

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the Open Meeting
Held on Wednesday 15th February 2017
At Bredgar School

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

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson

Members of the public: Three members of the public attended the meeting.

The Chair welcomed three members of the public to the Open Meeting. The Chair's report, highlighting the achievements and concerns of the Parish Council during the year, was circulated. A copy is available on the Parish website.

Speeding traffic

A parishioner raised concerns about the speed of traffic through the village, particularly near the school. Could the 30mph limit be expanded a further 200 yards up Bexon Lane? The Chair replied that councillors have discussed the issue previously but were keen to include Bexon Lane in the traffic problems to be raised with KCC at a meeting in the village due to be held on 22nd February. With the support of KCC Cllr. Mike Baldock, the Parish Council has presented a petition to KCC; and KCC Cabinet Member Michael Balfour has agreed to come to a site meeting along with PS Jason Hedges and Speedwatch coordinator, Alan Watson. It is hoped that the Bredgar speed watchers and other supporters will attend the meeting along with the PC.

9 Gore Road

A Parishioner noted in relation to 9 Gore Rd that the current wall has been demolished and left on the grass verge. He informed the PC that it is an eyesore and could something be done? The PC noted that the road sign was situated on the wall and will need to be retained. A planning application to knock down the garden wall, extend the garden and driveway and build a new wall has been approved by SBC, although Bredgar PC objected. It is the homeowners' responsibility to ensure their property is kept in good order.

Dog Waste

There was some discussion in relation to dog waste bags provided by the PC at two sites in the village. Whilst the PC encourages dog owners to use the bags, it has also been noted that the dog bag receptacles are often empty which suggests some people are perhaps taking bags in bulk. The cost of the bags is £157.25 for 800, which used to last almost a year but recently has lasted just a few months. Appropriate notices will be placed by the dispensers and in the Parish Magazine

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1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from, PCSO Josh Marshall, KCC Cllr Mike Baldock and SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney.

QE11 Roses

The PC would like to express their gratitude to Carol Allen, who kindly donated 3 QE11 roses for the Jubilee Garden. Councillors planted the roses in the autumn and pictures will be posted on the Parish website.

2. Declaration of Members' Personal & 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 hours.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd November 2016 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council; proposed by Cllr. Mr. D. Clack; seconded by Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke. They are now available on the Parish website. The Chairman signed them at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising that will not be covered in the Agenda.

5. PCSO Report

PCSO Josh Marshall communicated by e-mail that he has visited The Street to observe the parking issue but has found no obstructions. Councillors suggested PCSO Marshall should visit at school times to observe the actions of drivers during these periods.

NHW

Neighbourhood Watch reports continue to be circulated by the coordinators. There are no specific issues to raise.

A dog has been seen loose on a regular basis in Swanton Street, the SBC dog handler has been informed.

6. Ten Minutes Representation by the Public

There were no other issues to report.

7. Authorisation of Accounts

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

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Payments

18/10/16	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Electricity	£45.00
24/10/16	HMRC	VAT Repayment	£1365.46
19/10/16	Palmstead	Oak Tree	£107.83
01/11/16	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£120.00
02/11/16	KALC	Clerk Training	£72.00
19/11/16	Cllr. S. Hickman	Plants	£58.00
19/11/16	KALC	Cllr. Training	£216.00
19/11/16	Mutts Butts	Dog bags	£157.25
01/12/16	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£120.00
05/12/16	T. Hudson	Honorarium/Training	£405.00
08/12/16	Cllr. D. Clack	Christmas Tree	£70.00
14/12/16	Cllr. D. Clack	Xmas Tree Incidentals	£26.06
14/12/16	K. Dunne	Cemetery Water Butts	£68.16
17/12/16	EDF	Pond Lights	£99.32
20/12/16	KCC	Grass Cutting	£518.65

Receipts

10/11/16	T. Ford	Purchase of Burial Plot	£125.00
24/11/16	G. Ford	Burial	£1330.00
28/12/16	Bredgar C. Club	Donation	£43.75
14/01/17	KALC	Transparency Code Grant	£890.00

8. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Susie Hickman

SBC have given notice to the owner of a mobile home at Deans Hill. The Chair is to obtain an update shortly.

Cllr. David Priestley

The new Button bench will be installed on the new decking this weekend.

Cllr. Jane Collins

The Village Hall defibrillator has been purchased and is to be installed shortly.

Training will be offered; details will be published in the Parish Magazine.

On Sunday 30th April, the Village Hall will have an Open Day with family activities and BVH archives on display. There will also be a charity Beer Fest at The Sun Inn on the second bank holiday weekend.

Cllr. Penny Twaites

The consultation for Bredgar School to become a multi academy trust with the three other local schools in the collaboration is underway. The schools have been working together for some time already and are able to reap the financial benefits by sharing resources and staff monitoring, etc.

Cllr. Brian Clarke

Cllr. Clarke was unable to attend the KHS seminar, which primarily talked about saving money, but he was able to meet and speak to representatives about Bredgar issues.

The drainage problem at Bush House has been attended to along with other repairs in the village.

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KCC Cllr. Baldock chaired the recent KALC meeting, which gave information on tree wardens and computer security.

At the next KALC meeting the Police & Crime Commissioner will speak; councillors are encouraged to attend.

Improvements to the Bredgar website continue to be made, parishioners are encouraged to log in and sign up to be notified when any information or planning applications are put on the website.

