

**Bredgar Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**Held at Bredgar Village School**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Chairman Cllr. Mr. B. Willis, Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites, Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman, Cllr. Mr. G. Kite and Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen.

**Clerk:** Mrs. T. Hudson.

**In Attendance:** SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Brian Clarke, Cllr. David Priestley, SBC Cllr. Mike Baldock and PCSO Paul Wilson.

**2. Declaration of Members' Personal [DNPI] and Prejudicial [DPI] interests.**

Cllr Pullen disclosed DPI; Clerk disclosed DPI. The meeting voted a dispensation for Cllr Pullen and for the Clerk. Proposed by Cllr. B. Willis, seconded by Cllr. P. Twaites.

**3. Declaration of any intention to record or film all or any part of this meeting.**

No person at the meeting declared an intention to record or film any part of the meeting.

**4. The duration of the meeting was three hours.**

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website.

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

**Matters Arising**

**Starter Pack**

This is work in progress.

**6. Ten minutes representation by the public:**

A resident informed the meeting that a domestic safe had been discarded in the hedge of his property at Swanton Street. The police recovered the safe, which was broken.

A meeting has been held with SBC Cllr. Baldock regarding the speed of vehicles travelling through Swanton Street. It is hoped that, in the new financial year, KHS will look at options to enforce the current speed limit along the road.

**7. Report from PCSO Paul Wilson**

PCSO Paul Wilson was unable to attend the meeting due to shift patterns.

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A NHW meeting has been held at Bredgar Café with PCSO Paul Wilson where residents could meet their PCSO and express any concerns they may have regarding crime in the area. PCSO Wilson explained that he covers a wide area and that any information gathered from residents would be useful if a prosecution was made for a crime.

**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. S. Hickman.

There were no queries.

**9. Finance**

**a) Precept Increase**

Councillors resolved to increase the Precept by £500 to £9500 notwithstanding the Resolution voted at the November 2014 PC meeting to have regard to the potential increase in the clerk's remuneration. Proposed by Cllr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. G. Kite.

**Clerk's Status**

Following a discussion at an informal meeting of councillors, and recommended to full council electronically, it was agreed that a committee be formed to review the clerk's status including remuneration, working hours etc. The committee to comprise Cllrs. Twaites; Kite and Clarke. Proposed by Cllr. S. Hickman, seconded by Cllr. B. Willis.

**Financial Reconciliation of costs of Restoration of Bredgar War Memorial**

The costs of the restoration of Bredgar War Memorial amounted to £3587. Contributions were gratefully received from SBC Cllr. Bonney, KCC Cllrs Baldock and Burgess and from SBC Commemoration Fund. Bredgar PC contributed the remaining sum of £337.

Councillors agreed the War Memorial is much improved and were pleased that the work was completed in time for Remembrance Sunday in November.

**b) Regulations: The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

The regulations are now implemented by central Government and will be formalised by Bredgar PC at the AGM in May.

**Protocol on the Recording and Filming of Council and Committee Meetings**

The written Protocol will be available at each PC meeting with an opportunity for all those attending to declare any intention to record or film proceedings.

Proposed by Cllr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. P. Twaites.

Cllr. Bonney informed the meeting that SBC have installed cameras and equipment to record all meetings in Council Chambers at Sittingbourne.

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**10. Reports from Councillors**

**Cllr. D. Priestley**

Cllr. Willis reported that Cllr. Priestley had called out pest control, Mitie, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December as rats had chewed through the Christmas lights cable. This was the penultimate of their six contracted visits. Cllr. Priestley is currently looking into a replacement company to carry out pest control at the pond, and will be meeting a representative of Monitor Pest Control on Monday.

**Cllr. M. Pullen**

Cllr. Pullen proposed to have a smaller Christmas tree next year to save money.

A tree had blown down in Travers Gardens and was removed by Cllr. Pullen. The clerk is to ask Amicus Horizon to replace the tree.

Councillors have investigated a phone call received by the clerk concerning a damaged gravestone. It is not known how the damage occurred; the owner is to repair the grave in the summer.

An e-mail has been received by the clerk from the owner of a cemetery plot asking the council to cut back a tree encroaching a grave in the cemetery.

Cllr. Pullen agreed to carry out the work.

**Cllr. G. Kite**

Reference the stile at Silver Street; this is covered in the report from Cllr. Twaites on the inspection of the village.

**Cllr. S. Hickman**

Nine parishioners have been presented with £20 each from the Thatcher Charity.

Cllr. Willis informed the meeting that he is in possession of an historical Minute book [Thatcher and Eleemosynary Charities], which may be of interest to the charities' trustees. The book will be passed to Cllr. Hickman and may subsequently be offered to the County Archive for safekeeping.

**Cllr. P. Twaites**

Bredgar School is progressing well. Cllr. Twaites attended a Budget Monitoring meeting, which showed a healthy financial position. Staff are finalising the admissions for the coming September and expect a full cohort. The dual role of the HT is proving successful.

