

Bredgar Parish Council
Meeting following the
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. M. Baldock.

Members of the Public: One member of the public was present.

1. Apologies.

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

2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial interests.

There were no declarations to report.
The duration of the meeting was one hour.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 15th January 2014 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website.
They were signed by the Chairman at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Wilboro Hill

A planning application for a proposed project at Wilboro Hill has yet to be received.

Anti-social parking in the village

PCSO Sophie Clements has yet to follow up any parking issues around Gore Road/Primrose Grove.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Cllr. Priestley is to discuss the matter with Peter Bell with a view to creating a schedule for use by the PC and SBC.

Farmshop Signage

It is hoped the oak sign outside the Farmshop will be completed prior to the next PC meeting.

4. Ten minutes representation by the public

Nothing to report.

5. Report from PCSO Sophie Clements

PCSO Sophie Clements was unable to attend the meeting.

6. Authorisation of Accounts

The PC approved the accounts as set out in the meeting's agenda. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman.

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7. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Mr. Mark Pullen

Attempts to report a problem with a stile at the Silver Street footpath online were thwarted by a faulty website. The problem was resolved by phoning SBC.

The adaptations to the swings in the recreation ground to prevent bird droppings on the seats will be completed now the weather has improved. New Neighbourhood Watch signs have been erected in the village.

Cllr. Mr. Graham Kite

An overhanging holly tree in Travers Gardens is to be cut back.

Cllr. Mr. Brian Clarke

Cllr. Bonney has agreed to provide a grant of £250 for topsoil for the landscaping areas in the village.

The six new trees planted at the school are thriving.

Cllr. Mrs. Susie Hickman

Nothing to report.

Cllr. Mrs. Penny Twaites

The new Headteacher structure at the school continues to work well.

A Governors' Day is planned for the end of term. Previous Governor Days have proved very successful.

The school will hold its customary Remembrance Day service on the Friday prior to Remembrance Sunday. Pupils may also contribute to the proposed service held for the village on Remembrance Sunday.

8. Local Plan Update

Cllrs Willis, Twaites and Clarke are to respond to the Local Plan Gypsy and Traveller Consultation Policy.

9. Finance

Precept

The decision by SBC to withhold the supplementary grant from Parish Councils has had a small effect on the Precept paid by parishioners.

Proposed changes to requirement of PC cheque signatures

This item will be discussed fully at the AGM in May.

Council Tax Referendum Principles

Central Government has yet to decide whether to implement the proposed 2% referendum principle in respect of Town and Parish Councils.

Financial Review

The clerk prepared a statement of the current financial position of the PC. There were no queries from Councillors.

10. Planning

Swanton Street Chicane footpath

Discussions with Phillip Bell, Canterbury Diocese, and Mr. Attwood, who own the land at Swanton Street, and Mike Ellis, KCC PROW Officer, are continuing with an intention to create a footpath to bypass the chicane.

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Councillors discussed an additional flashing speed warning sign; 20mph limits; mirrors and a lollipop man/lady in an attempt to ensure safety.

The PC to consult with KHS all options and costs.

Road Sign re Children Crossing

KHS have stated there is no budget available for these signs to be erected in Bredgar.

Blind Marys Lane

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 SBC Gypsy and Traveller Policy Consultation with their views.

11. Remembrance Day preparations

Preparations for the Remembrance Day service are continuing.

12. Memorial cleaning quote

Quotes for the work required on the War Memorial are circa £3800. Advice is being sought from Peter Bell, SBC Conservation Officer, as it is a listed monument. A possible grant of 20% of costs from the War Memorial Trust may be available to assist financially.

13. Cemetery Gates

A quote has been received for replacement gates to the cemetery. The insurers have been informed and a claim submitted.

14. Donation to Bredgar School

Councillors agreed to make a donation of £160 to Bredgar School for the use of the premises for PC meetings during 2013/14. Proposed by Cllr. Mr. Clarke and seconded by Cllr. Mr. Kite.

15. Landscape Areas

Two bags of topsoil are to be purchased for the landscaping areas in the village. Councillors agreed to meet on 12th April to assist Dawn in preparing the soil for planting.

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16. Any Other Business

Proposed new Tunstall Primary School

Councillors questioned what effect a new primary school of the proposed size would have on Bredgar Primary School. The new school would be double the size of the present school at Tunstall. It was felt that it would not affect Bredgar School adversely. However, a new school would provide the latest facilities such as IT and sport, which may have some effect on parents' choice of school.

Cllr. Baldock informed the meeting that a further public meeting on the issue would take place on 9th April with a planning Committee meeting on 14th May.

17. Next meeting

The AGM will take place on 21st May 2014 at 7.30pm at the school.