

Bredgar Parish Council
Open Meeting
Held at Bredgar Primary School
On Wednesday 19th March 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman Cllr. Mr. B. Willis, Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites, Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke, Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman, Cllr. Mr. G. Kite, and Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen.

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson.

In Attendance: KCC Cllr. Mr. Mike Baldock.

Members of the Public: There were ten members of the public present at the meeting.

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley and PCSO Sophie Reymond.

1. **Bredgar School Summer Fete**
2. **Future of Bredgar Recreation Ground**
3. **Traffic through the village**
4. **Blind Marys Lane Traveller Site**
5. **Rats in the Pond Area**
6. **Drain Clearance**
7. **Silver Street Stile**
8. **Planning Query**

1. Bredgar School Summer Fete

Three members of the Friends of Bredgar School Committee (FOBS) attended the Open Meeting to inform residents of the proposed School Fete which will be held at the recreation ground on Sunday 6th July 2014 from 12 noon to 3pm.

It is proposed that individual stalls will be set up to promote their wares and cream teas, barbecue, competitions and Maypole dancing will take place.

2. Future of Bredgar Recreation Ground

Following the death of the owner of the Recreation Ground, a resident asked the PC whether the facility's future was secure?

Chairman, Cllr. Willis, replied that a definitive answer was not known at present but that provision had been made in the PC finances for contingent liability should it be necessary in the future.

3. Traffic through the village

A resident raised with councillors the perceived rise in traffic speed through the village at rush hour in the morning and evening. Over the last 8 months it was felt that the speed of traffic had increased and pedestrians were endangered when walking through the village.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the current traffic calming measures took 10 to 12 years to put in place and the prospect of adding to that would be a long haul. The road has always been a rat run and in the absence of any strategic improvement of the A249, where congestion occurs at rush hour, people will seek another route.

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Swanton Street Footpath Proposal

Discussions with Phillip Bell, Canterbury Diocese, and Mr. Attwood, who own the land at Swanton Street, and Mike Ellis, KCC footpath group to create a footpath are continuing. . Councillors discussed an additional flashing speed warning sign; 20mph limits; mirrors and a lollipop man/lady in an attempt to ensure safety. The PC undertook to investigate with KHS all options and costs.

4. Blind Marys Lane Traveller Site

There has been little progress on the issue of travellers defying the enforcement notice from SBC at Blind Marys Lane site. The Enforcement Officer has declined to explain fully to residents the reasons for their actions. Local residents have launched another complaint about the generator as it has been replaced with a louder one. There remains clear evidence of non-residence on the site. Cllr. Baldock informed the meeting that there is to be a cross-parish meeting of affected villages on the traveller issue to which he invited Bredgar Councillors.

It was felt that appeals to the Ombudsman were not as effective as residents would like.

Cllr. Willis encouraged all residents to respond to the Gypsy and Traveller Policy Consultation with their views.

5. Rats in the Pond Area

Rats have been causing a nuisance in a property close to the pond and a resident enquired whether the PC had adequate measures in place to prevent infestation around the pond area. Cllr. Willis informed the meeting that the Parish had a contract with a professional company and prior to that pests had been successfully controlled. Apparently, the Farmshop also has a monthly contract with a pest control company.

6. Drain Clearance

The drain outside the Farmshop requires clearing. Cllr. Baldock advised the PC to contact Katie Lewis at KCC and copy him in to e-mails. If no action were forthcoming he offered to assist in a complaint.

7. Silver Street Stile

The stile at Silver Street next to Maple Dean is in a state of disrepair. Cllr. Baldock advised reporting it on-line on the KCC faultfinder website.

This also applies to any other issues requiring action.

8. Planning Query

A resident asked if an agriculture condition were removed from an agricultural property, would it mean the property could be for general sale? Cllr. Willis replied that if the LPA approval an application for the removal of an agricultural condition the subject property would be unencumbered in the open market.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.