

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the
Parish Meeting and AGM
Held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7pm
In Bredgar Village Hall

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

Clerk: Teresa Hudson

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

Chair, Cllr. Clarke, circulated the Annual Chairman's Report. It is now available
on the Parish website.

A member of the public enquired on the progress of the eviction at One Acre.
Consultations are ongoing with SBC but due to delays caused by Covid, progress
has been slow. Some debris has been cleared and caravan dismantled but the
remainder has yet to be cleared.

Some residents have voiced complaints over the road closures due to the
reorganisation of Stockbury roundabout.

AGM 7.40pm

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and approved from KCC Cllr. Richard Lehman.

2. Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interest

No interests were declared.

**3. Declaration of any intention 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 3 hours.

4. Election of Officers

Nominations were put forward by email prior to the meeting for the
positions of Chair and Joint Vice Chair. Candidates were elected to the
following roles:

Chair: Cllr. Brian Clarke-

Proposed by Cllr. D. Priestley
Seconded by Cllr. S. Parfitt

Co-Vice Chair: Cllr. Penny Twaites-

Proposed by Cllr. D. Priestley
Seconded by Cllr. B. Clarke

Co-Vice Chair: Cllr. Jane Ingram-

Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke
Seconded by Cllr. P. Twaites

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5. Elect Councillors to Roles

Cllr. Brian Clarke	Chair: KALC, GDPR, IT
Cllr. Penny Twaites	Co-Vice Chair: Response to Planning
Cllr. Jane Ingram	Co-Vice Chair: Post Office Support, Village Hall Representative
Cllr. David Priestley	Pond Warden, Pest Control, Heritage
Cllr. Hilary Whitnell	KCC Highways, Thatcher & Eleemosyary Charities Representative
Cllr. Stephen Parfitt	Parks & Gardens
Cllr. Michael Day	Footpaths, Parks & Gardens, Pest Control

Councillors agreed to ask resident, Mr. Clack, if he would agree to be a consultant on footpaths with responsibility of reporting any problems to Cllr. Day. Cllrs. Parfitt and Clarke will also report any problems to Cllr. Day who will keep a record of repairs required and any issues.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 2nd March 2022 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. S. Parfitt, seconded by Cllr. J. Ingram. All councillors agreed.

Matters Arising

KCC Cllr Lehman spent a morning in the Tearoom assisting with responses to the bus survey in an effort to retain services to Bredgar.

Cllr. Clark has updated the Project List to include repairs to the War Memorial and installation of a second defibrillator.

7. PCSO Report

PCSO Katie Holmes reported 'No crimes of note' as it appears none were reported to the police.

Cllr. Parfitt informed the meeting that communications from the NHW secretary have gone quiet and it is difficult to contact them. Cllr. Parfitt reported that:

- An untaxed car was abandoned in Bashford Barn Lane.
- A Range Rover with cloned plates was found in Hearts Delight Road.
- In Bicknor Lane a car destroyed a farm gate and was left burnt out.
- There was an attempted break in of an outhouse in The Street.
- Speedwatch has resumed and 12 people were noted driving over 40mph through the village.

8. Ten Minutes Representation by the Public

Two members of the public informed the meeting of the difficulties they have experienced following a devastating fire at their home in the village. They lost everything but thankfully all persons and pets were safe. They asked the

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Minutes of the
Parish Meeting and AGM
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PC for assistance with the planning paperwork of their property. The Clerk and Councillors will endeavour to help wherever possible.
The members of the public left the meeting.

9. Authorisation of Accounts

PAYMENTS

15/02/22	Ryman	BK of Condolence	40.93
15/02/22	Cerda Planning	Consultation fee	998.40
01/03/22	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/03/22	EDF	Pond Electricity	34.00
02/03/22	T Hudson	Postage & Printing	117.56
02/03/22	T Hudson	Honorarium	375.00
08/03/22	SBC	Grass Cutting	2980.74

RECEIPTS

07/02/22	HMRC	VAT Refund	736.62
15/02/22	Bredgar Cricket Club	Grass Cutting	729.49
16/02/22	Bredgar Church	Grass Cutting	348.44
29/03/22	Bredgar Cricket Club	Rec Grd Rent	50.00

There were no questions. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Ingram. All councillors agreed.

10. Finance Policy Review and Approval

The Council considered and approved the Finance Policy for the year ending 31st March 2022. Councillors agreed to have three signatories for cheques in case one signatory was unavailable. The clerk is to contact the bank.
Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Priestley. All councillors agreed.

11. Statement of Internal Control (SIC)

The Council considered and approved the SIC for the year ending 31st March 2022. The Chair and Clerk signed the Statement on behalf of the Council.

12. Annual Governance Statement

The Council considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-2022. The Chair and Clerk signed and dated the Statement on behalf of the Council and confirmed the Transparency Code requirements have been kept up to date and posted to the Council's website.

