

**Bredgar Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**Held at Bredgar Village Hall**  
**On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Chair Cllr. Brian Clarke;  
Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Penny Twaites; Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Jane Ingram;  
Cllr. Mike Day and Cllr. Stephen Parfitt.

**Clerk:** Teresa Hudson

**In Attendance:** KCC Cllr. Richard Lehman and two PCSOs.

**Members of the Public:** No members of the public were present.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. David Priestley, Cllr. Hilary Whitnell and SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney.

**2. Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interest**

There were no interests to declare.

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

There were no intentions to record or film the meeting by anyone present.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. J. Ingram. The Minutes were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

**Matters Arising**

Item 7: Just the registration plates were found in Hearts Delight Road, not the Range Rover.

**5. PCSO Report**

PCSO Katie Holmes informed the meeting that no crimes had been reported since the previous meeting. Cllr. Parfitt stated that he had signed up to E Watch online, which lists criminal activity in the local area. He informed the meeting that Neighbourhood Watch noted there had been a report of a stolen bag in Swanton Street and a resident in Primrose Lane was a victim of an attempted money scam.

Large laughing gas canisters have been found in the village, PCSO Katie is unsure of how to dispose of them.

Fly tipping continues to be a problem but some areas have been cleared.

The two PCSOs left the meeting at 7.35pm.

**6. Ten Minutes Representation by the Public**

There were no members of the public present.

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**7. Authorisation of Accounts**

**PAYMENTS**

04/04/22	The Sign Shed	Parking Signs	26.34
04/04/22	TP Jones & Co LLP	Accountant	78.00
04/04/22	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
04/04/22	EDF	Pond Electricity	34.00
04/04/22	KALC	Training (Clerk)	60.00
04/04/22	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	140.00
01/05/22	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/05/22	EDF	Pond Electricity	1.00
19/04/22	KALC	Subscription	322.73
04/05/22	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	150.00
11/05/22	BHIB	Insurance	616.87
11/05/22	Mutts Butts	Dog Waste Bags	98.70
14/05/22	Shan Lec	Pond Electricity Maint	66.00
01/06/22	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/06/22	EDF	Pond Electricity	1.00
06/06/22	B. Clarke	Domain Renewal	14.39
06/06/22	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	150.00
06/06/22	The Sign Shed	Parking Signs (Jubilee)	17.52
06/06/22	T. Hudson	Honorarium	421.20
15/06/22	The Sign Shed	Parking Sign	13.94
15/06/22	R.J.Moss Ltd	Decking White Line Painting	144.00
15/06/22	K. Works	Cemetery Railings Repair	1821.50
28/06/22	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	150.00
24/06/22	Mid Kent Fisheries	Pond Work/Pump	2460.00
01/07/22	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/07/22	EDF	Pond Electricity	1.00
18/07/22	KCC Commercial S.	Grass Cutting	591.77
18/07/22	CPRE	Subscriptions	36.00
18/07/22	SBC	Cemetery Brown Bin	45.00
01/08/22	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/08/22	EDF	Pond Electricity	1.00
01/08/22	ROSPA Playsafety	Rec Grd Inspection	88.20
01/08/22	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	150.00

**RECEIPTS**

02/04/22	Mrs Matthews	Purchase of Burial Plot	200.00
04/04/22	R.High & Sons	Burial of Ashes F. Young	221.00
25/04/22	UK power	Refund for Power Cut	50.00
29/04/22	SBC	Precept	5342.00
30.04.22	Mrs Matthews	Purchase of Burial Plot	200.00
24/06/22	Bredgar Cricket Club	Rec Grd Rent	50.00
16/07/22	W.S. Cole & Son	Burial of H. Shortland	1632.00
30/07/22	Doves Funerals	Burial of Ashes L. Bardouleau	221.40

The accounts were proposed by Cllr. Clarke; seconded by Cllr. Twaites, all councillors agreed.

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**8. Financial Matters**

**Financial Review**

The clerk circulated the August Financial Review by email prior to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Ingram, all councillors agreed.

**Banking Signatories**

The banking cheque account is now covered by three signatories: the Chair and both Vice Chairs. Two signatures will be required for each cheque.

**Audit Submitted**

The Annual Audit has been submitted and an acknowledgement received from PKF Littlejohn.

