

**Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the AGM
Held at Bredgar School
On Tuesday 24th May 2016 at 7.30pm**

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

In Attendance: KCC/SBC Cllr. Mike Baldock.

Members of the public: Two members of the public were present.

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial Interests

An interest was declared by the clerk in respect of the Post Office.
Members completed Declaration of Office forms and submitted them
to the clerk.

**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 three and a half hours.

4. Co option of new member of the Parish Council

The Chair welcomed new Councillor, Jane Collins, who has been co-
opted onto the PC.

5. Election of Officers

Nominations were put forward by e-mail prior to the meeting for the
positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Each nomination was supported by
6 votes.

Chair: Cllr. Mrs. Twaites - Proposed by Cllr. S. Hickman
Seconded by Cllr. D. Priestley.

Vice Chair: Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke - Proposed by Cllr. D. Clack
Seconded by Cllr. G. Kite.

6. Elect Councillors to roles

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

Responses to Residential and Local Planning
Applications.

Cllr. Brian Clarke IT; Broadband; Swale West Forum; Local Plan;
KALC and KCC Highways.

Cllr. Dick Clack KALC; Pest Control; Footpaths and Parks &
Gardens.

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Cllr. Jane Collins Post Office Support and Village Hall
Representative.

Cllr. Susie Hickman Thatcher and Eleemosyary Charities
Representative and Parks & Gardens.

Cllr. Graham Kite KCC Highways.

Cllr. David Priestley Pond Warden; Pest Control and Heritage.
Teresa Hudson Website.

7. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th March 2016

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 18th March 2016 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. S. Hickman, seconded by Cllr. G. Kite.

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

Matters Arising

Matters arising from these Minutes are covered in the agenda.

8. Ten minutes representation by the public

A member of the public raised the problem of traffic often not giving way at the pinch point in The Street near the Church. It was felt that the layout requires further thought to prevent a tragic accident occurring. Cllr. Mike Baldock suggested a site visit of Highways personnel, although it was unlikely to achieve a meaningful result. The question was asked of who is responsible for the decision to do nothing unless an accident causing death occurred? Cllr. Baldock stated that the KCC Cabinet is responsible for decisions. Cllrs resolved to raise a petition to get something done and present it to Matthew Balfour, Leader of the KCC Cabinet, along with letters from parishioners and the school.

9. Authorisation of Accounts

The PC approved the accounts as set out in the meeting's agenda. Proposed by Cllr. D. Priestley, seconded by Cllr. Dick Clack. There were no queries.

10. Annual Accounts for the year ending 31/03/2016

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016 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 Chair. There were no questions from councillors. The Annual Accounts were unanimously adopted. Proposed by Cllr. P. Twaites, seconded by Cllr. S. Hickman.

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

The accounts are now published on the PC website.

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11. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. S. Hickman

The planters around the pond have been maintained and flowers planted. The Charity meeting in April did not take place this year due to the recent death of the Chair. Cllr. Hickman is to enquire when the next meeting will be. The Jubilee Garden, although flourishing, could be more colourful. So a proposal to plant 3 Queen Elizabeth roses near the Memorial stone was discussed, along with other herbaceous plants. Cllr. Hickman is to confer with Carol Allen with a view to more planting to enhance the garden. The plaque commemorating the Trafalgar Oaks was moved from its original site and there is now no oak tree nearby. Cllr Clack volunteered to search for a dwarf/mini oak to plant in the garden.

Cllr. D. Clack

The pond light has been replaced with a new one. Cllr. Clack suggested purchasing an LED light to save money, councillors agreed to the proposal.

Nettles and weeds around the pond and Memorial have been sprayed with weed killer.

The entrance gate at the recreation ground, which is deteriorating, would cost around £100 in materials to replace. Labour would be extra.

The boundary fence around the recreation ground is also deteriorating in places and will need attention at some point.

Cllr. G. Kite

The railing around the pond has been repaired but the concrete posts are deteriorating and will need replacing. Councillors will look to do this at a later date.

Cllr. B. Clarke

Nothing to report.

Cllr. D. Priestley

Following concern about the stalled work at the barn at Gibbons Farm, Cllr. Priestley contacted SBC Conservation Officer Simon Algar but did not receive a reply. A member of the public stated that work was continuing on the barn but that it did not yet have a roof.

There has been no evidence of rats at the pond.

Cllr. P. Twaites

The school children have completed their SATs.

