

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Chair Cllr. Brian Clarke;
Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Penny Twaites; Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Jane Ingram;
Cllr. Carole Charman; Cllr. Mike Day; Cllr. Beverley McCourt and Cllr. David Priestley.

Clerk: Teresa Hudson

Members of the Public: Two members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from PCSO Ryan Atherton.

2. **Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interest**

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 hours.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 14th August 2019 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. J. Ingram.

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

Matters Arising

The antisocial behaviour reported at Silver Street and Travers Gardens appears to have diminished following the report sent to PCSO Ryan.

The Swale Landscape Sensitivity Assessment has been submitted and can be viewed on the Parish website.

The pond tidy took place on 1st September and has made a noticeable difference.

A skip was ordered and waste taken away from the recreation ground.

The Chair thanked all who took part in the Remembrance Service.

5. **PCSO Report**

PCSO Ryan was unable to attend the meeting. He emailed a report prior to the meeting in which he stated that there wasn't much to report but had noticed a small increase in number plate thefts in rural areas. Anti-theft screws are available from Sittingbourne Police Station if anyone would like them. The Winter Burglary Initiative is in operation, which reminds people to keep doors and windows locked when they aren't around them. If anyone has any concerns PCSO Ryan is available to advise.

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

A member of the public who attended the Remembrance service stated that the behaviour of motorists during the service was despicable.

The PC proposed to write to local farmers prior to the next Remembrance Day service alerting them to the event and asking that farm vehicles avoid the area for the duration.

7. **Authorisation of Accounts**

Payments

12/07/19	ICO	Data Protection	£35.00
01/08/19	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
01/08/19	KCC	Grds Maintenance	£495.08
07/08/19	Playsafety Ltd	ROSPA Inspection	£86.40
07/08/19	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	£66.00
14/08/19	SSE	Pond Electricity	£129.07
14/08/19	Cllr. Clarke	Bulb for pond light	£9.60
01/09/19	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
03/09/19	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	£66.00
03/09/19	T. Hudson	Honorarium	£362.50
16/09/19	SSE	Pond Electricity	£33.52
18/09/19	M. Belsom & Son	Rec Grd Fencing	£1146.00
01/10/19	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
05/10/19	Cllr. Clarke	Rec Grd Skip	£228.00
05/10/19	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	£20.00
12/10/19	P. Doorey	War M. chain repairs	£120.00

Receipts

24/09/19	Bredgar Cricket Club	Rent	£43.75
04/10/19	HMRC	VAT Refund	£1198.15
04/10/19	KCC	Maintenance	£205.85
11/10/19	SBC	Precept	£5060.50

The cricket club have increased their quarterly payment to £50 in accordance with the new lease.

8. **Financial Matters**

Financial Review

All councilors approved the Financial Review, which was circulated prior to the meeting by email. Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. J. Ingram.

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Precept Review 2020

Councillors discussed whether to increase the precept and unanimously decided on a modest increase based on the rate of inflation, 1.5%.

GDPR Policy

Councillors noted that under new legislation websites must be accessible to everyone including those with a disability.

The Chair would like all policies to be reviewed for the next meeting and proposed to share them between the councillors prior to the February meeting.

9. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Jane Ingram

There are no issues to report at the Village Hall.

Cllr. David Priestley

The rat situation at the pond is improving with only one rat station having been nibbled at.

Another clear up day at the pond is required to deal with overgrowth on the peninsula. Friday 6th December is the preferred date.

Cllr. Carole Charman

Speed watch

There have been 8 or 9 observations this year, limited by adverse weather at the end of the season and by not being able to use the garage prior to 1st August.

One observation was particularly successful with 18 vehicles exceeding the speed limit in one hour.

The team will reconvene in early April next year and plan to be out three times a month until October. They are looking for more volunteers; if anyone is interested please contact Paul Charman.

Cllr. Mike Day

Cllr. Day informed the meeting that some footpaths in Bredgar are not very accessible.

It is usual for farmers to spray crops when they grow but sometimes paths remain inaccessible.

Councillors resolved to write to farmers in the new year to ask them to ensure footpaths are kept clear and are walkable wide.

Cllr. Penny Twaites

Cllr. Twaites has attended one school governor meeting at Bredgar School now that the school has a joint head teacher with Borden Primary school; in term two the meeting will be held at Borden School. The alliance is working well so far.

Cllrs. Twaites and Clarke attended the 5Parishes group meeting during which the question was asked whether the monitoring of the air quality due to the increase of traffic was a good idea. The councillors thought the corner of Bexon Lane and The Street would be the optimum site.

