

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the
AGM
Held at Bredgar Primary School
On Wednesday 21st May 2014 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, and Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen.

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson.

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

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley and PCSO Sophie Clements.

2. Declarations of Members' personal and prejudicial interests

There were no declarations to report.

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

3. Election of Officers

Nominations had been put forward for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman of Cllr. Mr. Willis and Cllr. Mrs. Twaites respectively.

Cllr. Mr. B. Willis and Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites are willing to continue as Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year.

Chairman:	B. Willis-	Proposed by Cllr. Mr. G. Kite. Seconded by Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke.
Vice Chairman:	P. Twaites-	Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman. Seconded by Mr. M. Pullen.

4. Elect Councillors to roles

The roles of the councillors were confirmed as the same as last year:

Penny Twaites: Representative to the Governing Body of Bredgar CE Primary School.

Brian Clarke: IT and Broadband

Susie Hickman: Thatcher and Eleemosyary Charities Representative; joint Parks and Gardens.

Mark Pullen: KAPC representative; joint Parks and Gardens and Village Hall representative.

Graham Kite: KCC Highways representative; Rural Forum and Transport Board.

David Priestley: Pond Warden

Proposed by Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

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The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 19th March 2014 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites, seconded by Cllr. Mr. G. Kite.

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

Matters Arising

Non-Designated Heritage Sites

Cllr. Priestley will report any progress at the next meeting.

Farmshop Signage

Councillors discussed whether to press for action on the proposed signage at the farmshop. Councillors agreed to offer practical help necessary to enable the sign to be erected as soon as possible.

Grant from S.B.Cllr. M. Bonney

The agreed grant from Cllr. Bonney for topsoil has yet to be received. Cllr. Clarke to follow up.

ROSPA

Notification has been received that a safety inspection will be carried out at the recreation ground in July.

SBC Draft Local Plan & Gypsy and Traveller Policy

BPC has responded to the draft policy. Local residents have also submitted responses to SBC.

Cemetery Gates

The insurance company has agreed to the cost of replacement gates at the cemetery. The gates have been ordered and will be in place in approximately 6-8 weeks.

6. Report from PCSO Sophie Clements

PCSO Sophie Clements was unable to attend the meeting.

Following a report of unsocial parking in the Gore Road/Primrose Lane area, a warden issued warning tickets on vehicles parked on the grassed area. The problem appears to be resolved.

7. Ten minutes representation by the public

This will be covered in the agenda.

8. Authorisation of Accounts

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

There were no queries.

9. Annual Accounts for the year ending 31/03/2014

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014 have been prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs. T. Hudson, and were circulated to councillors by e-mail prior to the meeting. They have been audited by BPC's Internal Auditor Mr. K. Scott and approved by the Chairman. There were no questions from councillors. The Annual Accounts were unanimously adopted; Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites, seconded by Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke.

The Chairman informed councillors that a contingent liability has been introduced for £10 000 to reinstate the recreation ground if necessary when the

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current lease expires, and for £800 for the Fete Committee. When the previous fete committee disbanded, the residual monies were put into trust in the PC account and will be returned to the newly formed Fete Committee when a bank account is established.

The Chairman and clerk reviewed the asset values of the cemetery fencing and War Memorial to ensure replacement costs will be covered.

The Chairman read out the Statements as required in the Audit Commission statement and it was duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer with the unanimous approval of the councillors.

The accounts are now published on the PC website.

10. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman

There is an Eleemosyary Charities meeting tomorrow where a Bible and £50 is awarded to each child leaving Bredgar School. The money helps towards the cost of the secondary school uniform.

Planting is progressing well with poppy seeds sown in commemoration of the anniversary of WW1.

Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke

The proposed installation of fibre broadband for Bredgar is progressing.

Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen

The pigeon deterrent has been erected on the swings and appears to be working successfully.

The goal posts in the recreation ground will be periodically resited to avoid the grass eroding; the green mesh will be disposed of.

The cemetery has been tidied up following storm damage.

An oak tree in the recreation ground needs attention; Cllr. Kite will assist Cllr. Pullen.

The Village Hall AGM meeting was positive. A treasurer is required.

Councillors asked if the preferential rate for parishioners using the village hall was still available. Cllr. Pullen is to investigate.

Cllr. Pullen proposed establishing a 'Starter Pack' for new residents to the village, which would contain information on village clubs and societies, as well as general information that would prove useful. Councillors welcomed the idea and offered to contribute to the pack.

Cllr. Mr. G. Kite

Travers Gardens footpath requires pruning again; SBC are reluctant to assist so Cllrs Kite and Clarke will carry out the work.

The stile has not been repaired; Cllr. Willis will follow this up with PROW.

Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites

School governors have approved the three-year budget; finances are reasonably healthy although overall a funding crisis is affecting small schools. The pupil achievement and progress data is on target to achieve above national average progress. The school is fully staffed and the dual role carried out by HT Mr. Whitehead is working very well as resources and training costs are shared with Minterne School. The new acting HT has settled into the role very well.

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The school roll is on target for a full cohort of 15 in September. Six pupils left during the year due to house moves and have been replaced.

The proposed new Tunstall School has been approved at a local level. It is felt that as this will be a large urban school, Bredgar School still has much to offer as a small village school.

A planning application for replacement toilets and a care suite for pupils with disabilities will be submitted shortly. This will be in keeping with the conservation area.

11. Planning

Blind Marys Lane.

BPC will comment on the current retrospective planning application submitted by the resident.

Wilboro Hill

A planning application has been received and elicited objections from councillors, some related to the siting of the application's proposals in an A.O.N.B.

12. Swanton Street Chicane Footpath Proposal

The local landowner has declined to release any land to allow a footpath to be established enabling safer journeys for pedestrians coming to the village from the Swanton Street area.

13. 20mph Speed Limit

The Chairman has received notification from KHS that a 20mph speed limit will not be implemented in the village, as there is no record of serious accidents.

14. Remembrance Day preparations

The Chairman suggested that invitations be extended to the other four parishes that comprised the original Benefice to take part in the Remembrance Day Service at Bredgar in November. As it is the 100-year anniversary of WW1, councillors propose a community Service reverting to and respecting the custom and tradition of the historical Service at the War Memorial.

Councillors agreed to approach members of the other Parishes inviting them to join with Bredgar PC.

15. Memorial Cleaning

Conservation Officer, Peter Bell, informed councillors that he thought it advisable to allow the Memorial to weather naturally and limit cleaning to certain areas. Repainting of lettering would require informal approval. The PC would require a planning application to carry out any work beyond that. Councillors agreed that, due to the proposed cost of £4500 for maintenance, it would be prudent to follow Mr. Bell's advice and also await the response from the War Memorial Trust concerning a grant.

16. Fete Committee

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A fete committee has been established and is in the process of creating a formal constitution and a bank account.

Bredgar PC agreed to transfer £800 to the committee in due course.

17. Any Other Business

Polling Day

Cllr. Kite asked why the school children could not use part of the village hall whilst voting takes place in a screened off area. Cllr. Twaites stated that she had raised the issue with the school leadership team and it is not permissible due to safeguarding issues.

Speed watch Equipment

Upchurch PC has purchased speed watch equipment and has offered to loan it to other councils. The kit is operated by members of the public following training.

18. Next meeting

The next PC meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th August at 7.30pm at Bredgar School.