

**Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Thursday 30th July 2015 at 7.30pm**

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

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney.

2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial Interests

Declarations were made by the Clerk in respect of the Post Office and Cllr. Pullen in respect of the Recreation Ground.

3. Declaration of any intent to record or film the PC meeting by any member of the Council or member of the public

No declarations of intent to record or film were made.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 13th May 2015 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. D. Clack.

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

Matters Arising

Change of Signatories for bank accounts

The signatories were successfully changed for the current account and investment account to the Chair and Vice Chair.

Starter Pack for new residents

The proposed starter pack is to be incorporated within the upgraded website. The clerk will notify any new residents to Bredgar of the existence of the website where information relevant to parishioners can be found.

Primrose Lane Pedestrian Line

Cllr. Mike Baldock informed councillors by e-mail that the markings for pedestrians along this road are not part of the Transport Policy and are therefore refused.

5. Ten Minutes representation by the public

Blind Marys Lane

Members of the public expressed their concern over the continuing issue at Blind Marys Lane. The owner submitted a retrospective

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planning application just prior to the date the enforcement notice was to be actioned. The PC and local residents have continuously petitioned SBC to take action and also lobby individual councillors with reasoned objections. The PC encouraged all parishioners to write to named officers at SBC to show how committed the village is to enforcement action.

A Bredgar parent brought to the Council's notice the problem of getting local children into Bredgar School [see details below].

Overgrown Hedgerows

Hedgerows along Bexon Lane near the school are overgrown and need cutting back to allow vehicles to pass safely. Cllr Kite to follow up

Swanton Street Surface

The road surface from The Warren to Blind Marys Lane is in a very poor condition. The Chair is to contact Cllr. Baldock to request the work is carried out as soon as possible.

Bredgar School Admissions

The family moved to the village in September 2013 and immediately put their child's name down for Bredgar School but there were no places available so the child was placed at Newington School. The parents are unhappy that their child cannot attend the local school. The Chair explained that the admissions policy does not allow individual schools to offer places to children but that the Local Authority, i.e. KCC, select places for children. The PC offered to consult local MP, Gordon Henderson and KCC Cllr. Mike Baldock. The Chair will also consult the Chair Of Governors at Bredgar School.

6. Authorisation of Accounts

The PC approved the accounts as set out in the meeting's agenda. Proposed by Cllr. Susie Hickman, seconded by Cllr. Dick Clack. Reference was made to the costs for the upkeep of the landscaped areas through the village and Cllrs ask the Clerk to find out what the situation regarding costs for the forthcoming year will be. The grounds maintenance contract with SBC is to be reviewed due to the following issues:

- The grassed area around the War Memorial and the grassed triangle at Primrose Corner are not generally cut until the daffodils have died back which leaves it looking neglected at times.
- Trees along the Travers pathway have become overgrown again.

7. Finance Matters

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Recreation Ground Purchase

There has been a very good response to the appeal for funds to purchase the Recreation Ground. The money raised through grants, village groups and individual donations from parishioners has reached £30,142.00, including £2072.00 from the German Evening at The Paddock. This means that a loan will not need to be taken out. A report is to be published in the Parish Magazine. The PC thanked the parishioners, village groups and organisers of the German Evening for their generous donations. A ceremony, and plaque, is to be arranged to officially mark the purchase of the facility for the village.

The PC approved unanimously the proposal to move forward with the next stage to instruct the Parish Council lawyer to draw up the contracts required.

Due to financial constraints, the PC has agreed to forego the second tranche of donations offered from the Cricket Club. Proposed by Cllr. Penny Twaites, seconded by Cllr. David Priestley.

Financial Review

The Clerk is to revise the Financial Statement at the end of August due to the fluidity of income and expenditure at present with donations, making the balance change daily.

Audit Assessment Statement Review

The Clerk reported to the meeting that the PC keeps an asset list with two cost totals, one for insurance purposes and one for audit purposes. The Audit Commission requires purchase prices only and the Insurance Company require current costs. All councillors were content with the figures.

8. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. David Priestley

Cllr. Priestley reported that no bait has been taken from the rat bait stations. An additional station has been installed near the refuse bin. There are currently 34 ducks on the pond. It has been reported that traffic is travelling perilously close to the ducks walking across Gore Road. There is a Ducks Crossing sign along Gore Road but parishioners have asked for another sign nearer the pond.

Councillors agreed to re erect netting along the roadside to try to protect the ducks. A working party has been organised to tidy foliage alongside the pond for Sunday 6th September at 9am.

Notices will be erected to notify anyone who wishes to help clear the weeds. Councillors thanked all who helped at the last working party.

Cllr. Dick Clack

Cllr. Clack has established that the footpath from Silver Street to The Street is owned by the resident whose property runs alongside it.

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Following a telephone call enquiry, KCC have stated that they will repair the surface if it a designated Right Of Way.

Cllrs Clack and Pullen attended the recent KALC meeting, which included a talk on Neighbourhood Planning.

Cllr. Clack viewed the proposed plans for the Science Park, which showed the expansion within the current boundary fence. It proposed higher employment figures and erection of 400 houses close to the site for science park employees meaning fewer cars on the roads leading to the site. Consequently, the 5Parishes Group will be holding a meeting on Monday to discuss the project and with a view to opposing the plan [meeting subsequently cancelled and re-scheduled for September].

Cllr. Clack noted the pond lights require resetting following a power cut. Cllr. Pullen offered to resolve the matter.