**9. Report on Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

The Platinum Jubilee celebrations were a great success despite a little rain on the day. The Parish Council would like to thank all the parishioners on the Jubilee Committee who worked hard to give parishioners a memorable day and Bredgar Amateur Dramatics for leading the preparations.

**10. Planning Matters**

**Letter of Complaint received by Clerk**

An anonymous letter of complaint regarding a planning issue was reported to Swale Planning Department, as they are the responsible authority for planning breaches and enforcement. They advised that anonymous complaints are not investigated but a complaint submitted with contact details on the Swale Borough Council website will be investigated. Those details are confidential and are never shared with anyone and are used solely for the purpose of the officer to conduct a thorough investigation. Sometimes it may be that a case has already been opened in which event the complaint will be added to that case as supporting evidence.

**Local Plan Update**

It is expected that SBC will publish the revised draft Local Plan for public Consultation (Reg 19) in October to December this year. Full adoption is expected in 2024. If adopted the LP covers the period up to 2038 with rolling reviews every five years.

**11. Recreation Ground**

**New Pavilion Update**

Cllrs. Clarke, Twaites and Parfitt attended a meeting with Bredgar Cricket Club (BCC) concerning the planning application for the new cricket clubhouse to replace the outdated pavilion in the recreation ground. The plan has been circulated and the PC is supportive. Bredgar PC will submit the planning application when details are finalised. Funding will be dependent on obtaining planning approval and BCC obtaining grants to cover a significant part of the clubhouse project costs. BCC have a letter from KHS advising that a new entrance in Wrens Road could be permitted. The proposed location of the new

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clubhouse and new entrance will require the children's play equipment to be relocated and their new positions now need to be considered and agreed. The proposed new clubhouse is larger than the old pavilion.

The PC agreed to investigate the feasibility of modernising the play area and equipment as a future project. It is expected that the costs will be around £60K, so grants or possibly a phased approach will be required. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Ingram.

**ROSPA Report**

The PC received the report of the Recreation Ground inspection from ROSPA. There were 16 low risk and 9 medium risk issues identified and it was agreed to obtain maintenance quotations. Two quotes are to be obtained.

**Parking Policy Update**

The amendment to the Parking Policy was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed the wording and agreed that parking for resident's private events will not be permitted in the Recreation Ground. The policy has been updated and is available on the Parish website.

**12. Soft Landscaping Review**

**Bush House Boundary**

Councillors discussed who is responsible for the maintenance of the narrow area between the Recreation Ground boundary and the newly installed boundary fence of Bush House, which is inside the grounds of that property. It was decided that the PC will not maintain the Bush House grounds between the new fence and the boundary with the recreation ground. A contractor is to be engaged to clear the weeds inside the recreation ground boundary behind the Cricket Pavilion.

**Jubilee Oak Tree**

The Chair has made progress in the planned clearance of the overgrown walled area in Bush Close. SBC/Blenwood has agreed to clear it at the end of this season. The PC will then put topsoil on and prepare the ground for an oak tree to be planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The area will then be maintained by the current village contractor.

**13. Village Matters**

**Village Bus Service**

KCC Cllr. Lehman stated that the proposed bus service cuts have been called into scrutiny at KCC. A majority of SBC councillors present at the meeting held to debate the cuts voted against the proposal. Cllr. Lehman is leading the fight to keep the rural buses, emphasising there are nine important reasons to maintain a bus service to villages. A petition has been created on Facebook and parishioners are encouraged to write to Cabinet Member Mr. David Brazier who will ultimately decide the outcome.

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Cllr. Lehman left the meeting at 7.55pm

The PC agreed to send a letter to Cabinet Member Mr. David Brazier objecting to the proposed cancellation of subsidies for the Bredgar bus services.

**Bredgar Book Proposal**

Last year Stephen Palmer, from Sittingbourne Historical Research Group, borrowed the WI Bredgar Book to create a new, updated version. There are only two in existence but Mr. Palmer proposed that a print run be commissioned to make the book available to anyone who wished to purchase a copy. The cost would be around £25. A note is to be put in the Parish News to ascertain whether residents would be interested in purchasing one for themselves, prior to going ahead. Cllr. Clarke proposed that the costs be investigated, seconded by Cllr. Twaites, all councillors agreed.

