

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at
Bredgar School
On Tuesday 14th November 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; Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman and Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley.

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson

In Attendance: KCC SBC Cllr. Andrew Bowles and PCSO Lorraine Holmes.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. A. Dwyer.

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 15th August 2017

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 15th August 2017 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website.

Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. D. Clack.

They were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Local Plan

Cllr. Bowles informed the meeting that he had grave concerns about the ability of developers to build out the quantity of new houses provided for in the Local Plan. If targets are not met, it appears that Central Government will respond by further increasing targets, which will push development into unsuitable currently protected areas (such as AONB and Green Belt). This would be unacceptable to local government; therefore Bredgar Parish Councillors will formulate a response to the consultation.

Swanton Street Path

Cllr. Collins is to contact Mr. Reuttner to confirm any progress made.

Recreation Ground Bench

Cllr. Clack offered to inspect and report on repairs required to the bench.

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5. PCSO Report

PCSO Lorraine Holmes took over the area in June. Speeding appears to be the main issue for the village. Police have operated two speed watch patrols but unfortunately on both occasions the road to Hollingbourne was closed so the result was erroneous.

PCSO Holmes offered to chase up colleagues to return for another Speedwatch patrol. A drop-in surgery was held in the Farmshop but only one resident attended. However, councillors felt that it showed parishioners were generally satisfied with the work carried out by the police service. The next drop-in surgery will be on Saturday 9th December from 2pm to 3pm. It is hoped any parishioner with any concerns will call in to speak to PCSO Holmes.

PCSO Holmes expressed concern that the defibrillator situated at the village hall was not in a locked case. The PC stated that it is alarmed and that the conditions of the donation from the British Heart Foundation state that it must not be locked up. There have been no problems so far.

Evidence that cannabis has been smoked in the recreation ground was investigated but no person was seen.

The cricket club are aware of the lack of a security light at the pavilion.

Parishioners continue to post concerns on the village Facebook site, which has proved useful.

6. Ten minutes representation by the public

The parishioner informed the meeting that the removal of the overgrown tree in the cemetery had enhanced the hedge and brought it back to life.

Stony Road has been ploughed up; Cllr. Clack is to look into the matter.

Is the tree in Gore Road going to be replaced? Cllr. Clarke is to enquire with the authority.

A broken window at a residence in Gore Road has not been repaired. The Housing Association is to be contacted.

The number of dog bags taken from the receptacles has slowed down to a more manageable level.

7. Authorisation of Accounts.

Payments:

01/08/17	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
03/08/17	PKF Littlejohn	Audit Fee	£100.00
03/08/17	KCC	Grass Cutting	£566.42
08/08/17	J. Gardner	Village Maintenance	£132.00
01/09/17	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
09/09/17	Cllr. Clarke	Pond Fence Repairs	£23.23
09/09/17	J. Gardner	Village Maintenance	£132.00
09/09/17	T. Hudson	Dog Waste Bags	£157.25
09/09/17	Cllr. Clack	'No Fishing' Signs	£29.47

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09/09/17	T. Hudson	Honorarium	£325.00
01/10/17	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
02/10/17	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	£20.00
05/10/17	J. Gardner	Village Maintenance	£66.00
<u>Receipts</u>			
26/06/17	Bredgar Cricket Club	Donation	£43.75
17/08/17	Geoffrey Cozens	Burial	£585.00
12/09/17	KCC	Grant for Tree	£300.00
25/09/17	Bredgar Cricket Club	Donation	£43.75
29/09/17	SBC	Precept	£4807.50
19/10/17	Z. Munro	Purchase of Burial plot	£125.00

A Councillor questioned why the amounts paid to the gardener differed. The Clerk explained that the gardener is paid on an hourly rate and sometimes carries out more work if required.

The gardener was consulted recently on whether he felt the work was going to plan. He stated that the weeds in the gutters need spraying. This would enhance the work carried out on the flowerbeds and contribute to an overall acceptable look for the village. The scale of the work needed is to be determined.

Cllr. D. Clack, seconded by Cllr. J. Collins, proposed the accounts.

8. Finance

Financial Review October 2017

The current financial review was circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting. Councillors had no questions.

Precept Review

The Chair proposed to increase the Precept by the current rate of inflation, 2.8%. Councillors agreed unanimously to the increase.

Standing Order Review

There are no changes to the Standing Orders. The Chair will review online.

Review Statement of Internal Control (Annual Review)

The Clerk circulated the Statement of Internal Control by e-mail prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed that no amendments were necessary.

9. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Brian Clarke

The funding of £300 for the Purple Leafed Plum replacement tree has been received. The PC thanked Cllr. Bowles for his grant and are waiting for KCC to plant the new tree.

The Swanton Street 30MPH sign has been cleaned.

KCC Tree Warden has inspected the tree opposite Bush House and there are no signs of structural weakness.