**Village Inspection**

Following a village inspection in December attended by Cllrs. Willis, Twaites and Priestley, Cllr. Baldock sent the following update by e-mail:

- 1) *The moss along Medlar Close should be removed within the next couple of weeks.*
- 2) *The collapsing footway near The Sun should also be sorted out in the same timescale, and I note that they have got some white lines painted down already.*
- 3) *The shared footway scheme along Primrose Lane is down to be looked at by the Transportation team... I'll update when I hear anything...*
- 4) *The problem of the breaking concrete slabs en route to Swanton Street is equally a bigger concern and I hope to get some steer on that before the end of the month.*
- 5) *A 'gang' should be out to demoss the signs at some point - if this is a regular issue*

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*and affects signs of both KCC and SBC it might be more effective to see if Bredgar Parish Council can possibly take them over in return for a commuting of monies? Not sure if this is possible, but it could be a benefit for Bredgar...*

*6) The tree stumps - decision awaited from SLT*

*7) The Silver Street non-stile is with the Public Right of Way team...*

*I am also pushing for a gully to be replaced in Swanton Street - it is supposed to be done on Friday...*

*The Swale section between blind mary's lane and bicknor lane has all been patched during the fortnight before xmas, around £17k worth of work – as mentioned, the road surface now needs sealing with a surface dressing of some description.*

*It is our intention to carry out this work - but during this calendar year - not financial year, we don't normally start this work until its warm enough and the road surface is clean of salt.*

**Councillors made the following observations and replied to Cllr. Baldock by e-mail:**

- 1. Bredgar/Hollingbourne road – question raised as to the situation regarding the rest of the road. Parishioners obviously use the whole length down to Hollingbourne. I am also told that a major pot hole has appeared on the flat section south of Swanton Street.*
- 2. Your point number 5 – we are content for KCC/SBC to retain the cleaning obligation.*
- 3 Lime Kiln Lane – what was a minor lane, useable by cars is now in a terrible state (rutting and deep mud) owing to vehicles accessing recently purchased land.*
- 4. Foot path signs – one on Deans Hill lying twisted onto verge/bank following an accident, and one smashed out of ground in the middle of Bashford Barn Lane.*

Councillors discussed the possible reshaping of the road at the chicane if remedial work were to be carried out. A footpath could also be incorporated if finances allowed.

**11. Update on Post Office Transformation**

There have not been any positive developments to the possible Post Office Transformation.

**12. Cemetery Regulations**

**Formal Approval of Costs for 2015**

Councillors agreed to raise the cemetery charges in line with SBC from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Regulations are available to view on the Parish Website.

Proposed by Cllr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. S. Hickman.

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**Formal Approval of Regulation No. 4.3**

Councillors agreed to refine the regulations to allow artificial flowers at the discretion of the PC.

**13. Planning**

**Blind Marys Lane**

The appeal will be heard at the Royal Courts of Justice at The Strand [High Court] on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015. Cllr. Bonney is hoping to attend and asked a resident to provide a written declaration that he has observed that the site is unoccupied.

**Primrose House**

A number of conservation issues between the owners and SBC are nearing resolution.

**Dukes Shaw**

There has been no decision made yet by SBC.

**Lime Kiln Lane**

LKL and the use of the adjoining eight acres of land: This has been reported to SBC Enforcement for review. The lane has become very muddy and is virtually unusable.

**Local Plan Consultation**

Cllr. Twaites reported that the Local Plan is a vision for the Sittingbourne area to provide an attractive, competitive and prosperous town by 2031. There will be 10800 more homes built in Swale and 700 jobs created. 3048 houses will be in Sittingbourne and 430 in the surrounding villages. There are no earmarked sites yet.

The 5Parishes Opposition Group identified three main issues:

- The Southern Relief Road will not be completed at present but is still signposted on the Local Plan
- The expansion of KSP – there is permission for development on 4 hectares of land.
- Junction 5A of the M2 linking to KSP is stated contrary to National Policy for Roads but is still signposted for the future. SBC, KCC and KSP have not provided any evidence that junction 5A is strategic to meet Government criteria.

There is to be a technical evaluation of junction 5, M2.

Cllrs. Twaites and Clarke will draft a response to SBC in respect of the Local Plan consultation.

**Members Training**

Cllrs. Twaites and Clarke attended Planning training in December.

**14. KHS**

This is covered in item 10.

**15. Recreation Ground**

The Fete Committee has not yet contacted the clerk regarding monies held in trust.

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**16. Any Other Business**

**Bexon Lane Closure**

Bexon Lane will be closed for approximately two weeks from 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to allow superfast broadband cables to be laid.

**Electrical Certificate**

The electrical installation at Bredgar Pond has been tested and is certified as safe.

**Electrical costs**

The clerk has investigated costs of electricity at the pond and has agreed with EDF to change the tariff resulting in a saving of approximately £65 per annum.

**Cllr. Bonney and the member of the public left at 9.30pm.**

**17. Next meetings:**

**Parish Open Meeting – 18th March 2015**

**AGM – 13th May 2015.**