

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 20th March 2013 at 7.30pm
At Bredgar School

Present: Chairman Cllr. Mr. B. Willis; Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites;
Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke; Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman; Cllr. Mr. G. Kite; Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen.

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson.

In Attendance: PCSO Sophie Clements.

Members of the public: There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley.

2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial interests

There were no interests to declare.

The duration of the PC meeting was one and a half hours.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th December 2012 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council; proposed by Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman, seconded by Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke. They are now available on the Parish website. They were signed by the Chairman at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Village Landscaping Maintenance

Mrs. Dawn Doorey has agreed to maintain the village-landscaped areas. Cllr. Mr. Willis has authorised some replacement planting where necessary.

Local Bylaw

The issues of fishing in the village pond and camping in the recreation ground last summer have disappeared, probably due to children being at school and the cold winter. Councillors felt that although the creation of a bylaw to prevent these activities is possible, the cost of enforcement proceedings would be financially prohibitive.

Bredgar Fete

The creation of a Fete Committee is ongoing with Mr. Andy Whitnell

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Kent Highways Service (KHS)

Repair of railings around the pond, pothole problems and repainting of white lines in the village have been raised with KHS.

Concern about the erosion of verges on the lanes due to heavy farm vehicles has been raised with KHS.

Church Lighting

Following a report of a light failing in the Churchyard, the PC called out an electrician. However, there was no fault but a callout charge was paid by BPC. Cllr. Mr. Willis has discussed responsibility of the Church lighting with Churchwardens. The suggestion of passing maintenance issues to the Churchwardens was agreed.

Trafalgar Plaque

Following the removal of the Commemorative oak trees from the Hawks Hill Lane area, the associated plaque will be moved to the Jubilee Garden alongside a new oak tree to be planted in the garden. Cllr. Twaites will ask Mr. M Lowe if he will be kind enough to deliver the plaque and plinth to the Jubilee Garden. Further landscaping and a bench are planned for the Jubilee garden this year.

4. There were no members of the public present.

5. Authorisation of Accounts

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

6. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites

The Rural Swale Collaboration Group (RSCG) is continuing successfully. Eight local schools assist each other with monitoring and sharing expertise.

The HT is requesting assistance with the problem of speeding vehicles in Bexon Lane.

Cllr. Mr. G. Kite

A request for a sign at Pett Lane advising unsuitability for heavy vehicles has been turned down by KHS due to lack of finance.

Heavy farm vehicles are eroding verges; Cllr. Mr. Kite agreed to approach a local farmer to discuss the matter.

A local tradesman may assist with the repair of the damaged railings at the pond; Cllr. Mr. Kite is to investigate.

A parishioner has offered a pear tree for planting in the Jubilee Garden. Councillors were grateful for the offer but felt that the proposed oak tree was sufficient for the size of the garden.

Cllr. Mr. Kite suggested placing posts in the verge to prevent vehicles parking on the grass at the corner of Primrose Grove.

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The land is the responsibility of KHS so they will be consulted on the proposal.

A tree situated at Primrose Grove has been hewn. A replacement will be sourced with Amicus Horizon.

Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke

Following on from the broadband discussion at the Open Meeting, Cllr. Mr. Clarke stated that the PC would not be responsible for funding the infrastructure for fibre optic broadband and that consumers would be able to choose their provider and the service they required.

Wrens Road Bridge has been quite icy in the cold weather; Cllr. Mr. Clarke asked if a salt bin could be placed there. The Chairman replied that there is a capital cost and maintenance issue, which had been, discussed previously - no action.

Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen

Cllr. Mr. Pullen questioned whether the pumps on the pond are running correctly. Cllr. Mr. Willis is to investigate.

The Chairman confirmed that Cllr. Mr. Pullen is the sole representative of KAPC. Cllr. Mr. Pullen informed councillors that the Chairman of KAPC resigned at the last meeting and that the secretary is due to resign at the next meeting. There is no new Chairman yet.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman

Cllr. Mrs. Hickman commented on two planning applications submitted to SBC.

7. Finance

National Savings & Investments Change of Signature

The signatures for withdrawal of funds from the PC savings account have been reviewed.

Clerk Pay Review

Councillors have approved the increase in the Clerk honorarium as agreed by e-mail.

Formalise the 2013/14 Precept of £9000

Councillors approved the decision to maintain the annual precept for Bredgar at £9000. Proposed by Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. Mr. G. Kite.

8. Cemetery

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Formal Approval by the Parish Council of the Reviewed Costs and Regulations for Bredgar Cemetery

The reviewed regulations and costs have been circulated prior to the meeting by e-mail. They continue to reflect changes made at SBC and will be reviewed every two years. Proposed by Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites.

Formal approval of costs for work to be carried out on trees on the boundary of Bredgar Cemetery

Councillors approved the cost of work carried out at the cemetery. Proposed by Cllr. Mr. B. Willis, seconded by Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen.

9. Village Matters

Update on the progress of faster broadband for Bredgar Village

This is reported in the Open Meeting Minutes.

Review of the setting up of Bredgar Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The clerk is gathering details of parishioners who wish to be part of the NHW Scheme. A meeting is to take place with the NHW representative in Kent who will distribute packs and give information on how to run the scheme. Any parishioners who wish to join the scheme are asked to contact the clerk.

Village Shop and Signage

This is reported in the Open Meeting Minutes

BPC Website

The clerk has taken over maintenance of the Bredgar Website. It is hoped that organisations and events will be published and advertised to reach a wider audience. Any parishioners wishing to submit an item for inclusion are asked to contact the clerk.

Landscaping of the Jubilee Garden

Planting and seating is to take place this year to enhance the area.

Review costs of grass cutting with SBC contract

The costs for the coming year have yet to be received from SBC. Councillors will review them on receipt.

Revert to Kent Highway Services regarding condition of Wrens Road and Highway Flooding

A meeting is due to take place between Councillors and KHS to review matters outstanding.

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10. Planning

Blind Marys Lane/Lime Kiln Shaw

Reports on these items are in the Open Meeting Minutes

Dreambark Cottage

Councillors commented on the number of extensions made at Dreambark Cottage. It is felt that there are fewer small affordable properties in the village.

Primrose House

A chimney has been removed from Primrose house during the extensive renovations. Councillors observed that the chimney did not seem to be part of the original fabric of the house.

Dunluce

The planning application for Dunluce has been withdrawn.

11. Donation to Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillors discussed the prospect of making a donation to Citizens Advice Bureau. It was felt that although the Bureau carries out good work, the PC monies should not be used to fund it.

Vote:

For the proposal to make a donation: 2

Against: 3

Abstained: 1.

12. Any Other Business

Correspondence

A letter has been received from a parishioner containing observations on matters in Bredgar Village:

Poplar trees in the recreation ground have been damaged/blown down by the recent high winds. Cllr. Mr. Pullen is to investigate whether there is a need to carry out remedial work.

White lines in the village have been eroded. This will be discussed at the meeting with KHS.

Excessive parking around the Memorial, on the Gore Road junction and at property nearby is causing a nuisance. This matter was discussed at the Open Meeting and PCSO Sophie Clements is to look into the matter.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next BPC meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd May (AGM).

The summer meeting will take place on 21st August.