

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 10th August 2016

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, PCSO Josh Marshall.

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

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.

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 ½ hours.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th May 2016 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council; proposed by Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley; seconded by Cllr. Mr. D. Clack. They are now available on the Parish website. The Chairman signed them at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

All matters arising are covered in the agenda.

5. PCSO Report

PCSO Josh Marshall and a police colleague attended the meeting. PCSO Josh stated that he has been covering this area, West Downs, Teynham and Lynsted, for about one month so far. The most pressing item on most parishioners' minds is thoughtless parking in the village, mostly around school time. He advised that a PCSO has no authority over unauthorised parking but can record incidents to pass on to senior colleagues. The problem areas in Bredgar are Bexon Lane and Gore Road.

PCSO Josh said he is happy for parishioners to have his details to pass on any concerns they may have about any subject.

To this end, the PC is to publish the details on the new website and place a brief item in the Parish magazine.

6. Ten minutes representation by the public

Memorial Bench

Mr. Jackson attended the meeting to talk to councillors about the design of a bench that is being made by Roger Robinson's brother in his memory. It is the family's wish

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that the bench be placed on the pond decking. Councillors are happy to consider the issue and will make a decision after further discussions and the finalising of the Bench Policy.

Deans Hill

A mobile home has appeared on land at Deans Hill Road. SBC has been informed and the landowner has received a contravention order.

Parking Leaflets

Cllr. Baldock offered to supply leaflets giving advice on parking responsibly. The PC gratefully accepted the offer.

Cllr. Baldock Report

Cllr. Baldock reported that a KCC Highways Officer had visited Swanton Street and the chicane after concerns were expressed about the high speed of vehicles coming to and from Hollingbourne. The issue will be followed up with KHS but solutions tend to be very expensive.

Members of the public left the meeting at 8.10pm.

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. S. Hickman.

8. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. S. Hickman

Foliage is hindering motorists' sightline at the corner of Silver Street/ Wrens Road by Bush House. It is KHS responsibility to spray weeds. Cllr. Clarke is to report it on the KCC website.

The Eleemosyary Charity continues under a new Chairman.

Three Queen Elizabeth roses and other suitable plants are to be installed at the Jubilee Garden in the autumn.

Cllr. D. Priestley

Indications at the rat bait boxes at the pond show that wildlife other than rats has been getting into the boxes. Bait has hardly been touched but a dead baby moorhen was found as well as snails etc.

The Button family is to replace the memorial bench on the decking as the previous bench had decayed.

A pond tidy-up is proposed for October, date to be confirmed, all help will be gratefully received.

Cllr. G. Kite

A parishioner has fallen over on the tree roots on the path between Smiths Orchard and Silver Street sustaining a broken nose. Cllr. Clack has reported the tree roots on the footpath to KCC again. The brambles and hedge along the footpath have been trimmed.

Cllr. D. Clack

Fly tipping in Blind Marys Lane has been reported twice.

Cllr. Clack is to address items identified in the recent Playsafety report.

Cllr. J. Collins

Following discussions with the leaseholders of Bredgar Farmshop, it is clear that the current footfall is not sustaining the shop. As of 15th September, the shop will close at

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12.30pm every day and will close altogether by Christmas. The café is holding its own and will continue to open all day. It is likely that the shop space will be rented out. It was thought that a co-operative system for the shop would be unlikely to work in this location. Cllr. Collins, the new Councillor and the Clerk are to form a committee to consider options and strategy, but with competition from supermarkets and other outlets including the Internet and issues with the state of the building it may be the end of Bredgar Farmshop. The leaseholders are determined to continue to run the café successfully and stock essentials for customers in the area between the café and Post Office.

Cllr. B. Clarke

Following completion of the decking, the official opening was published in the local paper.

A traffic-calming petition is being compiled with the aim of relating the strong feelings of the village and calling for KHS Mr. Balfour to visit and propose a solution. The petition will be explained in the Parish magazine and will be available to sign in the Farmshop, cafe and Post Office as well as with Councillors. The petition will be presented at the Transport Cabinet meeting in November and it is hoped the local press will cover the story.

Cllrs. Clack and Clarke attended the recent KALC meeting. Following this, Emergency Planning will be on the agenda for a future PC meeting.

Cllr. Clarke was elected onto the Planning and General Purpose Committee at KALC.