12. Village Matters

Notice Board

The new notice board has been installed at the recreation ground.

The plaques, commemorating those who gave donations to purchase the ground, are displayed on the notice board.

The official marking of the Parish Council acquisition of the Recreation Ground took place at the opening of Bredgar Fete on

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Saturday 21st May. The Sittingbourne News Extra attended and a report will be published in the local paper. Organisers were very pleased to raise £4700 towards a new mini bus for Bredgar School.

Foliage behind cricket pavilion

Following discussion on the issue of overgrown foliage, councillors decided that the neighbouring residents could cut back the ivy on the fencing as they had done over the years prior to new fencing being installed.

Safety of small dogs in the recreation ground

Councillors agreed by a majority of 4 to 1, with 2 abstaining, to the placing of a wire barrier along the bottom of the vehicle gate at the recreation ground to prevent small dogs running underneath onto the road.

Pond Decking Repairs

Work will commence on replacing the decking on Tuesday 31st May and will continue for approximately one week. Councillors agreed to invite local councillors who donated to the repair fund to an opening ceremony on 25th June.

Bollards outside Post Office

Cllr. Clack has obtained a quote of £1168 to place a barrier outside the PO to protect the building. This was felt to be too high so another quote will be sought.

Swanton Street Footpath

Cllr. Kite has made further investigations and determined that the proposed siting is viable and a local tradesman is willing to carry out the work. Cllr. Twaites is looking into the legalities of the footpath.

Swanton Street Gateway

Repairs have yet to take place to the gateway following the accident last August. Cllr. Baldock is to follow this up.

Bexon Lane Car Park Sign

Councillors agreed that a sign warning of potholes would not be effective.

13. Review of Cricket Club Lease

The Chair has consulted Nigel Ingram, Chairman of Bredgar Cricket Club, concerning a new lease for the cricket club. The Club hopes to raise funds to build a new pavilion at the recreation ground. A sub-committee of three councillors was formed to progress the proposal. It was noted that Sittingbourne Rugby Club, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, started in Bredgar.

Cllr. Hickman left at 9pm.

14. Speedwatch Update

Several parishioners have shown interest in tackling the problem of traffic speeding through the village. The clerk reported that five

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volunteers have been trained to operate Speedwatch, with another six expected to undertake the training shortly. Three sites have been identified as suitable for siting the equipment, which will be borrowed when required from Tunstall Parish Council.

Councillors thanked all the volunteers who are involved in speedwatch.

15. PC Website Update

Cllr. Clarke has undertaken training on the Hugo Fox Website and is due to take part in the webinar for the current updated website. He will then compare the websites and report to councillors.

16. Discussion of Portal Access Systems for PC E-mails

Councillors decided against using a portal access system for the PC.

17. Bench Policy

Councillors discussed the proposed Memorial bench at length and concluded that a wooden bench would be preferable to a metal one. A letter will be sent to the family who has offered to place a bench beside the pond in memory of their son stating the preferred option. The Bench Policy will be adopted at the next meeting.

18. Dog Control Orders

This will be carried over to the next meeting.

19. Donation to Bredgar School

Councillors agreed to a donation of £160 to Bredgar School for the use of the room for PC meetings.

20. Planning Matters

Parsonage Grain Store

Due to Councillors objections to this planning application, there is to be a consultation. Since the original application, conditions have been imposed and the Chair is to write a letter agreeing to the subsequent conditions.

Blind Marys Lane

The appeal is ongoing. The PC is to draft a letter to members of the committee requesting action be taken on the continuing breach of several conditions on one site stating that the accumulative basis amounts to a material breach.

Dukes Shaw

This matter has been settled.

21. Grass Cutting Contract

Due to funding cuts from central Government, SBC are ceasing to control the grass cutting contracts for Parish Councils from next year. Parish Councils have been offered the opportunity to take over their own areas and manage their own funds directly. Cllr. Clarke is to

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collate the figures of each contributor to the grass-cutting contract that SBC now controls. A decision will then be taken on whether to take over the whole contract.

22. PC Insurance

The Parish Council insurance is due for renewal. The current provider, Zurich has offered an annual policy for £920. The clerk has obtained another quote for £599, or £569 for a 3-year contract. Councillors resolved to accept the offer from AON at £569 for a 3-year contract.

23. Any Other Business

The clerk is to attend the Clerks Conference on 14th June.

24. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 10th August 2016 at Bredgar School.