garage as plants struggled to survive there; it has been filled in with bark. Plants in the areas at the motorway bridge, opposite the shop and by the Church also struggled with conditions, as the soil was sandy and dry. Councillors proposed to add topsoil and compost to these areas next spring. Councillors felt there were enough spring bulbs around the village but agreed to continue with the rolling replacement of shrubs, maintain

an overview of the War Memorial area and continue weeding and trimming the lavender shrubs throughout the landscaped areas.

Mrs. Kingsford has no plans to increase costs in the coming year.

Mrs. Kingsford left at 8pm.

5. Report from PCSO Sophie Clements.

PCSO Sophie Clements was unable to attend the meeting. The issue of parking in the village will be followed up and reported at the next meeting.

6. Authorisation of Accounts.

The PC approved the accounts as set out in the meeting's agenda. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites, seconded by Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke.

7. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke -
Broadband update

Cllr. Mr. Clarke reported that there has been some progress towards the installation of fibreoptic broadband in Bredgar. The County Plan states that work to be undertaken during the period October 2014 through to spring 2015 to bring Fibre to the cabinet by the Church. Connections to individual properties will remain as copper wires.

Free Trees

Notification has been received for the PC to receive six free trees to replace trees on the boundary of the village hall car park. These will be planted in December with the assistance of children from the village school.

Cllr. Mr. G. Kite

Overhanging branches along Travers footpath have been removed.

Cllr. Kite contacted Aprille Hall, KHS, to report erosion of the banks at the junction of Silver Street, Blind Marys Lane and Deans Hill Road caused by lorries. Unfortunately, the KHS budget does not allow for work at the moment.

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Cllr. Kite has requested KHS install a post by the gate of the path from The Street to Silver Street as pedestrians are dangerously close to traffic when exiting on to Silver Street. The post would keep traffic at a distance from the gate.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman

Cllr. Hickman attended a meeting of the Eleemosyary Charity where discussions centered on giving ten poor and needy villagers £20 each at Christmas, as in previous years.

Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites

The school is coming to the end of a successful term. The new Chair is Miranda Rees and two new parent governors have been elected.

Cllr. Mr. Willis stated that the Rotary Club of Sittingbourne Invicta are to borrow staging equipment from the school, making a donation toward books for the school library.

Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen

Cllr. Pullen will attend the KALC meeting on 2nd December.

Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley

Maintenance work has started at the pond to clear Duck Island; appropriate planting will begin next week. It is important that shrubs are suitable for ducks to nest and for the annual Christmas tree to be visible.

Coir rolls will be installed in the pond in the spring along with barley straw.

Cllr. Mr. B. Willis

Cllr. Willis has investigated a query from a parishioner on the road names from the M2 motorway bridge [Primrose Lane] to Hearts Delight junction. SBC confirmed that Tunstall Road Bredgar commences at the M2 bridge [north side], extending to the eastern boundary of Friendly Cottage. Bredgar Road commences at the eastern boundary of Friendly Cottage and extends to the junction of Hearts Delight Road. . Cllr. Willis proposed asking SBC to place road signs to distinguish each Road. Cllrs agreed.

8. Financial Review.

The clerk circulated a financial review by e-mail prior to the meeting, projecting BPC finances to end of year 2014. The Financial Review highlighted financial provisions that are to be incorporated in future BPC accounts. Proposed By Cllr Willis; seconded by Cllr Kite.

9. Recreation Ground.

Bredgar PC has applied to SBC for a renewal of the temporary planning permission for the retention of the sports pavilion for Bredgar Cricket Club as required every five years.

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Proposal of deterrent to pigeons to be placed on swings

Cllr. Pullen will investigate solutions to the problem of pigeon excrement on the swings.

10. Planning.

Blind Marys Lane

A court hearing date is expected in the near future

Vigo Farm Cottage

Following the site meeting by SBC Cllrs. A formal decision is expected on Thursday 21 November 2013.

Deans Bank Cottage

Currently the subject of a planning application

Farmshop Sign

The oak frame for a new Farmshop sign has been erected and will be complemented by planting around the base. The farmshop, café and Post Office will be advertised on the sign, with new signage also on the front of the shop and side wall at the entrance to the site.

Planning Training for Councillors

SBC have invited councillors to a training session at the Council Offices. Councillors were encouraged to take part in as much training as possible to allow informed comment on all planning proposals and to keep in mind the Local Plan and the NPPF

11. Update on proposal of pathway from Swanton Street to Village.

After discussion councillors proposed that a new footpath would preferably be sited to link Swanton Street with The Street near the Sun pub, possibly located on land at The Vicarage and emerging onto Parsonage Lane. Talks with the Diocese would be required and would perhaps be a project in consultation with Friends of Bredgar Church.

12. Proposal of Railings Replacement - Tunstall Rd/Primrose Lane.

Following the theft of railings at Tunstall Road/Primrose Lane, Cllr. Kite has obtained two quotes for replacement plastic railings along the roadside. Costs would be approximately £650 -£700.

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Councillors also considered the benefits of removing the concrete posts and planting shrubs along the roadside. After consideration, councillors decided Cllr Kite will ask Aprille Hall if KHS would remove the concrete posts at their cost. The PC would then consider replacing with shrubs depending on costs.

13. Control of rats at the village pond.

The quote has been received for pest control at the pond from Mitie Pest Control. The cost for six visits per year will be £237.00. Following discussion, councillors agreed to the one-year contract, proposed by Cllr. Mr. Priestley, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman.

**14. Jubilee Garden
Bench Installation**

Two quotes have been received for the installation of a bench, and other works, at the Jubilee Garden. Councillors also discussed the provision of additional trees. It was finally agreed to limit planting to a number of shrubs suitable for use in flower arranging in the Church. Mrs. Christine Willis and Mrs. Joyce Whitnell to advise BPC.

Provision of Exercise Equipment for Adults

All Councillors decided not to progress the proposal of adult exercise equipment in Bredgar due to prohibitive costs.

15. Any other business.

The Christmas tree will be erected on 7th December at the pond.

16. Next meeting.

The next PC meetings will take place on:
15th January 2014
19th March 2014 - Parish Open Meeting
21st May - AGM.