13. Accounting Statements

The Council considered and approved the Accounting Statements and supporting documents as provided by the Responsible Financial Officer who had, prior to the meeting, signed and dated section 2 of the AGAR for 2021-2022. The Chair signed and dated the Accounting Statements on behalf of the Council.

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the
Parish Meeting and AGM
Held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7pm
In Bredgar Village Hall

14. Exemption Certificate

The Council considered itself 'exempt' from the Limited Assurance Review. The Chair and RFO signed and dated the Certificate of Exemption on behalf of the Council.

15. Exercise of Public Rights

The Council noted the period for the Exercise of Public Rights from Monday 13th June to Friday 22nd July 2022.

16. Insurance Renewal

The renewal cost for the current insurer, BHIB, is the best value for the coming three-year contract. The clerk is to contact the insurer to confirm requirements for safety equipment at the pond.

Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Ingram. All councillors agreed.

17. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. M. Day

Cllr. Day informed the meeting that there are only two Green Lanes in the local area. One is at the bend of Bashford Barn Lane; the other is Drakes Lane, Bedmorton. It was noted that these lanes are frequently used by trial bikers, which could potentially cause accidents.

Cllr. D. Priestley

The pumps on the pond have stopped working, an electrician has been called. A repair has been carried out to part of the railing around the pond at Gore Rd. It was noted that the posts are deteriorating and may need work in the near future.

Cllr. S. Parfitt

The village gardener informed the clerk of an incidence of fly tipping of weeds and earth in one of the lavender beds. He is to spend a session clearing it.

The hedge on the bank at the junction of Gore Rd and Silver St is overgrown with brambles, councillors recognise it is a haven for birds but will attend to it in the autumn.

Cllr. J. Ingram

The Post Office is continuing to thrive.

In the Village Hall, a new bar area has been completed with cctv cameras, new lights and new fridges.

The farmshop and particularly the tearoom are busy.

Cllr. H. Whitnell

Nothing to report.

Cllr. P. Twaites

Nothing to report on Bredgar School.

The emails informing the PC of SBC planning application notices appear to be erratic. The clerk will monitor the emails.

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Cllr. Twaites attended the Swale Green Grid meeting where discussions on climate emergency and environmental improvements by SBC were discussed. Cllr. Twaites informed the Swale meeting of the hedge survey commissioned by Bredgar PC and the bus services situation; SBC asked for surveys to be reported to them so that a record can be kept.

Grants may be available for environmental projects from SBC.

Cllr. B. Clarke

A project by the Kent Downs AONB team, linking with SBC, Medway and Visit Kent is planning to create a walk linking Milton Creek Country Park with Hucking Estate, which goes through Bredgar. There is an opportunity to suggest sites of interest on the route to encourage walkers.

Cllr. Clarke attended the Swale Area Committee and the Western Area Committee as well as the Liaison Committee for Chairs and Clerks.

The white line on the decking has yet to be completed.

18. Planning Matters

One Acre

Reported in the Parish Meeting earlier in these Minutes.

19. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Plans are progressing well for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Bredgar School are to have an art competition, there will be a 'Bring your own picnic', classic car display, live music, face painting, bell ringing, the village hall bar will be open, along with many other attractions including a display of memories of the coronation celebrations in Bredgar.

A memorial orchard is to be opened by the Church in Hinkins Croft next to the allotments.

The recreation ground will be open for parking, marshalled by volunteers.

The Jubilee oak tree will be planted in October.

SBC have provided a grant of £750 to the organisers, BAD.

20. Village Matters

KCC Cllr. Lehman conducted a drop in consultation in Bredgar Tearoom where he assisted several residents with surveys aimed at retaining the bus service. KCC are planning to axe some services and Bredgar was on the 'at risk' list. A significant minority of residents uses the bus service regularly which has existed for over 30 years. The conclusion is expected on 20th May when we should know whether the efforts of Cllr. Lehman have been successful.

21. Highway Improvement Plan

The PC has concerns over the number of HGVs using Bredgar to get to Maidstone and the M20. Suggestions for appropriate signage are to be put forward in the Highway Improvement Plan.

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the
Parish Meeting and AGM
Held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7pm
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22. Cemetery Regulations Fees

Councillors agreed to raise the fees for burial in the cemetery in line with Swale fees.

Proposed by T. Hudson, seconded by Cllr. Clarke.

23. 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.

24. Any Other Business

The litterbin, requested by the PC, to be placed in Swanton Street in the lay by near The Meadows has been chased up. SBC are monitoring the situation.

A proposed Hedgehog wildlife sign is to be added to the Highways Improvement Plan.

Emma Rouse has not completed the Conservation survey yet.

25. Date of the next meeting

The next PC meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th August 2022 in Bredgar Village Hall.