Cllr. P. Twaites

Nothing to report.

9. PC suggestions for Cllr to replace Cllr. Kite

A proposal for Mr. Andy Dwyer to be co-opted onto the Parish Council in place of Cllr. Kite has received a positive response from councillors. Mr. Dwyer will be invited to a meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss the position.

Cllr. Baldock left the meeting at 9.10pm.

10. Village Matters

Defibrillator/Village Hall

Cllr. Collins has established a relationship with the Village Hall Committee. The committee has expressed a wish to purchase a defibrillator for the village, to be situated at the village hall. Contributions are welcome towards the cost, although it will be purchased with village hall funds even if no other contributions are made. The cost of a defibrillator is circa £1500 to £2000. The PC resolved to make a donation of £100 towards the costs. [Subsequently Cllrs have learned that all funding has been obtained from grants; the British Heart Foundation and the village hall fund. The £100 will be offered to cover any related costs such as installation and training]

Play Area Inspection

The annual report for the inspection of the play area has been received. Cllr. Clack is to address the items mentioned in the report.

Proposed bollards outside the Post Office

Cllr. Clack is to follow this up with a local builder.

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Swanton Street Footpath

The Chair has yet to make contact with the solicitor to ascertain the legalities of the proposed footpath.

Swanton Street Gateway

Cllrs informed Cllr. Baldock that a farm vehicle has flattened the gateway. Cllr. Baldock will photograph it and apply for a replacement.

Speedwatch update

Six volunteers have been trained to operate Speedwatch and three sites have been identified. When the paperwork has been received, the equipment will be borrowed from Tunstall Parish Council.

Memorial Benches

The policy is now to be finalised and implemented. Cllr. Priestley to draft and circulate.

11. Finance

Financial Review

The financial review was circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

Off Payroll Working

This is at the consultation stage and the PC will monitor progress closely.

12. Planning Matters

PC influence on Planning Decisions

A discussion between the Chair and Graham Thomas, SBC Planning, clarified how the planning officers react to communication from parish councils concerning planning applications. When a PC supports an application, or has no objection, it is useful to give reasons as this carries sway when a decision is made.

Parsonage Farm

Permission has been granted but with quite forceful conditions.

Blind Marys Lane

An appeal on the Baker site is due to be heard on 29th September.

Fairmeadow Farm

A decision has yet to be made.

13. Post Office

Cllr. Collins and the Clerk have had a conversation with a representative from The Post Office and there is no immediate threat of closure. The situation will be closely monitored.

14. Community Assets in the Village

Due to lack of time this item will be held over to the next meeting.

15. Cricket Pavilion Committee

The Cricket Pavilion Sub Committee has met with the Cricket Club and the minutes from this meeting have been circulated by e-mail. A replacement clubhouse is proposed, of a similar size to the current one with the same operating functions. The club has access to grants from Kent County Cricket, the size of which depends on the length of lease. Therefore the issue of the lease is to be discussed and voted on by e-

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mail after this meeting due to constraints on time. The decision will be ratified at the next meeting.

The PC proposed to allow the cricket club to proceed with building a new pavilion rather than the PC taking over the project. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Collins.

16. Grass Cutting Contract

Cllr. Clarke has produced a document showing which areas of the village are maintained by whom. The key shows who funds, manages and works on each area. Cllr. Clarke is currently obtaining quotes to compare costs with a view to determining whether it is desirable for the PC to take over the contract.

17. PC Website update

Cllr. Clarke has been instrumental in establishing a new Parish Website. The new address is www.bredgarpc.org.uk and is up and running. The old website will be closed down.

18. Dog Control Orders

Due to lack of time this item will be held over to the next meeting.

19. Remembrance Sunday Service

Councillors resolved to commemorate Remembrance Sunday as usual this year.

20. Any Other Business

- An article on the new decking will be published in the Parish magazine.
- A new memory stick to replace a hard drive, which is at the end of its life, will be purchased for storing PC data.
- If co-opted onto the PC, Mr. Dwyer expressed a desire to work with Cllr. Collins on possible solutions to the problems at the Farmshop.
- Councillors thanked Cllr. Graham Kite for his valued contribution over the years to the village.

21. Next Meeting

The date of the next PC meeting will be Wednesday 2nd November at 7.30pm in Bredgar School.