

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 2nd November 2016

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

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson

Members of the public: One member of the public attended the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Andy Dwyer.

2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial Interests

An interest was declared by the clerk in respect of the Post Office.

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 2 ½ hours.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th August 2016 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council; proposed by Cllr. Mr. D. Clack; seconded by Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley. They are now available on the Parish website. The Chairman signed them at the end of the meeting.

**Matters Arising
Memorial Bench**

The Parish Council resolved to allow only wooden Memorial benches in the village. Therefore the metal design proposed by Mr. Jackson is unfortunately not in keeping with the proposed policy. Mr. Jackson has withdrawn his application.

5. PCSO Report

PCSO Marshall was unable to attend the meeting. The clerk is to contact him regarding any developments on the issue of parked cars in the village.

6. Ten minutes representation by the public

The member of the public spoke about his concerns regarding speeding traffic through the village and the difficulties residents have accessing their properties when cars are speeding past. The PC welcomed his support for

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their efforts in trying to bring about a solution through the Speedwatch campaign and the traffic petition.

7. Authorisation of Accounts

The PC approved the accounts as set out in the meeting's agenda. Proposed by Cllr. J. Collins, seconded by Cllr. S. Hickman. There were no queries.

Payments

01/08/16	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rental	120.00
03/08/16	KCC	Grass Cutting	555.31
10/08/16	Playsafety Ltd	Rec Grd Inspection	84.00
19/08/16	Bredgar village Hall	Defibrillator donation	
	100.00		
19/08/16	PKF Littlejohn	Audit Fee	360.00
01/09/16	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rental	120.00
19/09/16	EDF	Pond Lighting	97.17
19/09/16	T. Hudson	Honorarium/Training	395.00
21/09/16	Royal B. Legion	Poppy Wreath	20.00
01/10/16	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rental	120.00

Receipts

29/07/16	M. Lee-Frost	Burial	633.00
12/08/16	KCC	Decking Grant	1500.00
15/09/16	HMRC	VAT Refund	1365.46
26/09/16	Bredgar Cricket Club	Donation	43.75
30/09/16	SBC	Precept	4750.00
03/10/16	HMRC	VAT Refund	1365.46

8. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. B. Clarke

The overgrown verge at the junction of Wrens Road, Silver Street and Gore Road has been reported again. Nothing has been done yet so this will be followed up.

Cllr. Clarke is to attend the Kent Highways Service meeting and will talk with Aprille Hall and Alan Blackburn concerning the traffic issues in Bredgar.

The Tracker survey has been completed; the Clerk is to send it off.

The tarmac on the pathway between Silver Street and Travers Gardens requires maintenance; Cllr. Clack will follow it up.

Now that the new website has bedded in, Cllr. Clarke has assessed the content and will make any improvements necessary to ensure it is compliant with the Transparency code.

Cllr. J. Collins

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The village hall has announced that they have been awarded funding for a defibrillator and have thanked BPC for their contribution to training costs. Training is to be arranged later this year.

There are no developments regarding the Post Office. A different representative from the Post Office has been appointed but no interest has been shown in moving to a Local option.

There has been an offer to take over the Farmshop lease. Negotiations are ongoing. The PC has an interest in ensuring there are no detrimental effects to the Post Office.

Cllr. D. Clack

Nothing to report that isn't covered by the agenda.

Cllr. D. Priestley

There has been no evidence of rats at the pond.

There has been a delay in delivery of the new memorial bench dedicated to Captain and Mrs. Button, which will be sited on the new decking. It is back on track and will be delivered shortly.

The new compact 'Golden' oak tree has been purchased and will be delivered shortly. It will be planted in the Jubilee Garden.

Cllr. S. Hickman

The new roses will be planted in the Jubilee Garden in the spring.

Work continues for members of the Eleemosyary Charity; new trustees are being sought.

Cllr. P. Twaites

Bredgar School is considering information in relation to the current collaboration of schools becoming a multi academy Church of England Trust. No decision has yet been made.

9. Finance

The current financial review was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllrs had no questions.

BALANCES AT 15TH OCTOBER 2016:

CURRENT ACC:	9575.90
DEPOSIT ACC:	6991.31
TOTAL:	16567.21

EXPECTED INCOME RESIDUAL TO 31ST MARCH 2017

C. CLUB RENT	87.50
C. CLUB GRASS CUTTING DONATION	460.69
CHURCH GRASS CUTTING DONATION	242.44
TOTAL:	790.63
	TOTAL: 17357.84

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EXPECTED EXPENDITURE RESIDUAL TO 31ST MARCH 2017

VAT REPAYMENT	1365.46
PO RENT	600.00
POND LIGHTS	95.00
PO ELECTRICITY	135.00
CLERK HONORARIUM/TRAINING	720.00
CLLR. TRAINING	216.00
CHRISTMAS TREE	45.00
SBC GRASS CUTTING	1993.96
KCC GRDS MAINTENANCE	556.00
PLANTS	50.00
DOG BAGS	131.04
OAK TREE	107.83
TOTAL:	6015.29

TOTAL: 6015.29

Projected revenue account balance at 31st MARCH 2017: **£11342.55**

10. Planning Matters

Blind Marys Lane

The PC is awaiting a decision following the recent appeal hearing at Swale House (attended by Councillors).

Westfield Dairy

SBC have visited the site and are happy that no development has taken place.

Thatchers

It has been noted that construction work has been occurring without planning permission. The PC voted by a majority to inform SBC of a possible breach of regulations.

