

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar Village Hall
On Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Chair Cllr. Brian Clarke;
Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Penny Twaites; Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Jane Ingram;
Cllr. Mike Day; Cllr. Beverley McCourt; Cllr. David Priestley and
Cllr. Stephen Parfitt.

Clerk: Teresa Hudson

In Attendance: KCC Cllr. Rich Lehman.

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

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from PCSO Katie Jordan.

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

Chair, Cllr. Clarke, declared an interest regarding the possibility of the Church creating a Jubilee garden/orchard at Bredgar allotments.

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 2nd December 2021 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. P. Twaites. The Minutes were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Point to add: the member of the public remained at the meeting until the end.

5. **PCSO Report**

PCSO Katie Jordan reported by email that vehicle crime in Bexon Lane occurred where a site was broken into and vehicles damaged. A surgery was held in Bredgar Farmshop where a report of speeding in Swanton Street was noted. PCSO Katie will conduct speed checks along roads in Bredgar over the next few months.

Cllr. Parfitt added that prior to PCSO Katie taking up her current role, the fence in the recreation ground was damaged to access Primrose Grove where a motorcycle was stolen. Also lead was stolen from the Church roof. There were no updates on any matters.

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

Three members of Bredgar Amateur Dramatics (BAD) informed the meeting of progress made regarding celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Several village groups attended a meeting to discuss events for the four-day bank holiday in June.

The History Society are to plant a tree or shrub in Jubilee Garden; the Church are planning to create a garden/orchard next to the allotments; the farm shop will sell cream teas; The Sun have a beer festival planned for the Friday and Saturday; The Warren plan a 1940s

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reenactment on the Sunday and BAD will organise a street party on the Sunday with a band and food at the village hall, where the WI also intend to operate a tombola.

Bredgar School is to have a Jubilee fete the following week.

BAD members with the backing of the PC have applied for jubilee funding from two sources, and it is hoped this will be granted and will cover the majority of expenses. The organisers hope that residents will get behind the various celebrations and support the people who are making great efforts to enable everyone to enjoy the extended bank holiday.

Tickets will be sold for a small fee to gauge numbers for food etc.

Members of BAD left at 8pm.

KCC Cllr. Rich Lehman informed the meeting that KCC plan to reduce bus services across the county by one third to save £2million. A consultation is ongoing until 20th April and Cllr. Lehman encouraged as many residents as possible to complete the online questionnaire to try to keep the Bredgar bus.

Cllr. Lehman is to spend a morning in Bredgar Post Office to talk to customers and help complete paper forms in an effort to keep the bus.

7. Authorisation of Accounts

PAYMENTS

23/11/21	Cerda Planning Ltd	Consultation Fee	301.88
26/11/21	B. Clarke	Christmas Tree	79.00
01/12/21	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/12/21	EDF	Pond Electricity	34.00
02/12/21	S.E. Water	Quote for tap	81.00
02/12/21	Ask A Gardener	Village Maint	140.00
02/12/21	Cerda Planning Ltd	Consultation Fee	524.16
02/12/21	T. Hudson	Honorarium	375.00
08/12/21	SBC	Rec Grd Brown Bin	40.00
01/01/22	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/01/22	EDF	Pond Electricity	34.00
04/01/22	KCC	Village Maint	306.38
04/01/22	R. Clack	Tree Lights	24.00
04/01/22	Ask A Gardener	Village Maint	140.00
08/01/22	B. Clarke	Xmas Gifts	28.99
12/01/22	Bredgar Village Hall	Meetings Fees x4	85.00
01/02/22	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/02/22	EDF	Pond Electricity	34.00

RECEIPTS

21/12/21	KCC	Village Maint	188.26
21/12/21	Leonard Salmon	Burial	1933.00
24/12/21	Bredgar Cricket Club	Rec Grd Rent	50.00

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Chair, Cllr. Clarke, informed the meeting that a further payment to Cerda for a Regulation 18 document for £998 has since been made. The clerk stated that a cremation of ashes is to take place on 19th March at a cost of £221.

Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke; seconded by Cllr. J. Ingram.

8. Financial Matters

Financial Review

The Financial Review paper was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors noted that the invoice from Mid Kent Fisheries has yet to be received due to illness. The cemetery railings are due to be installed in the next couple of months.

Clerk's Honorarium

The clerk left the room while councillors discussed the matter.

Councillors agreed to increase the Honorarium by 4%.

9. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Brian Clarke

Cllr. Clarke is working with Tunstall Cllr. Vivien Rich to engage with the Kent Downs AONB unit, SBC and the Medway Swale Estuary Partnership "Linking Coast to Downs" project. This aims to encourage enjoyment of rural experiences by walking and cycling to and from the Kent Downs AONB and the Coast. This links well with a SBC Western Area Committee initiative led by SBC Cllr. Stevens to publicise our rural footpaths. The AONB, SBC and Medway partnership project is looking at a walk from Borden to Tunstall, Policemans Corner, Bexon Lane, Bredgar and back to Borden. Also Silver Street to Hucking. The website will publicise better access for the public. Cllr. Clarke will circulate the papers to councillors.

The decking white line has yet to be repainted. Hopefully it will be completed in the better weather.