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Cllrs. Clack and Clarke have repaired the pond railings, following the purchase of new pipe connectors.

Meetings Attended

Swale Green Grid Forum (with Cllr. Twaites) for a short, guided walk of Perry Wood and to keep aware of countryside initiatives and opportunities in Swale.

UK Power Networks Stakeholders Seminar

Learning about their plans to minimize disruption to the power network during bad weather and their [Priority Service Register](#) for vulnerable customers. Parishioners who are vulnerable can register to receive extra support during a power cut. For example, those who rely on medical equipment, have a chronic/serious illness, poor mobility, etc.

Kent Highways Transportation and Waste Seminar

The key message was that central grants for highways continue to reduce, as this is government policy. Kent Highways have made significant savings and efficiencies to offset the impacts of a reduced budget in past years, but it is now hard to find more savings. There is a £8m gap in the 2018/19 budgets outstanding and officers were gauging the response from Councillors to Council Tax increases.

KALC Swale Area Committee

The main topics the issues Parish Councils need to consider before implementing CCTV and the Planning and Appeal Process for local plans and major developments.

KALC F&GP Meetings (August and November). **Planning meeting for KALC SAC.**

Cllr. Clarke will be attending the **KALC AGM** on 18th November.

Emergency Planning - the papers have been circulated. Councillors confirmed that the PC should publish the Parish News article in the next issue.

Cllr. Susie Hickman

It appears that the caravan at Deans Bottom has left the site. Cllr. Hickman is to confirm the news.

Trees along the roadside at Deans Bottom appear to be in a dangerous state; KCC Highways have been informed and are looking into the issue.

Cllr. Dick Clack

A quote has been accepted for the repair of the cemetery railings. Work is to begin shortly.

Two quotes have been received for the clearance or shrubbery and trimming of trees in the recreation ground along the Wrens Road border. Councillors agreed to accept the lower quote of £1400, and to submit an application for a grant to Bill Ronan.

The decking at the pond has been cleaned by Cllrs Clarke and Clack.

Cllr. David Priestley

A parishioner has offered to donate a duck house for Bredgar pond. Following discussion on the specifications, the Chair proposed to welcome the construction of the duck house and Councillors agreed unanimously to go ahead with the project. Cllr Priestly to progress this.

Cllr. Jane Collins

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The Farmshop, Tearoom and Post Office continue to thrive, but more footfall is always welcome. The shop has a wide variety of delightful products and the staff are always welcoming. Matt has offered to supply the Christmas tree for the pond at a reduced price. The PC has become aware of complaints regarding charges at the village hall, in particular for Parish and parishioner related events. . The Chair is to write to the Chair of the village hall committee to enquire on the policy of charges for the use of the hall. New 'No Fishing' signs have been erected around the pond. However, graffiti was noticed soon after; Cllr. Collins has cleaned the signs.

10. Proposal for a New Bredgar Speed Limit

Cllr. Clarke is to investigate costs for the proposed 20mph speed limit through the village. A map has been produced to show the proposed limits in the various areas of the village. Cllr. Bowles gave his support in principle, which the PC was grateful for. Councillors voted unanimously for Cllr. Clarke and the Chair to progress the project. Cllr. Bowles asked to be kept informed of progress.

11. Emergency Plan

Cllr. Clarke circulated the final version of the Emergency Plan to councillors for approval prior to the meeting. It was formally adopted by the PC and residents will be informed via the Parish Magazine and website. It is hoped parishioners will fully support the proposal.

12. Planning Matters

Thatchers

An application has been submitted to SBC for works to be carried out at Thatchers.

Blind Mary's

The temporary permission on this site is due to end shortly. Meanwhile, it is thought that new people are occupying the site. At the Baker site 2 vehicles have been collected; a caravan has been burnt out and piles of rubbish have been left. Graham Thomas is to be informed.

13. Village Matters

PROW: Footpaths across fields

Cllr. Clack is to apply to register footpaths that have been used for more than 20 years by local walkers.

Duck House

Cllr. Priestley is finalising details of the proposal.

Speedwatch Update

Another parishioner has joined the volunteers who operate Speedwatch in the village.

Village Gates

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Councillors declined the e-mail offer to replace the village gateways, as it is the responsibility of KCC Highways to maintain the structures.

PO Bollards

The bollards project has met some obstacles therefore it was suggested that two large concrete planters might be more suitable to situate outside the Post Office to deter ram raiders. The Chair is to write to BIDS to request their donation be used for that purpose.

14. Cricket Club Lease Update

The details of the new Lease with the Cricket Club have been finalised. A solicitor has been engaged and progress is expected to continue apace.

15. Any Other Business

Councillors agreed to carry out a clean up around the pond, and to replace the chains around the War Memorial. Grants are also available to clean the Memorial.

16. Next Meeting

The next PC meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th February 2018.