The current topic is Keep Kent Clean, where parishioners are encouraged to pick up litter in their own vicinity. Litter bags are available at the Post Office and may be collected from the side of the litterbin in the recreation ground after the weekend of 4th/5th March.

Cllr. Dick Clack

A second quote for the erection of a barrier outside the Post Office has been obtained. Councillors agreed in principle to go ahead with the work.

Remedial work on the cemetery trees is due to begin on Monday 20th February.

The goal post in the recreation ground has been repaired.

Cllr. Andy Dwyer

Nothing to report.

Cllr. Dwyer offered to assist on tasks due to be carried out in the village.

9. Finance

Annual Recurring Costs

The annual recurring costs were circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting and are broadly in line with the annual income from the precept.

Precept

Councillors ratified their earlier decision to raise the precept by £115 to £9615 per annum. Proposed by Cllr. S. Hickman; seconded by Cllr. D. Priestley.

Councillors discussed projects involving 'one off' costs, which it is hoped will be carried out in the coming year. They concluded that sufficient funds are available to cover these, and maintain suitable reserves.

It is likely that the Post Office rent will increase slightly as it has remained at £120 per month since 2010.

Transparency Code Grant

The clerk has obtained a grant from KALC for the sum of £890.00 to purchase a computer, scanner and software for the sole use of the Parish Council. This is following advice from KALC that it is good practice to keep PC matters separate from personal information on a computer.

10. Village Matters

Traffic Through The Village – Petition Update

Following the PC and KCC Cllr. Baldock's presentation of the petition calling for measures to reduce the speed of traffic through the village, a meeting is arranged for Wednesday 22nd February when KCC's Matthew Balfour; Speedwatch coordinator, Alan Watson and PS Jason Hedges will attend at 8.15am in the centre of the village to witness traffic problems including the area around the school. Parish councillors have asked Speedwatch members to attend too.

Adopt a Telephone Box

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The telephone box by Bredgar Church is not on the endangered list and will remain in the village.

Borden PC Steering Group

Borden PC approached Bredgar PC, among other local Parish Councils, to form a cluster with a view to obtaining services such as grass cutting and village maintenance at a competitive rate. The idea is linked to the Government localism restructure where services are managed locally. Councillors discussed the advantages and disadvantages and referred to the extensive research carried out by Cllr. Clarke last year on grass cutting costs for the village, which showed that it was not financially beneficial to source our own contractors. .

Councillors unanimously agreed not to formally join the Steering Group at this time but would consider collaborating on possible future projects.

New Gardener

A new gardener has been engaged to maintain the village planting areas following the resignation of the previous gardener due to personal reasons.

Working Group Volunteers

One parishioner has volunteered to assist the PC on village projects, such as pond maintenance, as they arise.

Overgrown Verge at Silver Street/Wrens Road Junction

KHS have completed work on the drainage system at the junction. The vegetation has died back and it is hoped that it will be kept under control in the future.

Travers Pathway Update

Work on Travers Gardens footpath is due to be completed by the end of March. The issue has been ongoing since May 2015.

Farmshop/Post Office Lease

A new lease has been signed for the Farmshop and a new sub lease for the Post Office has been agreed. Three partners are taking over both the Farmshop and Tearoom, which are currently undergoing a complete refit. There are plans for a shop, tearoom, butchery, cheese mongers, wine tasting room, cigar smoking terrace, champagne terrace and Camelot Lottery. The grand opening is planned for the weekend of 4th/5th March when there will be special offers available.

The Chair thanked the Post Mistress and Cllr. Collins for their assistance in seeing the change of leaseholders brought it to fruition; and the Post Mistress thanked all the parishioners who helped to keep the Post Office safe.

The Farmshop plans to advertise regular offers in the Parish Magazine.

11. Cemetery Matters

Review of Costs

The PC unanimously agreed to raise the cemetery costs in line with SBC costs from 1st April 2017.

Water Butts

The water butts in the cemetery have been refurbished and arrangements made for water to be available at all times.

Cemetery Tidy

Councillors agreed that the cemetery does not require maintenance other than tree work at the present time. Work on the railings will be decided in the near future.

Tree Work in Cemetery/Jubilee Garden

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Work on trees in the cemetery and Jubilee Garden is due to begin next week.

12. Cricket Lease and Pavilion Update

The PC and Bredgar Cricket Club are working towards obtaining a new lease.

13. Speedwatch Update

Speedwatch has taken a break during the winter due to weather conditions and poor light.

Speedwatch members are keen to resume soon and encourage new members to take the training so that more sessions can be planned. Anyone wishing to participate is asked to contact the clerk.

14. Emergency Planning

SBC have encouraged parishes to consider an Emergency Plan to back up the Swale Plan. Cllrs. Clarke and Collins are to look into what would be required for Bredgar to participate.

15. Planning

Blind Marys Lane

A decision has been reached on the Baker Site. Planning permission has been refused at appeal level and enforcement will be carried out. Graham Thomas thanked everyone in Bredgar who attended and supported Swale Planning Dept.

Permission for the Brazil site was granted for three years and is due to end in January 2018.

Swanton Cherry Covers

The deadline has been extended to 9th March. There has been a lot of organised opposition to the proposal.

Fairmeadows

Peter Hinckesman has visited the site and reported that all works have been explained in a reasonable manner.

16. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 16th May 2017.