**Litter Picking Day**

A litter-picking day has been arranged for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Volunteers are asked to register if interested, and assemble at the village hall on the day. Cllr Parfitt will coordinate the event as usual.

**14. Highways Improvement Plan**

The Chair has updated the Highways Improvement Plan which now has six items listed for further consideration:

- Weight restriction in Bexon Lane
- Village white gate maintenance
- Quiet streets
- New pavement around the pond corner
- Signage to prevent unsuitable vehicles driving through Bredgar
- Hedgehog signage for badgers (signage covers all wildlife) in Swanton Street

Councillors felt that the next six months will involve turmoil on the local roads due to the Stockbury roundabout upgrade. A sub committee will be formed to review and finalise which items should be taken forward to Kent Highways.

**Hedgehog Signage**

Councillors were amenable to requests for a sign in Swanton Street to warn drivers of badgers in the road.

**15. Reports from Councillors**

**Cllr. Penny Twaites**

Cllr. Clarke will submit the response to the planning application for a replacement beam in Bredgar House.

There is a Green Grid meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Cllr. Twaites will attend and report back to the PC.

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**Cllr. Jane Ingram**

Nothing to report

**Cllr. Mike Day**

Alterations to a large barn behind Manns Place have caused the footpath sign from Wrens Road to Stiff Street to disappear. Cllr. Day will report it to PROW. There has been an instance of fly tipping near Trundlewood Farm.

**Cllr. Stephen Parfitt**

Resident, Mr. Clack, has repaired the ‘ducks’ sign in Gore Road.

The barrier on the Wrens Road bridge has been repaired.

The Chair has reseated the damaged bollard outside the cemetery.

A 30mph sign has been straightened on Gore Road and some trees causing poor visibility exiting Bush Close were reported on the KCC portal by a parishioner and have now been trimmed back by KHS.

A hedge on the corner of Silver Street has been cut back.

The water leak on Primrose Lane, which was reported in May, is being repaired today. Numerous water leaks remain on the road between Bredgar and Hollingbourne. The water board says this has been caused by the recent prolonged period of exceptionally hot weather.

**Cllr David Priestley (reported by the Chair in his absence)**

A pond clean is required in September/October.

The concrete surround of the pond near the bus stop requires repair. A similar issue in the past cost around £3000.

Cllr. Clarke proposed to cost the project, Cllr. Ingram seconded the proposal.

**Cllr. Brian Clarke**

Cllr. Clarke attended a Website Accessibility course. The PC website needs work to improve the structure and make it more accessible to people with disabilities.

Cllr. Clarke attended the Western Area Committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June and there is another on 1<sup>st</sup> September. The PC is bidding to have a review of the conservation area, backed by SBC Cllr, Mike Baldock. Having an up to date and high standard conservation area document helps ensure changes respect the parish’s character and appearance. The additional planning controls within conservation areas give more control over new development to ensure it is of good quality and provides protection for important features or buildings.

Cllr. Clarke attended the KALC SAC quarterly meeting where he proposed a motion be submitted for consideration at the KALC AGM, for KALC to give full support to public transport in Kent and oppose any denumeration in the future.

Cllr. Clarke attended the quarterly SBC Liaison meeting where delegation of some powers or more involvement in decision making by Parish Councils was discussed.

The cemetery railings replacement project is to be completed this week.

Plans for Remembrance Sunday will commence.

**16. Cemetery**

A member of the public asked the Clerk if it was possible to pay the PC a regular sum of money for the upkeep of her husband’s grave in Bredgar

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cemetery as she was becoming unable to maintain it herself. Councillors felt that, due to the PC being a public body and insurance compliance, it was appropriate for her to make a private arrangement rather than with the Parish Council.

**17. Community Assets**

Designating a local amenity as a Community Asset safeguards the first option to purchase should an owner decide to sell.

Councillors agreed to revisit Community Assets on a three monthly basis.

**18. Any Other Business**

Councillors enquired whether there had been any word from Emma Rouse, who was going to create a Landscape Assessment? There has been no contact so a letter will be sent to Ms Rouse closing the agreement. No monies have been paid.

**19. Date of the next meeting**

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.**

**The meeting closed at 9.55pm.**