An initial cost of £10 per tube per month is required.

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It was felt that air quality is important in terms of planning applications so that in future the effect can be modelled in.

Cllr. Twaites also informed the meeting that there are no longer any 'garden villages', but we have 'strategic development sites'.

SBC have a new planner in charge of the Local Plan.

Cllr. Beverley McCourt

Discussions are planned to update the Emergency Plan.

The aim is to publish a document for the village with useful contacts should an emergency arise.

There is charity meeting tomorrow but Cllr. McCourt is unable to attend. Susie Hickman will be attending.

Cllr. Brian Clarke

Cllr. Clarke requested a clean up on the roads from SBC following the harvest.

The drainage work into the Recreation Ground has been carried out; there is more to be done but great improvements have already been seen.

Significant flood prevention improvements have also been carried out in Primrose Lane.

However, flooding in Swanton Street remains to be addressed.

A rose has been replaced and bulbs planted in the Jubilee garden.

At the War Memorial, posts have been repaired, resealed and repainted by residents.

Cllr. Clarke has issued a complaint to SBC concerning repeated damage caused by workers when cutting the grass around the village, including damage to gravestones, railings, plants and a tree stake.

The stake supporting the plum tree has been damaged, councillors agreed to replace it.

An electrician has carried out an inspection of the pond electrics.

One pump is not working and one floodlight may not work properly. These are to be repaired.

A large branch has fallen into the recreation ground from an adjoining property; Councillors decided that the property owner should be asked to arrange for its removal. The Chair will contact the property owner.

Cllr. Clarke attended the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting where there was an update from the police who are focussing on rural crime.

There were also presentations on air quality and rural community housing.

Cllrs. Clarke and Twaites attended the Swale Community Housing event in Faversham.

Cllr. Clarke plans to represent the PC at the Kent Highways Parish Seminar on 28th November, the KALC AGM on 30th November and the KALC SAC ON 9th December.

10. Village Matters

Cemetery Regulations

After discussions, councillors unanimously agreed to new wording for section 5.2 of the cemetery regulations, to read as follows:

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A discreet memorial may be permitted at the sole discretion of the Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Ingram.

Recreation Ground Fencing

Along the rear of the recreation ground, the farmer could not pollard the trees, as they were rotten so they were grubbed out with the agreement of the PC and will be replaced with a native hedgerow. The PC is to replace the 120m of chestnut fence at a cost of £3860+VAT.

A sports grant for £1000 has been applied for to offset the cost.

NHW Update

Following the resignation of Nigel Osmer from Bredgar Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Stephen Parfitt has agreed to take over as coordinator. A meeting has been arranged for all volunteers at Nigel's house to hand over the reins to Stephen. Cllr. Brian Clarke will also attend; the Parish Council fully supports the NHW team.

Swanton Street Footpath

Carried over until the next meeting.

HGV use of Local Roads update

Chair, Cllr. Clarke, has made enquiries with KHS who stated that restrictions would entail a long and expensive process, and that everyone has a right of access anyway. The next step suggested by KHS is a Highway Improvement Plan, these are produced by parishes and suggest improvements required. They are reviewed by KHS and if agreed are put into the proposed plan. Borden PC is going to produce one and have invited Bredgar PC to join them. After discussion, councillors felt that there would be marginal benefits as Bredgar has different issues to Borden. Bredgar PC will keep the matter under review.

VE Day Celebrations update

The Sun has agreed to become involved with the VE Day celebrations.

11. Project List

The project list is published on the Bredgar website. As there are limited funds at present, no new projects were initiated. Any potential proposals for projects in the village are welcome.

12. Planning Matters

Rural Housing Survey

On 19th August 2019, Cllr. Monique Bonney submitted a request with Action for Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) that Bredgar would

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undertake a housing needs survey in order to ascertain the housing needs
of the village. This would enable the PC to respond if SBC approached
the parish council with a proposal. The Chair is to request an update.

13. Community Assets

Designating a local amenity as a Community Asset safeguards the first option to purchase should an owner decide to sell.

Councillors agreed to revisit Community Assets on a three monthly basis.

14. Any Other Business

A Councillor has been informed that trees opposite Spurvyms are to be taken out. The Councillor will investigate further.

The Church wall has yet to be repaired, the PC does not have any information on the timeline.

Councillors thanked Mark Pullen for continuing to maintain the dog bag dispensers. He is to pass the duty on to another volunteer after Christmas.

15. Date of the next meeting

The next PC meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 7.30pm in Bredgar School.