Cllr. Mark Pullen

Cllr. Pullen proposed installing bollards outside the Post Office. Councillors agreed to the idea in principle and asked for quotes (to be arranged by Cllr Pullen).

Cllr. Graham Kite

The holly tree along Travers footpath is overgrowing, and the resident offered to cut it back.

Kent Highways have cleaned the drains in Silver Street and no rats have been spotted since.

Cllr. Brian Clarke

KCC have updated their website to reflect **Superfast Broadband** delivery date of December 2015. Cllr. Clarke proposed taking action to ensure we remain firmly on the radar of the organisers, possibly organizing a petition to enable parishioners to show BT that the village is willing to sign up to Superfast broadband when it is delivered. Councillors assured residents of Swanton Street that they would not be left out. The Chair and Cllr. Clarke are to meet with KCC to discuss progress prior to taking any further action.

Cllr. Susie Hickman

The Thatcher Charity distributed Bibles and £50 towards new school uniform to each of the Leavers from Bredgar School at the end of term. Cllr. Hickman thanked Christine and Beverley Willis for tending the plant tubs around the pond during her period of convalescence.

Cllr. Penny Twaites

The planned building work at the school is continuing on target and should be completed prior to the new school term in September. The Chair has received a letter from the school requesting support for signs to be erected warning motorists of children near the school. Apparently a child was killed in 1942 on the way home from school. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the school in their representation to Kent Highways. The Chair is to reply to the letter.

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9. Planning Matters

Parsonage Farm Grain Store

This application has been withdrawn by SBC as the proposal is too large for this style of application format.

Dukes Shaw

SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney is dealing with this matter. An update will be reported at the next meeting.

10. Highways

Swanton Street Gate

The Clerk is to follow up the matter with the driver who damaged the gateway and his insurance claim.

Bashford Barn Lane

Cllr. Mike Baldock is investigating the possibility of imposing a weight restriction along this road, and associated costs.

11. Traffic Management through the Village

It is now accepted policy that streetlights are not now required for traffic calming measures. The Chair will raise this issue again with Kent Highways Councillor Mike Baldock.

Hedges are overgrown along Bexon Lane and at Swanton Street.

The Chair is to ask Cllr. Baldock to arrange a cut back.

12. Footpath from Swanton Street

The farmer who leases the land in question is happy for a footpath to be established along the edge of his field. Cllr. Clack is to investigate the legal implications of setting up an informal footpath with the PC taking responsibility.

13. Local Plan

The possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan for Bredgar will be discussed at a later date.

14. Website

Cllr. Clarke and the Clerk met to discuss the current website and whether improvements could be made. It was thought that although there are plenty of items on the website, it is difficult to see them all due to the standard layout provided by the Kent website company EIS. Cllr. Clarke felt that it was possible to update it and add extra information to make it more appealing. It is hoped that much more information could be provided for the residents including links to Swale such as planning, events, bus times and cinema showings. One suggestion is a photography competition with the photos being

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used to elaborate the website, photos of events such as the fete could also be put on there as well as art from pupils at the school. When updated, a regular note will be placed in the Parish Magazine reminding parishioners to check it out.

15. Post Office

Rent

The Chair wrote to the owner of the Farmshop building to request a waiver of three months rent of the Post Office due to the temporary closure following the ram raid. The owner replied stating he was unable to make a legitimate claim from his insurers. Councillors then decided unanimously by e-mail not to pursue the matter.

Insurance

The Clerk obtained 3 quotes to insure the Post Office equipment with the most favourable being the current insurer, Zurich. Councillors approved the quote electronically and at this meeting.

Both these agenda items were officially proposed by Cllr. Penny Twaites and seconded by Cllr. Dick Clack.

Re opening of the Post Office

The Post Office and Farmshop held a Fun Day to celebrate the re opening following the ram raid. A successful, sunny day saw many residents and visitors enjoying cream teas, Pimms, special offers and stalls selling crafts and plants, etc, along with tombola.

16. Parking Issues

An e-mail has been received from the Clerk for Bobbing PC, Lynda Fisher, stating that Bobbing has a problem with parking on pavements and has experienced a lack of support from KCC, SBC and the police. Ms. Fisher requested that if any other Parish had problems, they write to SBC and request help. The hope was that if enough parishes asked for a parking policy something would be done. As Bredgar has also experienced parking problems, the Clerk wrote to SBC but the reply was as unhelpful as the one Ms. Fisher received. A copy is filed with these Minutes.

Temporary parking problems associated with building work at Bredgar School will hopefully be alleviated with the completion of works in September.

17. Any Other Business

Bus Stop Sign

The bus stop sign has been broken off; the Clerk is to contact Kent Highways.

Oakwood View Holiday Home

A complaint has been received that Oakwood Gate has been letting their garage as a holiday home. Planning permission was granted for a double garage with storage above but it has been converted to

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a holiday let and is advertised on the Internet. The Chair contacted SBC for advice and was informed that a complaint can be lodged by any person but that if the property would have been given permission had it been applied for, then it will not investigate. Cllr. Clarke suggested that the PC approve a policy for dealing with such matters when they arise. It was agreed that issues would be dealt with on an individual basis.

PCSO

The Chair has been informed that Bredgar has a new PCSO, Sheron Reece.

Thank you

Councillors would like to thank Cllr. David Priestley, Nong Priestley, Cllr. Penny Twaites and Cllr. Brian Clarke for organizing and hosting the farewell party for exiting Chairman Beverley Willis.

18. Next Meeting

The next PC meeting will be held on Thursday 29th October at 7.30pm in the school.