Cllr. Clarke attended the SBC (Chairs & Clerks) Liaison Forum and the KALC Swale Area Committee.

At the Western Area Committee meeting, Cllr Clarke supported Cllr Vivien Rich who gave an update on land management under the new Agricultural Bill and Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme. This provides new opportunities for landowners to be rewarded in future with public money for land management for the "public good". SBC Cllr. Cllr. Clarke supported a Cllr. Mike Baldock proposal that the quotation for the Bredgar Conservation Area review be obtained for decision at the next meeting in June. Through the Area Committee it is envisioned that the Members' grants, totalling £40,000, will be used in a more strategic way for projects across the villages instead of individually.

Cllr. Penny Twaites

Nothing to report.

Cllr. Beverley McCourt

Nothing to report.

Cllr. David Priestley

Nothing to report.

Cllr. Beverley McCourt left the meeting at 9.45pm.

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Cllr. Mike Day

Bedmonton Lane through to Bottom Pond Road is washed out making access difficult.

Cllr. Stephen Parfitt

Cllr Parfitt attended KALC SAC - Enforcement Meeting at Swale house.

On 8th March, Cllrs Clarke and Parfitt are to attend the CCTV room in Sittingbourne to learn more about how it operates.

Cllr. Parfitt attended Zoom meetings with Neighbourhood Watch and Keep Britain Tidy.

A Green Lanes meeting covered issues including nuisance quad bikes in Drakes Lane, Bedmonton. Cllr. Parfitt is to complete a consultation paper on Green Lanes.

A fridge dumped in Primrose Lane has been reported to SBC as well as a hot tub in Bredgar Road. Smashed signs in Ruins Barn Lane have also been reported.

10. Planning Matters

One Acre

Due to Central Government Covid rules, no enforcement action can be taken before June even though SBC succeeded in their case to evict the occupants from the site at One Acre. Councillors are concerned that rubbish and debris is continuing to pile up on the site while SBC do nothing. Cllr. Twaites is to contact SBC for further clarification.

11. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Further to the discussion in item 6, councillors debated whether to provide a possible back up sum of money in the event the funding applications do not materialise.

Cllr. Twaites proposed BPC agrees to 'underwrite' the cost of the proposed Jubilee event, partially. In the event that there is a short fall between grant, ticket and other income from the event, then Bredgar PC will cover that shortfall, to a maximum of £400. BAD are requested to keep BPC informed about the grant decision(s) as soon as they know and also the level of ticket sales at the time.

Seconded by Cllr. D. Priestley, all councillors agreed.

The PC may request the temporary closure of Bexon Lane for the duration of the street party. The PC, along with The History Society, proposed creating a display of Bredgar history in the village hall as another attraction on the day of the street party.

Tree and Plaque

Several possible positions for an oak tree to be planted for the Platinum Jubilee were suggested. The most likely option is Bush Close where an area of overgrown shrubs will be cut back for a small garden to be created.

A bronze plaque has been chosen by councillors from the options available and Cllr. Clarke will place an order.

Parking

Parking will be available in the recreation ground on the day of the street party.

Councillors will assist in marshalling the public.

Councillors decided this is an exception and parking will not normally be permitted in the recreation ground as it may churn up the grass.

Cllr. Clarke proposed purchasing two acrylic signs for the parking; seconded by Cllr. Twaites, all councillors agreed to the purchase.

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12. Village Matters

Provision of Water in the Cemetery

An estimate of costs to install a tap in the cemetery has been obtained at a cost of £81.00: SE Water costs for installation would be £4204.60; the PC would also have to provide funds for a builder to dig from the road to the proposed site of the tap.

Councillors considered the costs and agreed unanimously to reject the project as too expensive.

War Memorial Upkeep

The stonework on the War Memorial column is deteriorating. Councillors agreed to put repairs on the Project List.

Defibrillator Location/Quote

Councillors debated whether the defibrillator situated at the village hall should be in a more central position in the village. It was decided that the site at the village hall was the most suitable and that one defibrillator was enough at the present time. A second defibrillator will be put on the Project List as a future purchase.

13. Policy Review

Health & Safety Policy (H&S)

A H&S Policy is necessary to enable KCC to carry out village maintenance. A sample policy was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting for discussion. Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. D. Priestley, all councillors agreed.

Recreation Ground Private Event Policy

Councillors unanimously agreed to the policy against parking in the recreation ground for private events.

14. Highway Improvement Plan

Due to time constraints, no further work has been carried out on the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) this quarter.

Councillors briefly discussed the possibility of placing a wildlife road sign in Swanton Street to make drivers aware of hedgehogs, badgers, etc. on the roads. This will be added to our HIP and given more consideration at a later date.

Councillors also discussed signage to deter HGVs from narrow village roads where possible.

Cllr. Lehman left at 9pm.

15. 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.

16. Any Other Business

There has been no communication from Emma Rouse (Wyvern Heritage and Landscape) regarding progress with the Landscape Assessment.

The telephone box is still live but can only be used for 0800 numbers and the emergency services until the credit card facility is fixed.

The meeting ended at 10pm.

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17. Date of future meetings

Proposed dates for 2022:

Wednesday 4th May

Wednesday 17th August

Wednesday 23rd November.