Mobile Home at Deans Hill

SBC are aware of the mobile home and served a contravention notice six weeks ago. Peter Hinckesman of SBC is to follow it up.

11. Village Matters

Travers Pathway

The PC discussed the offer from the family of the late Brenda Bailey to take ownership of the pathway that runs between Travers Gardens and Silver Street. It was noted that if the PC took up the offer, there would be a cost involved as well as boundary responsibilities. There would be no detriment to the village if the PC did not take over the pathway. KCC would continue to maintain the tarmac.

It was decided that the PC would not take ownership of the pathway. The Chair is to inform the solicitor.

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Community Asset

The PC discussed the possibility of registering the Farmshop as a Community Asset. It was decided to do nothing at the present time but to review the matter in the future.

Play Area Inspection

Cllr. Clack inspected the play area, and agreed that the goal posts need repairing. This will be carried out as soon as possible.

Bollards at Post Office

A quote will be available at the next meeting.

Lack of water at cemetery during summer months

The PC has received several letters and e-mails concerning the lack of water for flowers in the cemetery. There are currently two large water butts; which collect rainwater from the cemetery shed roof. However, it has been an exceptionally dry summer and there has not been enough water for visitors to the cemetery.

The PC recognises that the cemetery is a place of reflection and apologises for the lack of water. However, the cost of a standpipe is deemed prohibitive for the PC.

Cllr. Clack will approach a local resident to see if they are willing to replenish the water butts when they are empty. The matter will be kept under review. The Chair and Clerk are to write to the correspondents to inform them of the decision.

Dog Control Orders

SBC introduced Dog Control Orders in 2008. Failure to comply could result in a fine of £80. The PC resolved not to pursue the matter in Bredgar but to rely on Swale's patrol of the area.

Swanton Street Gateway

There has been no progress on this matter. The Clerk is to contact SBC Cllr. Mike Baldock, who offered to assist previously.

Swanton Street Footpath

The Chair, Cllr. Twaites, has investigated the legalities of creating a footpath along Swanton Street. The solicitor stated that it requires a licence and

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permission from both landlord and tenant. Gates and signage would be required. The current PC insurance is adequate.
Conversations with the landowner and tenant can now progress and a site meeting is to be planned.

Pond Tidy

A pond tidy is planned for Saturday 12th November at 9am. All helpers are very welcome. A notice is to go up in the Farmshop and Post Office.
The Christmas tree has been ordered.

Cemetery Tidy

The cemetery is to be tidied after Christmas.
In order to keep the precept down, the PC hopes to set up a working party that can be called upon when any work needs doing in the village such as foliage to be cut back etc. A notice is to go up in the Farmshop and Post Office.
Cllrs. Clack and Clarke are to obtain quotes for tree felling in the cemetery.

12. Traffic Petition

The Traffic Petition has resulted in 160 signatures asking for improvements to the roads in Bredgar. Cllr. Clarke is to follow up on the KCC meeting with SBC Cllr. Baldock but hopes Cllr. Dwyer is available to attend the KHS meeting to present the petition, as he has a prior commitment.

13. Speedwatch Update

The PC thanked the volunteers who go out and monitor the speeding traffic through the village. Although the number seen speeding is fewer than expected, it was noted that drivers slow down as soon as they see the hi-viz jackets, which is the objective of the exercise. However, some motorists will receive a letter of advice from the police.

14. Ratify Bench Policy

The PC unanimously agreed the bench policy. It is now available to see on the parish website. Proposed by Cllr. D. Clack, seconded by Cllr. D. Priestley.

15. Cricket Pavilion Committee Update

The PC has no issues with the proposed usage of the new Cricket Pavilion.
Cllrs. Agreed unanimously to extend the lease to 30 years.

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The new lease is to be negotiated in order for the Cricket Club to obtain funding.

Mr. Cramp is to be instructed to proceed with the legalities, subject to cost.

16. Grass Cutting Update

Cllr. Clarke obtained three quotes for the grass cutting in the village. The PC decided unanimously to remain with SBC/KCC, as it is the most cost effective. A gardener is required to take over from Dawn to maintain the borders around the village. A notice is to go up in the Farmshop and Post Office.

17. Emergency Planning

This matter is carried over until the next meeting.

18. Cllr/Clerk Training reports

The Clerk attended the annual Finance Conference:

- The PC has only one more year of external auditing. After that councils must comply with the Transparency Code by publishing details on the website. Bredgar PC has been complying with the code for the last two years.
- It was stated that it is best practice for Parish Council to have its own computer. Cllrs agreed to apply for a grant to purchase a computer for parish council business.
- A representative from the Office of National Statistics, ONS, gave a talk on how councils could take advantage of a valuable resource. The census gives a lot of information, which is used to plan for schools, health care, etc. The website is: Pop.info@ons.gsi.gov.uk and contains data on each postcode among other things.
- There was also a talk on the Antisocial Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014 Community Protection Notice. This enables individuals and bodies to follow through on nuisance neighbours.

Cllrs. Collins, Dwyer and Clarke attended the Dynamic Councillor training course. It was thought provoking, with discussions on the role, powers and limitations of a councillor.

Cllr. Clarke also attended the KALC SAC Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

19. Remembrance Sunday

The wreath has been delivered to the Chair, and councillors will gather for the service on Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial, followed by the Church service.

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20. Any Other Business

Councillors agreed to submit an update of meetings to the Parish Magazine each time as well as informing parishioners of various interesting items.

21. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th February 2017 at 7.30pm.